Dear Members: This newsletter will provide updates on our activities and events over the past three and a half months covering January 2019 through the middle of April 2019.

MCNAA Newsletter – Spring 2019

MASS. CULTURAL COUNCIL’s NEW YEAR’s RECEPTION
by Anthony Silva, Board Member

On Tuesday, January 15, 2019, MCNAA Board Members Dawn Duncan, Kim Orben and Anthony Silva along with Advisory Council Member Patricia Rocker, by special invitation, attended the Mass Cultural Councils’ special New Year’s Reception at the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) in Salem. At the reception we were joined by Senator Joan Lovely (below) and Representative Paul Tucker of Salem. Both were asked to share thoughts on the new session of the Mass. Legislature and to help honor PEM’s Executive Director, Dan Monroe, who is retiring after 25 years. The reception, which was held in the main lobby, included a speaking program, refreshments, and plenty of time for MCNAA’s Leadership Team to speak intimately with our legislators as well as to Mass Cultural Council’s (MCC) Executive Director Anita Walker (above). She and her staff were excited to learn more about MCNAA as we have received a number of grants from MCC that have helped make our cultural events overwhelmingly successful. Attending these type of events by MCNAA’s Leadership is important because it gives us more visibility and allows us to tell others about the good work we do.
At the beginning of the new year, we started with a Board Meeting on Saturday, January 5, 2019 in Dawn’s Board Room in Lynn, MA. Here are the highlights of the meeting: 1) Burne gave an overview of our 2018 activities and programs, MCNAA’s financial health, as well as governance initiatives. It’s truly amazing to see how much we, as an organization, accomplished last year and, how involved we were in local and state-wide events (through our own events, as well as co-sponsorships.) 2) We discussed our 2019 events and additional activities we would like to include. Board Member Tony Silva gave an update on who he has contacted to participate in some of the many events planned for this year. 3) In April, the Mass. Center will celebrate its 30 Year Anniversary so plans were discussed for the gala event. 4) Discussions and edits began on our Position Statement on Self-identification. We also discussed the list of “100 Ways to Support-Not Appropriate from-Native Culture (for our website) and began modifications to the documents. Edits will continue via google drive. 5) We talked about, then reached out to the community (via face book), seeking someone to edit short videos of testimonials that were recorded at our Sept. 2018 pow wow at Plug Pond.

Another board meeting took place on Wednesday February 20, 2019 in the Danvers office. Highlights of the meeting are as follows: 1) Kim and Tony gave an overview of the Mass Cultural Council Reception at Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA. 2) Tony gave an overview and explained the importance of MCNAA attending the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration at the Danvers High School presented by the Danvers Human Rights & Inclusion Committee and Danvers Public Schools. 3) Kim and Burne gave updates on the planning of MCNAA’s 30th Anniversary Celebration. Everything is falling into place and we are receiving a lot of interest from our members and friends. It’s going to be a great event.
4) Board members reviewed the document on Native Identity that Claudia re-drafted. 5) Board members discussed and continue modifications to the document "100 ways to Support-not appropriate- from Native Culture." It was felt that much of the original list might be too harsh as written or not relevant to what we may want so we rewrote or eliminated some. It was edited down to “38” Ways. The next Board meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2019 but has been postponed until June 19, 2019.

**Advisory Council Member Patricia Rocker stops by to brainstorm!**

by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

Advisory Council Member, Patricia Rocker, expressed a desire to help with the planning of our events. We took her up on this generous offer and a meeting of the minds was held on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at the Danvers office. Discussions with me, Kim, Tony and Patricia centered around the Anniversary Celebration at Lombardo’s, the Summer Moon Powwow at Endicott Park, the Intertribal Powwow at Plug Pond, the Sept. Fundraising Dance, and our Nat’l N. A. Heritage Day Powwow at Pingree School. Some terrific ideas were generated that included: ordering special t-shirts for the organizations’ 30 year anniversary; turning the September dance into a 70’s & 80’s dance and to hold it on the North Shore; raffle 2 kayaks – one at our Summer Moon Pow-wow in Danvers, and one at our Intertribal Pow-wow in Haverhill; and to hold the Pow-wow Passport (cultural educational exercise for students & children) at our Pingree pow-wow. I look forward to the next time we gather to brainstorm and follow up.

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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 Rocker * Kate Yeomans.

**JOIN ONE OF OUR TEAMS:** We are looking for additional fresh voices to complement our Teams. If you have a strong connection to our organization and want to share your expertise, we invite you to inquire about sitting on the Board of Directors or joining the Advisory Council. For more details and to be considered, please contact Tony at mcnna3@aol.com. He will send you the information.
Danvers Human Rights & Inclusion Committees’
Martin Luther King, Jr Day Tribute by Anthony Silva, Board Member

On January 21, 2019, MCNAA Board Members Dawn Duncan and Anthony Silva attended the ‘Danvers Honors MLK, Jr Celebration’ presented by Danvers Human Rights & Inclusion Committee held at the Danvers High School. MCNAA was also among the sponsors for the event as we have had an ongoing relationship with the Committee since moving our office to Danvers. In as much as many of their members are municipal employees, they were very instrumental in acting as a conduit to the town’s leadership, as well as being very supportive of our events. Despite the extremely cold weather, the hall was packed with all of the local town officials as well as State Senator Joan Lovely, State Representative Theodore Speliotus, and U.S. Representative Seth Moulton (above), who also addressed the audience. Opening remarks were given Dutrochet “Dee” Djoko, Chair of the Human Rights & Inclusion Committee (left) followed by the Chair of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager, and the Superintendent of Schools.

The invited guest speaker was Rabbi Alison Adler (below) who gave a very introspective talk about the roots of Anti-Semitism. Hers was a very emotional speech as she remarked that prejudice is rooted in fear and ignorance.

The event was impressive as students, teachers and faculty were all involved in the honoring. The hall was surrounded by art created by the elementary and middle students who beautifully expressed their thoughts about Dr. King’s message. There were also a number of uplifting musical performances performed by the Danvers High school Chamber singers as well St. John’s Prep in honor of Dr. King.

This event was very positive and MCNAA continues to look forward to our relationship with the Danvers Human Rights and Inclusion Committee and the support of the Town of Danvers.
Essex County Community Foundations’ Cultural Planning Lab
by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

On February 22, 2019, Board Member Anthony Silva and Advisory Council Member Patricia Rocker attended ECCF’s Cultural Planning Lab. Tony submitted the following report: “On February 22 MCNAA’s Advisory Council Member Patricia Rocker and I attended a Cultural Planning Lab sponsored by the Essex County Community Foundation and hosted at Peabody Access TV. The goal of the Lab was to bring together municipal leaders, planners, as well as community leaders in the arts and culture as a strategy for community development in Essex County. The premise of the initiative is that Arts and Culture form the foundation for vibrant and connected communities and those assets should be used in municipal planning. Participants included Mayors, Town Managers, State Representatives, Planning leaders, and Arts and Cultural Arts leaders from Peabody, Danvers, Middleton, Lynnfield, Lynn, Saugus, Salem, Marblehead, Swampscott, Nahant, and Beverly. MCNAA, one of a select few cultural arts organization located in Essex County to receive a grant from ECCF, was invited to participate in this planning. Participants were invited to network before and after the introduction and discussions. The agenda included a breakdown into 4 brainstorming groups entitled “Cultural Orgs and Small Business Support”, “Economic Development”, “Community Development”, and “Government Capacity.” with the opportunity to network before and after. Although time was limited, we were able to identify and speak with a number of municipal leaders including the Danvers Town Planner Erin Schaeffer (pictured above with me), who offered to help facilitate our interactions with the Town of Danvers in relation to our upcoming Powwow in June and future Danvers events.”

Patricia added that it was a good meeting and she enjoyed taking part in the event. There were lots of opportunities to connect and she was able to learn some positive news from her local planning board. She forwarded business cards of the connections she made and explained how they might be able to work with MCNAA in the future. She feels that both her and Tony found it worth their time and it gave them an opportunity to educate a diverse group of ‘cultural planning’ decision makers about the non-visible Native Peoples in their communities. ECCF is planning their 2019 Arts & Culture Summit in September and Patricia is definitely interested in attending on behalf of MCNAA.

We want to thank Tony and Patricia for being great advocates for our organization.”
MCC Information Session in Waltham
by Anthony Silva, Board Member

MCNAA Board Member Anthony Silva attended an information session on Thursday, March 7, 2019 on applying for a Projects grant through the Mass Cultural Council (MCC). The session was one of several being held throughout the state. Through this program, cultural organizations are able to apply for a one year grant for eligible public programming but not for general operating support. The grant amount is $2,500 for the program year and recipients are eligible to apply again for a second year. MCNAA was a previous recipient for our Powwow in September at Plug Pond. We are currently seeking project funds for our Nat’l Native American Heritage Day Powwow in November 2019.

Attending this session was extremely beneficial as some of the grant requirements have changed and we were able to get clarification directly from the Program Manager. This program is very competitive and has a number of applicants, so it is important to complete the application accurately and timely. If selected, we should hear by the end of August.

Presentation with Larry Spotted Crow at Brandeis
by Erin McCormack, MCNAA Member

We are delighted that some of our members were able to attend today’s presentation (April 1st) at Brandeis University with Larry Spotted Crow. MCNAA Member, Erin McCormack, shared the following event summary with us.

“MCNAA members Kathy Angel, Russell Cohen, and myself attended Larry Spotted Crow Mann’s informative and compelling presentation “When the Land Speaks” at Brandeis University, focused on Indigenous peoples of the Northeast, and his own Nipmuc nation. Besides speaking on the work he does with youth, and programs offering Native perspectives on the land and history of this area, Larry shared fascinating documents and pictures from his own family history, including ties to James the Printer who worked at the Indian College at Harvard at its founding, producing books in Native and English language; the removal of some of his ancestors to Deer Island during King Philip’s War in 1675; and a record of his gr-gr-great grandfather’s and uncles’ service to the Union in the Civil War. He also suggested ways to get a better idea of the current situation in Indian Country, and how to become an informed and effective ally.”

1-r Kathy Angel, Russ Cohen, Larry Spotted Crow, & Erin McCormack
This past Sunday, (April 7th), the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness celebrated its 30 Year Anniversary. We invited back some of our past honorees, held a silent auction, had a great meal, and honored long time Board Member Claudia Fox Tree.

Nearly 160 members, friends and Native constituents joined MCNAA in celebrating 30 successful years in fulfilling its mission to bring cultural and spiritual enrichment opportunities for Native American residents, to assist them with basic needs and educational expenses, and develop programs for our youth, while increasing public understanding and awareness about Native Americans.

The afternoon began with Opening Thanksgiving given by Harry “Hawk” Edmonds followed by introductions of MCNAA’s Board and Advisory Council as well as other special acknowledgements including those who purchased tables for the event.

A delicious buffet followed, after which Mistress of Ceremonies Claudia Fox Tree gave the Welcome Address *(page 14.)* She then proceeded to recognize all of MCNAA past honorees whom we haven’t forgotten the impact they have made in their community or for their Tribe; or for the extraordinary support they have shown our organization over the years. Each were gifted with a beautifully adorned turkey feather with a beaded cuff. Family members of those who were no longer with us received the feather for their loved one.

Past honorees or representatives of past honorees include: Front: Claire Oakley, Paula Hasgill-Curtis for Chief Paul Hasgill, and Hoban Sanford. Rear: Anne Foxx, Dr. Bert Waters, Lee Edmonds, Harry Edmonds, Eva Blake for Alden ‘Windsong’ Blake, Whippoorsgill, Marlene Lopez for Chief Vernon Lopez, Chief Edward Page, Ray Williams, and Jim Peters. (Photo by Bob Arcand.)
There were many other additions to the program this year including a special photo display board and ongoing slide show honoring all of our MCNAA friends now in the spirit world.

A silent auction was set up in a side room for attendees to bid on a number of beautiful items throughout the day to help to raise funds. In addition to this, the planning committee had a 10X envelope raffle in lieu of its’ usual 50/50 raffle. This proved to be very popular as many people participated with the winning envelope containing $10, giving the winner $100. The winner was one of the brothers of the late Eddie Lincoln who we miss very much was big supporter.

This was truly a beautiful celebration and we thank all of you who helped make this 30th year special event a huge success …. Erin McCormack, Jennifer Wolfrum, Julia Whiteneck, Xochi Kountz, Maggie Day, Jan Shaw, and so many others!

**HONORING SEGMENT**

Towards the end of the event, there was a surprise honoring for long time Board Member Claudia Fox Tree. She has been an integral part of the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness since January 2000.

No one is more deserving than Claudia. We have gained so much from her in this capacity as her insights, input, and participation have been enormous. Not only is she the Mistress of Ceremonies at most of our events, but she attends most of the social justice/social change events throughout the state, drafts our position statements and letters of support on the Native mascot issue and Native identity, and so much more related to social justice concerns. She has been invaluable to our Board and so much appreciated. The day after the Celebration Claudia said she is still so emotional about being honored at the 30th Anniversary Celebration. She went on to say the following:

“MCNAA has brought together the Massachusetts indigenous community for three decades. I was emcee, as usual, and here I was thinking I just recognized all the past 17 honorees (some of my most favorite people) and I’m "done” and ready to move on to the next part of the program, but noooooo. The person doing the drum song, isn’t singing at all, wait, what’s going on? And, then Cheyenne is holding up the camera and pointing at me to look at the speaker, and then I caught on….”
I am still processing the event and the surprise of being recognized (and that I didn’t know) and that my family, the MCNAA board, and all my friends were keeping this secret a surprise for months! Next year, apparently, will be my 20th year as a Board Member.

So many of my communities came together: MCNAA, Bedford friends, Local First Nations folks, IDEAS anti-racism colleagues, and my family of five children and my only cousin who is local! It was quite overwhelming to realize you were there for me, in addition to the MCNAA anniversary. I have many wonderful photos (and they keep coming in).

In this photo by Meghan (right), I am holding up the MMIWG ribbon skirt made by Healingstitches which I was gifted by MCNAA during the honoring. It is even more of a gift of healing energy now! It will make its official debut at the genocide march in Boston on Sunday, April 28, 2019. I am also wearing an embroidered MMWG2S+ necklace made by Xochi to represent the different ages and multiracial backgrounds of the missing. Wear RED on 5/5 to honor them!

There are several people I want to thank and to reach out to more personally, but for now, know that you are loved and represented in the photos posted on my facebook page.”
Julia Whiteneck organized the fantastic three-panel double-sided display with Bridget, Maggie, Xochi, and all the rest who contributed photos via Claudia’s facebook pages! What a great job they did!

**COMMENTS:**

**Katherine Lynd** – Claudia, so proud of the work you have done and the difference it has made to people’s lives. Thank you for your generosity in sharing your culture, family, friendship, challenges, and dreams. Your tireless dedication inspires me in my work with people struggling with mental illness. Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition!

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**Erin McCormack** - This was a wonderful event, and I was happy to be part of it. For MCNAA to reach 30 years is an impressive achievement - so many businesses and organizations do not last that long - and continue to grow and change with the years. Part of that is the contributions of people like Claudia - as well as past honorees. But it was a special thrill to be part of the group effort to create the tribute to Claudia, and to see her reaction -- even though I’m not great at secrets. Whew - glad that’s over! ■
MONTHLY DONATIONS ~ GIVE MONTHLY

At 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 elder with food, heat and other basic needs. Thank you for helping us help some of the neediest families across Mass. We could do more, with your consistent 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. We have several members who participate.

When asked why he donates monthly, this member said in part….. “When I retired, I took up the Native American flute and began to read about the culture and people who developed this marvelous instrument. I rapidly came to at least some understanding of the position of Indians in the larger scheme of things. We’re not “rich” (except in Love!) but we can do a little to help someone somewhere. So we sponsor an Elder through the ‘Adopt-A-Native-Elder’ program and support you-MCNAA. Specifically, you’re relatively local to us, not Utah, and we can see that your programs are beneficial for many people. If more people helped just a little as we do, big changes could occur. We’re just doing what we can. Helping is part of our focus.”

Most recently, one of our members set up her PayPal account to make monthly donations to the organization. We received the PayPal notification and I didn’t know if this was an error because some people, including myself, make errors using PayPal. I e-mailed her immediately to let her know that in the receipt from PayPal it says that this donation is ‘monthly’ and that I wanted to bring it to her attention in case she made an error. Her response was priceless. In part, this what she said “Thank you for looking out for me. It is not a mistake. I have another organization that I give monthly to and figured that it made sense to also make MCNAA a monthly donation. I’m blessed to not miss the $$ each month. I love that you use funds to directly help the community and I wanted to make sure that some of that was coming from me.”

We are grateful for the steady influx of gifts that helps boosts our monthly revenue stream. We hope more of our members and friends will hear their heart speak and commit to ‘giving monthly’. In our last issue of TurtleTalk, we also included a section about “giving-giving back.” The appeal was directed specifically to small and large businesses. It says in part: (next page)
Attention Business Owners – Small & Large - During the months of November and December, we tend to see a stream of support from friends and the general public who sincerely want to help, honor, and recognize Native Americans, especially during Nat’l Native American Heritage month and the Nat’l Day of Mourning (Thanksgiving); as well as at the end of the year. We deeply appreciate the sentiment and support from individual donors who make up a large percentage of our giving-base and we want to thank and encourage you all to continue with your gifts. But now, we want and need to reach out to another segment of the population that might be able to help us as well during the other months of the year.

In the spirit of ‘giving-back’ all year round, we want to ask businesses, small and large, to help make a difference by donating during a specific month (or months), other than November. Please select a month(s) and consider contributing a portion of your sales revenue to the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness. We are a 30 year old, not-for-profit, tax exempt organization that can use additional support during the year. Your donations will be applied to either our college scholarship program or our social assistance-needy fund. To support the organization this way, please reach out to our treasurer, Kim Orben, and to sign up for this challenge. Her contact information is: mcnaa2@aol.com or 617.642.1683. Thank you.

“"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.””
— Ronald Reagan

SO MUCH FUN AT OUR ANNUAL SPRING FUNDRAISING DANCE
by Anthony Silva, Board Member with input by Burne

On April 13, 2019, we held another successful Oldies-But-Goodies Fundraising Dance. Over $1,400 was raised for our scholarship program to help Native students with college-related expenses. As some of you know, we have been holding these dances in Canton for over 11 years. We found these dances to be a fun way to help support our students.

Once again, the Creator blessed us with perfect 70 degree, a great night to come out and dance. The hall filled with members and friends who traveled the distance to Canton to support us and enjoy the evening. It included Board Member Claudia Fox Tree & Friends, west of Boston; Andrea Smith & Family from RI; Harry & Lee Edmonds, RI; Board Member Anthony Silva & Family, south of Boston; Ray Williams, RI; Ellen MacPherson & Friends south of Boston, Jim Peters, Cape Cod; Isabelle Faherty, south of Boston; Jerry & Lori Vigil, Centerville. We also had a wonderful group of about 65 local folks from Canton, Stoughton, Norwood, and Sharon who bought tables for themselves and their friends who love our organization, the oldies music, and Spinelli’s delicious food. What a great feeling!
We were again delighted to have received help from Sarah Condo (Mi’kmaq) and Aquayah Peters (Mashpee Wampanoag) who set up and decorated the hall; signed in guests and escorted them to their table. They were a tremendous help to the organization for the 2+ hours that we needed them. Sarah (right) is a student at Roxbury Community College and has become a volunteer. She has already given a great deal of support to MCNAA by also volunteering at our Anniversary Celebration a week before this dance. And of course Aquayah has been volunteering for MCNAA for many, many years! We Thank You both for stepping up to help!

We so much appreciate the support from people far and wide. THANK YOU to all who attended this event. We also want to thank those of you who have attended our dances in the past showing your support of our program/students in this fun way. Please “Mark Your Calendar” for our next Oldies Fundraising Dance scheduled for Sat, Dec 7, 2019.

A CALL FOR NATIVE ART

Attention Native Artist, MCNAA is helping the Bertolon Gallery at the Pingree School in S. Hamilton locate interested artist for their upcoming Art Show in Oct/Nov. The show will be up and running during MCNAA’s Nat’l Native American Heritage Day Pow-wow at the Pingree School on Sat., Nov. 2nd. We hope some of the artist we know and others will want to display their terrific artwork at this Show. Below is the “Call for Art”.

CALL FOR ART
The Bertolon Gallery at the Pingree School is excited to announce an open call for PERSPECTIVES: Native American Art Now. Both 2D and 3D artwork by artists of Native descent working today will be accepted via online submissions. Artists may submit up to five works- all media is encouraged.

PROSPECTUS
PERSPECTIVES: Native American Art Now aims to highlight and celebrate the range of cultural and artistic forms of expression of Native American artists working today. From traditional craft to contemporary paintings, this exhibit will celebrate the important contributions of Native American communities in the narrative of American art.

HOW TO SUBMIT
Please submit 1-5 images of your work as well as a resume/CV to mpratt@pingree.org

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION
Artwork must be submitted by May 10, 2019. Applicants will be notified of their status by May 31st.
* MCNAA 30th Anniversary Welcome Address by Claudia Fox Tree

Updates on what is going on in “Indian Country” across the nation and in the state.

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**Stealing Land**

Indigenous land was first taken by Columbus, then the Louisiana Purchase, the Indian Removal Act, the Gold Rush, the Civil War (when the Homestead Act was passed), and the Land Allotment Act. By 1900, First Nations land holdings were reduced by 95%, from 3 million square miles to 200 thousand.

In December 2018, the Trump Administration announced its plan to auction off 900,000 acres for and gas extraction (fracking) on the doorstep of Nevada’s only national park and other protected public lands. **We need our allies and co-conspirators to rise up against destruction of our environment, dependence on fossil fuels, and against the stealing more land!**

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**Boarding Schools**

Indigenous children have been taken for years and placed in boarding schools hundreds of miles away. Jimmy Carter signed the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) to end the practice in 1978.

According to a recent report by the ICWA directors in South Dakota, 740 Lakota children are removed to foster care each year and 90% are placed in white homes and institutions. In the past decade, over 5,000 Sioux have been removed from their homes. Native child removal is still happening in many states. We are being DENIED access to our native heritage and culture.

In Oct 2018, Judge O’Connor in northern TEXAS, where no tribes are located, said about ICWA, “the federal government ‘did not prove—or attempt to prove why Indian children needed to remain connected to their communities.’”

I think we all know from personal experience that community and culture is vital to our identity and life. **We need our allies and co-conspirators to help end the practice of child removal!**

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**Mascots**

Referring to mascots that mock Native Americans, Dr. Michael Friedman, a clinical psychologist, reports, “…health problems are caused not only by the direct biological effect of increased stress on the body, but also worsening self-concept as a result of prejudicial behavior. Harmful prejudicial attitudes underlie systematic discrimination in education, employment, and housing that destroys quality of life, health, and well-being.”

The “mascot effect” is not just about First Nations people. Using implicit measures, residents of Cleveland were found “more likely to associate Native Americans with warlike traits than residents of Atlanta, Detroit and Miami.” In other words, the more offensive the mascot, the greater the effect in the general/non Native population.
“Implicit bias studies show how stereotypes can influence decisions ranging from hiring practices to jury preferences and criminal sentencing. And it’s all the more pernicious because the people making these biased decisions are unlikely to be aware that they’re doing so.” That’s why it is “implicit.”

The good news is that on October 10, 2018, after 71 years, the Chief Wahoo image was finally retired by the Cleveland Indians baseball team. There is now a bill in the Massachusetts house to dismantle the use of indigenous mascots in our schools. **We need our allies and co-conspirators to help pass this bill!**

---------------------Massachusetts Flag---------------------

In 1629, King Charles I granted a charter to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which included the authority to use a seal. It featured an indigenous person holding an arrow pointed down in a gesture of peace, with the words “Come over and help us.” The emphasis was on the missionary and commercial intentions of the original settlers/colonizers. This seal was used on and off from 1686 until 1692.

A blue ribbon surrounds the shield, bearing the state motto. In English, it reads, “By the Sword We Seek Peace, But Peace Only Under Liberty” Ense Petit Placidam, Sub Libertate Quietem).

What if if the flag were changed to a First Nations person’s arm holding a hatchet over a Pilgrim? What if under the axe, it said, “We seek peace, but peace only under liberty”? Can you see the problem?

The future of our state’s flag is currently being discussed in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. **We need our allies and co-conspirators to learn about the history of this flag!**

---------------------Indigenous People’s Day---------------------

Indigenous People’s Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of First Nations to the United Nations sponsored *International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas*. In 1990, representatives from 120 Indigenous nations at the *First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian Resistance* unanimously passed a resolution to transform Columbus Day into an occasion to strengthen the unity and struggle towards liberation and a more accurate historical record.

Why? Because Columbus was horrible. Here’s one example of what he did. In 1493, on his second voyage, Columbus ordered 1,500 men, women, and children seized, letting 400 go and condemning 500 to be sent to Spain, and another 600 to be enslaved by Spanish men remaining on the island. About 200 of the 500 sent to Spain died on the voyage, and were thrown by the Spanish into the Atlantic.
There are many universities, towns, cities, and even states that have passed legislation to rename the holiday in October IPD. Now a bill is in the Massachusetts house to change the name. **We need our allies and co-conspirators to help pass this bill!**

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**Closing**

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There is a difference in coming **from** the land and coming **to** the land and that’s called **settler colonialism**. I was thinking of the right words to close this address, and then my daughter, Cheyenne, posted them after attending a conference: “Our very presence and existence is an act of resistance and intervention… Find your people and build that community. It’s what lifts us up and carries us through.”

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**MCNAA’s Upcoming Events**

**May 25-26**  26th Annual Spring Planting Moon Pow-Wow, Marshfield Fairgrounds, 140 Main St., Marshfield, MA.  *This is a cultural arts event with the focus on cultural expression, cultural awareness & education, and sharing with the public.*

**June 29-30**  Summer Moon Pow-wow, Endicott Park, Front Orchard, 57 Forest Street, Danvers, MA.  *(NEW LOCATION.)*  *This is a cultural arts event with the focus on cultural expression, cultural awareness & education, and sharing with the public.*

**September 7-8**  Annual Intertribal Pow-Wow, co-sponsored by the City of Haverhill, Plug Pond, Sanders Road, off Mill St., Haverhill, MA.  *This is a cultural arts event with the focus on cultural expression, cultural awareness & education, and sharing with the public.*

Saturday, September 28?  “Oldies-But-Goodies” Autumn Dance, American Legion Hall, 950-R Washington St., Canton, MA.  7PM-11PM.  Supper buffet, Cash bar, and 50/50 Raffle. Advance tickets only.  *This is a fundraising event with the focus on dancing & fundraising.*

**Sunday, October 20**  21st Annual Fundraising Auction & Luncheon, VFW Function Hall, 12 Station St., Middleboro, MA.  1:00 PM.  Luncheon Buffet, Live & Silent Auctions, and Raffle Drawings. Advance tickets $10.  *This is a fundraising event with the focus on bidding & fundraising.*

**Saturday, November 2**  29th Annual Nat’l Native American Heritage Day Pow-Wow, Pingree School, 537 Highland St., So. Hamilton, MA.  *(NEW LOCATION.)*  *This is a cultural arts event with the focus on cultural expression, cultural awareness & education, and sharing with the public.*

**Saturday, December 7**  “Oldies-But-Goodies” Holiday Fundraising Dance, American Legion Hall, 950-R Washington St., Canton, MA.  7PM-11PM.  Supper buffet, Cash bar and 50/50 Raffle. Advance tickets only.  *This is a fundraising event with the focus on dancing & fundraising.*  ■