Dear Members: It has been an uplifting and exciting three months of events and activities. This newsletter will provide updates for the quarter covering October 2019 through December 15, 2019. It will give you insights into the important work we continue to do and the valuable connections we maintain with individuals and organizations in the area.

**MCNAA Newsletter – Winter 2019**

**MCNAA ATTENDS PRESENTATION AT FRUITLANDS MUSEUM**

*by Anthony Silva, Board Member*

Monday, October 14, 2019, I had the opportunity to attend a great lecture by Elizabeth James-Perry* (Aquinnah Wampanoag) on Indigenous Peoples’ Day at Fruitlands Museum in Harvard MA. Her presentation titled "Wampanoag Perspectives on the Land: Acknowledging Indigenous Space", was informative and well received by a packed lecture hall and generated numerous questions from the audience.

After the lecture, participants were invited to view the Fruitland’s Native American museum which houses a number of artifacts as well as a map of the large number of Tribal Nations that occupy/occupied the lands in Massachusetts and the rest of New England.

Participants were invited to ask the curators questions about displays as well as discuss the map or ask other questions of Liz. Overall, the museum tour and the lecture were great opportunities for all who were able to make it.

*Elizabeth is a multi-medium traditional and contemporary artist, with specialties in wampum shell carving and reviving natural dye techniques for her finger-woven sashes, bags, and baskets.*
HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR FUNDRAISING AUCTION & LUNCHEON
by Anthony Silva, Board Member. Photos by Bob Arcand

On Sunday, October 20, 2019, MCNAA successfully held its 21st annual auction & luncheon. The event, which has taken place at the Middleboro VFW for a number of years, has been a major fundraiser for our programs. It brought out a number of MCNAA friends, members, and families.... many of whom purchased tables to support the organization. As always, it was a fun time to try and outbid each other while we all enjoyed an appetizing luncheon buffet topped off with a delicious dessert.

As always, there were a number of beautiful one-of-a-kind items both in our silent as well as live auction. One of the most exciting items was a beautiful 36” pair of heavy porcelain Native Elder dolls with handmade and painted 17th century regalia made and painted by nationally known Native artisan Julia Marden, Aquinnah Wampanoag. The bidding was heavy with long time member and friend Ed McKenna (pictured below) being the lucky winner.

In addition to the dolls, there were a number of items which drew a lot of competitive bidding including a hand crafted Native bow and elk skin quiver with arrows donated by the family of our longtime Native friend Eddy Lincoln who has since passed on to the Spirit World. These priceless items were truly one of kind.

After the buffet, MCNAA’s leadership team members were introduced by Board Member Dawn Duncan who acted as the emcee while also assisting in the description of the items for the live auction. This year’s auctioneers were Tony and Dory Morris from Morris & Morris Auctions, who graciously agreed to fill in for our regular auctioneer who had a last minute conflict with our date. We thank them for volunteering to help.
Among the many new and exciting things at the auction was our 10X raffle drawing. This involves attendees placing money in a signed envelope with increments between $5 - $20. All envelopes are then placed in a jar and one is drawn. The lucky winner then receives 10 times the amount they put in the envelope. The winning envelope contained $5 and the lucky person won $50, which they generously donated back to the organization. We thank them.

We want to extend our thanks to The McKenna, Rocker, Silva, and Stanley Families who came out in force; the Chappaquiddick Wampanoag Tribe; many couples and individuals who traveled to the VFW to support us – Harry & Lee Edmonds, Muriel & Joe Guevara, Michelle Johnson, Barbara & Jeff Martini, Jim Peters, Mark & Helen Ransdell, Whippoorwill, and so many others. Volunteers who went over and above to help in different ways included Bob Arcand (photographer), Aaron Creech (student volunteer), Bonnie Lippencott, Frankie Orben, Lori & Jerry Vigil (pictured above), Jai Walden, and Maria Wilkins.

This was another great time sharing with friends and long-time supporters who helped make this another successful fundraising event.

Former MCNAA Board Member, Maria Wilkins, is pictured here with one of the many live auction items that were up for bid. As the emcee described the item, Maria walked through the audience showing this large old-style clamshell necklace inlaid with turquoise, coral and other precious stones. This beautiful timeless piece was donated anonymously.

**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.
RESULTS OF THE FRIENDSGIVING FEAST IN GREAT BARRINGTON, MA
by Burne Stanley-Peters. Photos by the Berkshire Food Co-op staff.

On Thursday, November 7, 2019, the Berkshire Food Co-Op* in Great Barrington, MA held a Friendsgiving Feast for their community. It was a big success despite the impending forecast of rain & snow. As you will remember from our face book post, $5 of each ticket purchased for the Feast was to be donated to the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness. After the event, funds were estimated and proceeds for our organization yielded close to $900. The organizers reported that the food was amazing, the music by House of Kin was phenomenal, and friends and family spent some quality time together. They said they are grateful to us for helping them make the event that much more special for their customers!

We are grateful to them for thinking of us as a worthy non-profit to share proceeds with from this important first-time event. Our portion of the funds will enable us to continue to help needy Native families and Elders across the state with food, utility assistance and other basic needs during the upcoming winter season. We give our heartfelt thanks to the Berkshire Food Co-op and look forward to next years’ partnership with them.

*The Co-Op was created by and for families in the Berkshires to bring real food to our friends and neighbors. Everything we sell is thoughtfully chosen, so you can rest assured that it’s good for you and for our community. The Berkshire Food Co-op is so much more than a grocery store! ■
HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ANNUAL NAT’L NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH POW-WOW AT THE PINGREE SCHOOL
-Celebrating Nat’l Native American Heritage Month!
by Anthony Silva, Board Member

On November 2, 2019 MCNAA held its' 29th Annual Native American Heritage Month Pow Wow. The event, in partnership with the Pingree School, was hosted at the school in South Hamilton attracting a large number of Native dancers and drummers/singers, as well as Native vendors and artisans from all over New England. The spacious gymnasium inside the Pingree Athletic Center allowed for ample space for everything including a conical wigwam erected by Jennifer Lee with the assistance of a number of student volunteers from the school.

Prior to opening the Circle, special thanks to the many supporters of the event were made by MCNAA Board Members Dawn Duncan and Kim Orben. Supporters included Essex County Community Foundations’ Creative County Initiative. Their representatives were Karen Ristuben and Beth Francis. Our partner was the Pingree School. Representatives were Dr. Tim Johnson, Alan McCoy, and Shelley Vassallo. Each representative was gifted with a decorated turkey feather with beaded cuff and painted medicine wheel as an expression of thanks and gratitude. Other grant funders who were named that supported the pow wow included Hamilton-Wenham Cultural Council as well as the Mass. Cultural Council.

Following the flags during Grand Entry, dancers were led into the Circle by Head Dancers Aquayah Peters and Andre Gaines, Jr. who showed there exciting dance moves. They led all of the dances and kept the circle moving as Iron River Singers, Eastern Suns, and Tullock Creek provided the background music with a number of intertribal and specialty songs including a traditional Blanket Dance and a high energy Duck and Dive.
M.C. Larry Mann kept everything moving from beginning to end while keeping everyone informed and educating the audience on the significance of the various dances styles. He added a few ‘dance specials’ which kept the audience intrigued. Activities were constantly ongoing and there never was a lull for participants or audience members who traveled locally as well as from great distances.

Dave Little Tree displayed his water drum skills while singing a number of his Eastern Social Songs. Later in the program, Devin Wixon (left) took the lead on a few songs engaging the dancers and the audience. He’s a terrific young singer and has great voice quality. We appreciated his participation.

(More by Burne Stanley-Peters)

MORE THAN JUST DANCING......

MCNAA Board member Claudia Fox Tree drew a large crowd to her interactive workshop presentation. She had so much interest in her presentation that some attendees pulled up chairs to get comfortable (when most often people stand at this interactive workshop.)

Native artist Deb Moorehead displayed her beautiful artwork collection (below) which drew a number of admirers to her stand throughout the day.

Children were kept busy the entire day at the activities table with options to make beaded necklaces or bracelets; embellish a feather turning it into a ‘friendship feather’ and other creative arts projects. They also took advantage of the cultural passport program organized by Patricia Rocker. This encouraged them to interact with Native Americans by asking questions while documenting what they learn. (Photo by Bob Arcand)
Among the many traditional craft demonstrators were the following:

Marlene Lopez (right) well known artisan demonstrated eastern woodland and plains 17th century traditional finger weaving. Her work is very much sought after; and

Julie Marden (below) an internationally known artist who specializes in Eastern Woodlands art. She is best known for and demonstrated 17th century style twined basketry;

and Jennifer Lee, regionally known artisan, demonstrated traditional ash and white pine bark basket making skills.

(Photo by Rochelle Belanger)

(Photo by Bob Arcand)

(Photo by Burne Stanley-Peters)
Additionally, and new to this pow-wow was Elizabeth James-Perry demonstrating her unique woven quillwork; as well as Hoban Sanford who displayed and demonstrated his skills in crafting a number of beautiful walking sticks. He had an audience at this stand most of the afternoon. (Photos by Burne Stanley-Peters)

“\textit{This Pow Wow was my first & I had a FABULOUS time! I met Hoban Sanford who was so sweet & fun to chat with. Silver Moon's bison soup was yummy!! The dancing, drumming, singing was outstanding. Elizabeth James-Perry was happy to chat with us about her woven quillwork. Looking forward to my next pow wow. Michelle B.”}

The Pow wow was covered by reporters from WBZ radio as well as a number of local and regional newspapers who were mesmerized by this quality cultural-educational event that included a variety of intertribal cultures and traditions.

We have heard nothing but positive feedback from attendees. In addition to the one above, here is a final one:

\textit{Would like to thank everyone at the MCNNA for a great event. Rarely have I seen a first time event so well attended. The hard work you all did really showed. Also would like to thank the public and the people of Hamilton. Everyone was so warm and welcoming and really enjoyed themselves. Truly showed they wanted us there and had a genuine interest. Loved to see some of the local children off to the sides trying so hard to dance as they saw dancers in the circle. Finally to the staff of the Pingree School, great job as well. Really showed true hospitality. Thank you all!! Hope we return next year! Len R}

It was amazing to see so many of our friends who came out to support us and make this event a memorable one at this state-of-the-art facility. A huge thank you to all of you who participated in some way.
MCNAA’s Grant Closing Meeting With Essex County Community Foundation
by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member

On Monday, November 18, 2019 Board Members Dawn Duncan and Anthony Silva attended a scheduled grant closing meeting with officials from the Essex County Community Foundation (ECCF) in Danvers. If you recall, MCNAA received a grant from this foundation to hold 3 Essex County cultural-arts events between September 2018 and December 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss our project’s impacts and multiplier effects that may not be completely captured in writing when we submit our final report. In part, this is what Board Member Dawn Duncan reported after the meeting: “The ECCF meeting was great. They REALLY love what we are doing. It was obvious. We talked a lot about how the grant helped get us more exposure and build new relationships. Also we shared that it’s great that so many people come to us with questions and for resources but we are also overwhelmed by that since we are not a large organization. They were all super open to say they have access to people, resources, etc. and they consider us partners and want us to reach out whenever we want. Especially the camera guy - he even said we are his favorite project of the grantees. They also talked about how everything we do is very authentic and in alignment with what we say and what our mission is and they find that refreshing. I thought that was a WONDERFUL compliment.”

We are grateful to have received these funds and to have had this opportunity to bring Native American cultural projects to the County in such a powerful way. We are in the process of preparing and will submit our written report to the Foundation by the end of the year.

MCNAA Attends TBF 2019 Annual Meeting
by Anthony Silva, Board Member. Photo by a by-stander.

Advisory Council member Patricia Rocker and I attended The Boston Foundations’ (TBF) Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2019. The theme of the gathering was “Look At What We Accomplished Together”. There was a large number of high profile and influential people in the room. Despite the huge number, Patricia and I were able to do a fair amount of networking exchanging business cards with those we chatted with. We both agreed that there were a number of people interested in our organization and its mission. This social gathering also included several interesting performances from two of TBF’s remarkable slate of grantees. This event was an excellent opportunity for us to represent MCNAA and to make connections with other grantees and community leaders, and to learn about all we have accomplished together in 2019 with partnerships among donors, nonprofits, and community members. We are both happy we attended.
**MCNAA RECEIVES A NATURAL GAS HEATING ASSISTANCE GRANT**

In December 2019, we received a grant for natural gas fuel assistance from the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office. The grant will allow us to help constituents pay or lower their natural gas heating bills (does not cover oil, electric, wood, or propane heat.) Included in this grant are limited funds for weatherization assistance (weather-striping, weatherization repairs, etc.) Look for our website and e-mail announcements soon.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR HOLIDAY FUNDRAISING DANCE**

*by Anthony Silva, Board Member. Photo by Burne Stanley-Peters*

On Saturday, December 7, 2019, MCNAA held its annual Holiday Fundraising Dinner Dance at the American Legion Hall in Canton. The event was a major success as the hall was filled to capacity with members, friends and supporters who danced to doo wop and rock n’ roll music of the 50’s and 60’s. Prior to making their way to the dance floor, guests enjoyed a delicious hot supper buffet from Malone Catering Services. The food was plentiful and people ate to their limit. The music was provided by DJ Rich who kept the dance floor full playing the hits of the era while entertaining the requests of the audience.

To further raise funds for scholarships beyond ticket sales and donations, MCNAA added the 10x envelope raffle drawing. The lucky winner was dance friend Karen Hawkins who won $50 while MCNAA raised an additional $371.00 from the drawing for the program.

Despite the cold weather, many of our supporters traveled from as far away as the Cape, RI, Boston, and beyond including our Nipmuc friend Andrea Smith and her family, Board member Claudia Fox Tree and her friends, and of course our biggest supporters Harry and Lee Edmonds. We thank everyone who came, especially those who bought entire tables.

Although the dances are a departure from our pow-wows, they have helped raise additional funds for our scholarship program and has helped MCNAA gain many new supporters from the general public.

This was a fun night and we look forward to the next fundraising dance on Saturday, April 4, 2020.
Like most of you, no matter what each of us call this time of year, I look forward to sharing a holiday meal with family – a meal full of age-old family recipes that have been handed down from generation to generation. The older ones in my family will whisper the secret ingredient to the younger ones so that they can continue to serve our favorite traditional dishes for decades to come.

As the holiday season and the end of the year approaches, we ask that you continue to think about the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness as an organization that people contact for assistance and information. It’s not only tribal friends, Native students, and Elders who reach out for help, many non-Natives look to us for information and resources. However, our Board of Directors has come up with three major areas of need which we feel are really at the heart of what we do during this time of year. We ask for your support to keep these important programs going so that we can continue to provide needed assistance to those who rely on us the most.

#1 - Food for Elders and needy Native families. We don’t want one family or one Elder to be hungry and go without food. With your donation to this program, we will be able to feed needy families and Elders during the winter months.

#2 - Heat for Elders and needy Native families. We don’t want one family or one Elder to be cold this winter. With your donation to this program, we will be able to keep Elders and families warm, who have oil, electric, wood, or propane heat, during the winter months and on an emergency basis. (As you read, we received a grant to help families who have gas heat.)
#3 – Scholarship funds for needy Native students who are attending college. Like so many, students are struggling to buy books and put gasoline in their cars to get to school. We want to help all of them with our resources. With your donation to this program, we will be able to help some of them with college related expenses.

Our mission at the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness has not changed. We are more focused than ever on helping our needy constituents across the state…and we need your help!

Please give what you can and what your heart dictates. We have made it very easy for you to donate. Fill out the attached donation form and put it in an envelope with your donation check, and mail it today to our Danvers office. If you have a PayPal account and prefer to make your donation that way (as it has become popular) that will be terrific as well. Please use our e-mail address (mcnaa@aol.com) to make the gift via PayPal.

We are grateful that the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness is included in your annual giving. We don’t take it lightly and appreciate it tremendously. Thank you for working with us for “the cause.”

Happy Holiday Season!

The MCNA Board of Directors
Dawn Duncan
Claudia Fox Tree
Kim Orben
Anthony Silva
Burne Stanley-Peters

Mass. Center for Native American Awareness, Inc.
ATTN: Year-end Donation
85 Constitution Lane, Suite 3-B1
Danvers, MA 01923

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.
“MCNAA’s Year-end Appeal”

Yes, I want to help!

Please apply my donation to:

___ Social Assistance Program (heating assistance, food, or other basic necessities for Native families and Elders.)

___ Scholarship Fund to help Native Students.

___ Where it is most needed.

___ I would like to pledge of a monthly gift of $_______ starting with this donation.

___ In addition to the donation, I would like to remember MCNAA in my will/estate plans.

___ I have a piece of real estate (building or land) I want to donate to MCNAA for its new Center, or their gatherings, or for conservation. Please call me at the number below.

My Gift is in the amount of: ___$5,000 ___$3,000 ___$2,000 ___$1,500 ___$1,000
___$750 ___$500 ___$300 ___$250 ___$200 ___$100 ___Other

Name ____________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________

City __________________________ State ______ Zip___________

E-mail Address _______________________________________

Telephone Number: ( ) ________________________________

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Make your check/money order payable to MCNAA and mail it with this completed form:

Mass. Center for Native American Awareness, Inc.
ATTN: Year End Donation
85 Constitution Lane, Suite 3-B1
Danvers, MA 01923

Or use your PayPal account to make a donation.
Or call/e-mail MCNAA to pick up the donation.