Dear Members: We entered 2020 with great enthusiasm and appreciation. What a great feeling! It seems that over the last couple years, the Creator has been leading us to a path and grooming us to receive several wonderful gifts. Much of the support and unexpected offerings came late last year from "out of the blue." We don't know quite how to feel about all of this but our hearts tell us it's all good. Our arms are open to accepting them and we remain humble and grateful.

In this issue of TurtleTalk, you will read about the exciting things that happened and the important events we attended between December 16, 2019 thru March 31, 2020. You will also read about some of the key events we had planned to attend that were unfortunately canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This dangerous pandemic might keep us down for a short time, but we can’t let this dampen our spirit or our motivation. We look forward to the days ahead as we continue to help some of our needy Elders and families through these difficult times.

MCNAA’S NATURAL GAS HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
WE HAVE FUNDS...PLEASE CONTACT US!

In late December 2019, MCNAA was awarded a grant for natural gas fuel assistance from the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office. The funds will allow us to help our constituents pay or lower their natural gas heating bills during the 2019-2020 winter heating season. The grant does not cover oil, electric, wood, or propane heat but includes limited funds for weatherization assistance (weather-striping, weatherization repairs, etc.) We have helped numerous Native families so far and continue to reach out to others to make them aware of this program and to let them know we are here to help! If you are from the Native community in Massachusetts and have natural gas heat, please contact us for further details on the program. Call: 617-642-1683. E-mail: mcnaa@aol.com
MCNAA is the Proud Caretaker of a Piece of Pentucket
by Burne Stanley-Peters, Board Member. Photos by Burne Stanley-Peters

More than two years ago—August 2017, a piece of land in Haverhill was offered as a gift to the Mass. Center for Native American Awareness. At that time, Anthony met with the owners and made an initial visit to the site. Shortly thereafter, the owners took a trip out of the country and talks stalled. Then in September 2019, at our powwow in Haverhill, conversations resumed and a second site visit was scheduled for Board and Advisory Council members.

MCNAA officials met at the property. They included Anthony Silva, Kim Orben, Burne Stanley, along with Advisory Council Member Patricia Rocker and MCNAA Advisor Hoban Sanford.

After walking the land and some preliminary discussions among us 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.

The land transaction was discussed further at our October 9, 2019 Board Meeting. Knowing the positive impact of this gift, only minimal discussion was needed before the Board made a formal decision to accept the land. On Wednesday, December 18 2019 we closed on the tract of land in the area of what was once known as Pentucket. It has been decided that in the Spring, when the weather is warmer, we will gather at the site and hold a small ceremony at which time we will invite our traditional Elders…..Hoban Sanford, Harry and Lee Edmonds…. to smudge and bless the land.

Advisory Council member Rick Pouliot has since shared grant resources with us should we decide to move forward with clearing brush and cutting down a few trees, creating a Circle, and other gathering areas. Also, long-time MCNAA Member Russ Cohen (right) has offered his assistance in a most unique and important way. (Russ is a naturalist and wild foods enthusiast who has cultivated a strong spiritual connection to nature.) In late Spring, he will join us in walking the land to identify any wild edibles that are growing there. Despite the abundant black locust trees, he knows that there are a lot

L-R. Patricia D. Rocker, Kim Orben, Hoban Sanford, and Anthony Silva.
of woodland and shade-tolerant wild edibles that will grow if they are not thriving there already. He will also be able to suggest what additional native edible species might be worth planting there, to further diversify what might already be there. We welcome his input.

Below is another story of “giving the land back to Indigenous/Native Peoples”. This one is in Canada but there are other similar stories here in USA --- Massachusetts.

**Here’s part of her story:** One woman’s plan to give back: The land needs to be returned to Indigenous peoples! Janice Keil, a secondary school teacher from Peterborough, Ontario, owns 100 acres of land in Northumberland County, in the territory of the Mississauga. She wants to repatriate some of it to a nearby tribal group. “I realized that at the heart of this path of reconciliation is the land, land that we, as white settlers stole, including my ancestors.”

She said listening to interviews on Unreserved, especially about Canada’s 150th anniversary, got her thinking about the role of settlers in the country and what she can do to foster reconciliation. “Something shifted inside and as a proud Canadian it made me feel really ashamed to celebrate Canada Day 2017. I knew without any doubt that it was a lie that the land belongs to me and even though I have this piece of paper called a deed, the land needs to be returned to the Indigenous peoples.”

She said though it often surprises people, she feels compelled to see this repatriation through. “For me the question isn’t why, the question is how can I not do this? How can you not do everything in your power to bring about reconciliation in the best way that you can in your tiny corner of Turtle Island?”

She said hearing musician Gord Downie speak that day after Canada Day in Ottawa provided her with another source of inspiration. “I just found it so powerful when he talked about that, ‘We had the past 150 years that were absolutely horrendous for Indigenous peoples but we have the next 150 years to do it differently and to do it better.’ And I certainly hope that in my small way, and in all of my frailties that I can do it differently.”

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 becoming the new stewards of the land.
In late December 2019, we received an unexpected e-mail from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation saying they would like to support our college scholarship program with a grant. Like the grant we received in August 2019 from The Boston Foundation, it came from “out-of-the-blue”…we did not apply for it. We were surprised and grateful! We look forward to helping our students when we award scholarships in September for the 2020 Fall Semester.

Through an e-mail, we shared the exciting news with members. Here’s a few responses:

“The blessings keep coming to MCNAA. You have given so much of your time and heart over the years. I am celebrating with you. What a well-deserved out-of-the blue grant for Native students!” C Freeze.

“That is wonderful news. What a way to start off the new year. Your organization helps so many people. I often mention to people to send donations to MCNAA and explain some of the programs that you help assist. I am so excited.” M. Lopez.

“Congrats Burne. MCNAA really deserves all the blessings it’s been getting. You guys go way beyond the call of duty and for that we native/non-native peoples are grateful. We support you and MCNAA.” P. Dones.

“This is wonderful news, but it doesn’t really surprise me. The time is right. The need is still great, but awareness has grown - the right kind of awareness. MCNAA has established a record of authenticity, consistency, responsiveness, and good communication - the kind of organization that foundations like to support - a good “risk”. To me, all this means “keep doing what you’ve been doing”; it’s working. All those seeds you planted and cultivated over all those years have come to fruition. Don’t forget I heard Slow Turtle speak 20+ years ago, I heard his message of identity and tradition, caring and community. You have been steadfast in carrying on the mission for all this time, even when there wasn’t so much support and recognition.” E. McCormack.

Because of these new gifts, please don’t feel that your help is no longer needed. A number of you are monthly donors, and some of you contribute to our year end appeal, to various raffles or specific appeals during the year. Please continue to show your support that way because we have other programs and expenses that need your help. They include our Cultural Arts Program which received substantial support through a grant by ECCF’s CCI. That grant ended December 2019. We also have a Public Education & Awareness-Social Justice Initiative Program; a Youth Empowerment & Cultural Enrichment Program; a Spiritual Awareness Program as well as general overhead. So please, don’t stop giving!
Our first Board meeting for 2020 was held on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at “Dawn’s Board Room” in Lynn. We discussed:

- guidelines, application process, and outreach for new scholarship funds.
- outreach to constituents for new natural gas heating assistance funds.
- MCNAA’s newly acquired land in Haverhill/Pentucket & a spring site visit.
- the final draft of our Tribal Land Acknowledgement Position Statement.
- MCNAA’s 2019 Accomplishments.
- MCNAA’s Events for 2020.
- continuing to co-sponsor events that fit our mission.

In efforts to maintain social distancing because of COVID-19, our second meeting was held electronically (via e-mail and google docs) over the weekend of March 22 and 23, 2020. We discussed:

- updates to the Natural Gas Heating Program.
- duplicate Native books we have to donate to the Peabody Institute Library.
- the Auction Fundraising Night on Sat., Oct. 17th.
- new foundation guidelines to follow up on.
- the scholarship application (updates were made.)
- events that have been canceled or postponed.

Two great meetings with a terrific leadership team!
ECCF—CREATIVE COUNTY INITIATIVE
CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

On Saturday, January 11, 2010, Board Member Anthony Silva attended the first of several workshops that are being offered by ECCF’s Creative County Initiative. This one was entitled: “Engaging the Media and Social Media Essentials: Building Public Will for Culture and Creativity”. It covered messaging for arts, culture, and creativity, and gaining media attention through OpEds and Letters to the Editor. It was held at ARCWORKS in Peabody. He learned about effectively engaging on social media to build relationships and momentum for our work on local and regional platforms. It was a great experience and he gained some valuable insights.

On Thursday, February 13th Anthony also attended the second workshop held at Salem State University entitled “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access: Navigating the New Normal - The Way Forward for Arts and Culture Organizations.”

The presenter was David C. Howse, Senior Vice President of Emerson College and Executive Director of ArtsEmerson, a recognized speaker and commentator who had previously delivered a powerful message about inclusion and equity at the 2109 Arts Summit. Prior to the workshop participants were treated to a remarkable performance by noted jazz artist Stan Strickland. His music was peaceful and serene and set a relaxed tone for the rest of the evening. Mr. Howse shared his perspective on the expectations on arts and cultural organizations to address issues like diversity, equity and cross-cultural understanding, and to speak to challenges like social justice, communal empowerment, engagement and more. He spoke of how many people in power are resistant to change, even if the demographics have. The old ways of doing things will no longer work, but acknowledged if the leaders of an organization can’t go with change they should know it is ok to not participate and leave. He spoke of how his being a minority and rising to the top of the leadership of a major organization caused a major shift in personnel interactions made it difficult for some people to accept and they left. However, a majority of the people had no problem and transitioned into the new leadership and the necessary change. He noted that we are making progress but it is difficult to change a culture that has been embedded for hundreds of years.

These hands-on workshops are offered free to the community (although you must register to reserve your spot.) For a description of the remaining workshop, please visit the website:
http://eccf.org/workshops
On Monday, January 20, 2020 MCNAA Board Members Dawn Duncan and Anthony Silva and Advisory Committee Member Patricia Rocker attended a Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration at the Danvers High School. The event presented annually by The Danvers Committee on Human Rights & Inclusion and Danvers Public Schools attracted hundreds of people from the area who came to honor the legacy of Dr. King.

Special remarks were made by State Senator Joan Lovely and State Senator Theodore Speliotis as well as a representative from Representative Seth Moulton’s office. Other local dignitaries present included the town manager the chair of the Danvers Selectmen, as well the superintendent of schools and the school committee chair. MCNAA members were also introduced by the committee chair as noted supporters of the Human Rights Committee.

Among the many inspiring aspects of the presentation were the hundreds of pictures drawn by students honoring Dr. King, as well as a video presentation by (SUFA) Students United for Acceptance. A moving story given by Danvers Inclusion Committee member Jorge Sanchez-Salazar titled “Moving from Marginalization toward Inclusion” a story of his personal journey to becoming accepted as an immigrant.

This well planned evening ended with music by the Danvers High School Chamber Singers and the Holten-Richmond A Capella Ensemble. This was then followed by a rousing a cappella song by the Brandeis University A Cappella Ensemble ‘Voicemale’, whose lead singer is the son of the Committee Chair Dutrochet Djoko. This group had everyone in the room off their seat and dancing to a calypso beat.
On January 23, 2020, I, along with MCNAA’s contingent of friends Hoban Sanford, Claire Oakley and Maria Wilkins attended an evening lecture at the Buttonwood Museum in Haverhill. The museum has a large number of Native American artifacts including an extensive display from our cherished friend Sly Fox Oakley who has since crossed into the spirit world.

The lecture titled “Digging Into Native History In New England” was presented by noted Archeologist Professor Robert G. Goodby, PhD. as part of the museum’s winter lecture series.

The lecture, which was well presented, talked about the many archaeological finds and their significance in showing the existence of Native People for hundreds of years in the New England area.

The professor provided slides of the many archeological finds that showed the advanced culture of the Native people and their ability to farm as well as hunt and fish. The existence of the dugout canoes, many of which were sunk during the winter months to protect them from the elements, as well as advanced farming implements were found in many of these digs.

At the end of his lecture, due to the fact that nearly all of the audience were non-Native, a lot of questions regarding Native Americans today were asked. This gave the MCNAA contingent an opportunity to introduce ourselves, our tribal affiliations, our organization and answer questions about contemporary Native People in the New England area especially in Massachusetts. Hoban recommended the book Ninnuock (The People): The Algonkian People of New England by Steven Johnson to those who wanted to learn more about Native history in the region.

As there were many questions and time was limited, we invited many of people to go on MCNAA’s website and to also plan to attend our Pow Wow at Plug Pond in the Fall.
At the end of the lecture the museum director thanked us and stated that they apply for funds each year for a series of lectures and said she would be reaching out to MCNAA for presenters in the future.

From all accounts, this was a wonderful way to spend a Thursday evening. We look forward to MCNAA being represented at future events like this. Thank you Hoban, Maria, and Claire for making yourselves available to attend.

**NORTH SHORE TOURISM SUMMIT**

by Anthony Silva, Board Member. Courtesy photos.

On Friday, January 31, 2010, Advisory Council Member Patricia Rocker and I attended the 14th Annual North of Boston Tourism Summit at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Danvers, MA. Tourism is a major industry in Massachusetts that attracts people from all over the world and contributes heavily to the State’s economy. Representatives from the tourist bureaus in Plymouth as well as the Islands were also present at this day-long event. The attractions North of Boston are the most heavily desired traveled destinations in New England.

Since moving our office to the North Shore, the Mass. Center has established an ongoing relationship with the North of Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau and all of our events are highlighted in the North of Boston visitor’s guide. It was great to reconnect with Ann Marie and others from the NBCVB.
Nearly every mayor and politician North of Boston was present including Senator Lovely and State Rep. Speliotis as well as the Mayor Kim Driscoll of Salem and those from the surrounding towns. This gave Patricia and I an opportunity to do a lot of networking and introduce ourselves and share some of the good work we do.

We all agreed with Patricia when she said, before the Summit, that it's important for MCNAA to connect with cities and towns to ensure that their interpretation of Native history is both truthful and respectful of our ancestors, histories and cultures. Too often their interpretation of events is from the capitalist, European lens and has no basis with the reality of North-Eastern Woodland Peoples and our Cultures. Speaking with Keiko Matsudo Orrall, the Director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel & Tourism gave us the opportunity to emphasize the contributions of the original Peoples of this land especially since both Plymouth and Salem are celebrating major anniversaries. Her office has since reached out to us for additional input.

On a personal note, guest speaker Ted Reinstein, the award winning journalist for WCVB-TV Chronicle, gave an excellent review of the many places that he showcased over the past 30 years. He cited Woodman’s of Essex as one of the best places in the area for clams and seafood. Just by chance the owner was in the audience and introduced. At the end of the summit, I had the opportunity to have a personal conversation with Mrs. Woodman and her son and introduced myself as a Board member of MCNAA. She was ecstatic as she shared that her father was MicMac and she had lost that connection but was anxious to reconnect. We exchanged business cards and I invited her and her son to contact us and to come to one of our Pow Wows. She was extremely grateful that she could be involved with other Natives in the area.

This was a great event and both Patricia and I made an impact on those we met and reconnected with.

“Patience is not simply the ability to wait - it’s how we behave while we’re waiting.” — Joyce Meyer
LECTURE BY PROFESSOR ADRIENNE J. KEENE
by Anthony Silva, Board Member. Courtesy photos.

On February 7, 2020, I, along with MCNAA Member Erin McCormack attended a lecture at Brandeis University by Prof. Adrienne J. Keene. It was entitled "I Just Had to Be There: Experiences of Indigenous Students in the #NoDAPL Movement."

Prof. Keene, who traveled with others to be part of it, is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and an Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies at Brown University. Our good friend and MCNAA member ChaeRan Freeze, a professor at Brandeis, was also present.

Prior to starting her presentation, Prof. Keene began with a land acknowledgement of the traditional territories of the Massachusett and Nipmuc Peoples.

Her account of what she and others saw and experienced was captured as she was able to clearly convey much of what she encountered during her stay. She spoke about how the sheer volume of Native Peoples and supporters made it difficult to delineate who the leaders were. Roles were not always assigned so it was left upon everyone to determine where the biggest need was and become a part of it.

Prof. Keene lightheartedly shared how her traveling companion and she were relegated to cooking as that was the largest need at the time of their arrival. Although it seemed less than they expected to do, after some reflection and speaking with others who were also cooking, they saw this as being of major importance in supporting the protest.

She spoke about how powerful the experience of coming together was, but expressed tremendous sadness at the mistreatment the protesters, both women and men, endured at the hands of authorities. Even more unfortunate is that the media did not give it the amount of attention it deserves and gives no attention now. She said she often times wonders how those were harmed physically or emotionally are faring now.

Overall, this was a tremendous presentation and those of us in the audience were thankful for her sharing.
Below are updates on events that MCNAA board members have registered to attend.

**Gastón Institute 30 Year Anniversary Breakfast**
**POSTPONED** - Thursday, March 12, 2020, in support of the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy, Board Member Anthony Silva was registered to attend their 30 Year Anniversary Breakfast. The Institute, housed at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, is to inform policy makers about issues vital to the state’s growing Latino community and to provide this community with information and analysis necessary for effective participation in public policy development.

**A Community Film Screening of “The Condor & the Eagle” on World Water Day!**
**CANCELED** - Board Member Claudia Fox Tree had planned to attend a viewing of and discussion about the movie The Condor and The Eagle. *(The Condor & The Eagle* premiered in October 2019 at the Woodstock Film Festival, was selected by 28 world-renowned film festivals, and has won 8 awards so far.) MCNAA was invited to take part in this event by the North Parish of North Andover Unitarian Universalist Church. The screening was scheduled to take place on World Water Day, Sunday March 22nd at 5 PM in North Andover, MA, land of the Pennacook people.

**A Community Film Screening of “Dawnland”**
**CANCELED** - MCNAA was one of several co-sponsors of the critically acclaimed film Dawnland. The community screening and discussion was scheduled to take place on Friday, March 27, 2020 at the North American Indian Center of Boston in Jamaica Plain but was canceled. Several on-line screenings took place, one on March 22 the other on March 26. Board member Claudia Fox Tree was the moderator for the March 26th screening. In 2018, MCNAA was a community partner for other screenings that were held in Somerville, Salem and Boston.

**Annual Walk Against Genocide**
**CANCELED** - MCNAA is one of many co-sponsors of the Walk on Sun, April 26, 2020 in Boston. Board Member Claudia Fox Tree will join the walk and speak again at this important event.

**IDEAS Conference (Initiatives for Developing Equity and Achievement for Students)**
**POSTPONED** - Bentley University Conference Center, Waltham, MA - Saturday, May 2, 2020. This year, the conference is entitled: Decolonizing Our Minds: Challenging Dominant Narratives! The featured Presentation: “Conversations We Were Never Meant to Have About First Nations People” is with our own Claudia Fox Tree (Arawak) and Debby Irving (author of Waking Up White).
MCNAA’S 2020 EVENTS

CANCELED - Saturday, April 4 Oldies-But-Goodies 50’s & 60’s Spring Fundraising Dance, American Legion Hall, 950-R Washington St., Canton, MA. 7:00PM-11PM. Hot supper buffet, Cash bar, DJ music, and a Raffle Drawing. Tickets: $12.00 each or $96.00 for a RESERVED family/friend table of 8. This is a fundraising event with the focus on dancing and fundraising.

May 23-24 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.

September 12-13 32nd 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, October 17 22nd Annual Fundraising Auction, VFW Function Hall, 12 Station St., Middleboro, MA. 5:00 PM. Hot Supper Buffet, Live & Silent Auctions, Raffle Drawing, and other fundraising activities. Tickets: $10.00 in advance/ $80.00 for family/tribal/organization table of 8. This is a fundraising event with the focus on bidding & fundraising.

Saturday, December 5 Oldies-But-Goodies 50’s & 60’s Holiday Fundraising Dance, American Legion Hall, 950-R Washington St., Canton, MA. 7:00PM-11PM. Hot supper buffet, Cash bar, DJ music, and 50/50 Raffle Drawing. Tickets: $15.00 each or $100.00 for a RESERVED family/friends table of 8. This is a fundraising event with the focus on dancing and fundraising.

There are a number of city and town sponsored events that we will support this year. So far, we plan to participate in the following:

1. CANCELED - MCNAA is to be a State-wide Community Partner for ArtWeek which is an annual award-winning innovative festival presented by Highland Street Foundation and produced by the Boch Center. It is scheduled for the week of May 1-10, 2020. (Officials at ArtWeek were beyond words when they had to announce that the event was canceled.)

2. POSTPONED - MCNAA will participate in Salem Ancestry Days – This is a first-time annual event where residents and visitors are invited to celebrate their ancestral and immigrant connections to Salem, MA. The weekend, May 1-4, 2020, is to feature lectures, tours, research opportunities, and information on the people who connect us all to Salem. Advisory Council Member Patricia Rocker, and Board Members Dawn Duncan and Anthony Silva have already met with members of the Ancestry Days Committee and are working on plans for a great Native segment.
3. MCNAA is a cultural partner in **Haverhill’s 2020 Multi-Cultural Festival** on June 20, 2020. The Festival is intended to bring people together of all different cultures, values, lifestyles. Members of MCNAA are planning to set up an arts & crafts station, lead a short stomp dance or round dance, hold a storytelling session, and whatever else is appropriate to share with the public.

With events being canceled, we understand that ultimately what is most important is that all of us remain safe and well, so we feel that these were the right decisions to make at this time. We also know that there will most likely be other events that will be canceled in the next several months out of an abundance of caution.