

INDIAN LEAP NEWSLETTER

Message from the New Tribal Leader of the Native American Mohegan Tribe

Dear Tribal Members,

First of all, I want to thank you for all the cards and phone calls of congratulations I have received from you regarding my new leadership. I have been an active member of Tribal Government for 21 years, under the leadership of John Hamilton and Eleanor Michaud. During this time, I was Tribal Secretary where my experiences in Tribal government provided me the opportunity to develop the leadership skills that I will certainly need to meet the challenges that the future holds for all of us. I have worked hard for the Tribe over this time and I will continue to work hard to live up to your expectations and the confidence you have expressed in me in these phone calls and cards. The one thing I truly insist upon is that you call me at the Tribal Office or visit me there when there is any concerns or problems you wish to discuss. Also, I promise to keep the General Tribal membership more informed on the Tribe's latest happenings without compromising our goals. We have reached some of our goals over the last few years, such as, the Needs Assessment, the prescription drug program in coordination with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, and the Culture Club.



Mrs. Darlene Currier, Eyes of the Wolf, new Tribal Leader of the Native American Mohegan Tribe.

Also, we are keeping our culture and traditions alive and will continue to do so. Our local tribal children are involved with our Gung Skeedumbork culture class. The children are learning crafts, language and stories about Mohegan and Native American life. Some of our tribal children have been attending the Unity Dance Troupe at the gymnasium on the reservation at Mashantucket, where they are learning traditional dance while some of the boys are learning to drum and sing.

If you or anyone you know have any suggestions on culture, traditions, socials or any other idea you would like to see implemented into the Tribe, please don't hesitate to contact me or anyone at the Tribal Office. We would appreciate any input you may have to offer. My deepest heartfelt wish is to work more closely with the Tribal members.

I would like to take this time to thank the Tribal Council, who supported my appointment as Tribal Leader. They are the backbone of this tribe and I feel

lucky to have such special, hard working and devoted people working with me. You are all wonderful and I appreciate all that you do very much.

I am also proud to announce, with the unanimous endorsement of the Tribal Council, the appointment of Ms. Elizabeth Corey to the position of Tribal Secretary.

I am really excited about leading the Native American Mohegan Tribe into the future and once again, I thank you for all your support.

Good Health and Happiness,

Darlene Currier/Eyes of the Wolf
Tribal Leader



NAM ATTENDS CEREMONIES FOR GLADYS TANTAGUIDGEON

On November 1, Native American Mohegan Tribal Leader, Darlene “Eyes of the Wolf” Currier, and Tribal Councilors Harry “Silver Fox” Baker and Elizabeth “One Who Walks With Shadows” Corey, attended the memorial for Gladys Tantaquidgeon held on the Mohegan Reservation in Montville. Mohegan Tribal Chairman, Bruce “Two Dogs” Bozum, acknowledged their attendance and asked them to step forward in order to smudge each of them before attending the ceremonies held on the sacred Mohegan Hill.

Ms. Elizabeth Corey, One Who Walks With Shadows, new Tribal Secretary.

NATIVE AMERICA MOHEGAN SUMMER PICNIC

The annual summer picnic was held at Mohegan Park on September 18 2005. This year's picnic was dedicated to the memory of Martha Jalbert. Some people knew her as "Grandma Dove". Martha led a fulfilling Life. She touched many lives while she walked this earth.

There was a offering basket provided that held the prayer bundles, for those who wished to send their prayers and offering's to the creator. Did so by placing their offerings and prayers into the fire so each individual prayer would reach Martha "Grandma Dove". There were some people who wanted to have their offerings put were Martha was laid to rest, Eleanor (Fortin) Michaud volunteered to deliver them to Martha's resting place. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Roger Corey Jr. and Roger Corey Sr. for tending the sacred fire, day and night. The fire burned for ten days. At dusk on the tenth day Eleanor (Fortin) Michaud offered a native ceremonial prayer.

There was a prayer circle around the sacred fire, each individual was smudged from our tots and our elders.

At this time Eleanor handed out turkey feathers to all the children that volunteered at the 2005 Powwow. With sincere regrets there were some children who did not receive the feathers they earned. The feathers will be presented to those children at the annual Harvest Gathering.

The children were separated into two groups, they were sent on a nature hunt. Their task was to see who could find the longest pinecone. There were two winners, a boy, Jonathan Serette, and a girl, Cheyenne Johnson.

Both children were gifted with something special for finding the longest pinecone. It was neat to see all the pinecones the children collected!

In all there were approximately thirty people in attendance, the weather was beautiful. It was a perfect day for a picnic and to visit with friends and family.

Elizabeth Corey

2006 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

Tribal Council would first like to thank all Tribal Members for their financial support through 2005. As a result of your support, we were able to maintain our Tribal Office, publish and mail the quarterly newsletter, pay for the function halls we use for meetings and gatherings, get a “jump start” on preparations for our 2006 Powwow, and support the culture club for our children.

In the past, many members have requested that they be reminded when it was time for paying dues. In keeping with this request, Tribal Council sent out letters to all members 18 years of age and older with the exception of those “Lifetime” members and those members who are exempt. If you do not know where you stand with respect to your dues obligation, call Toni Cook at (781) 944-3580. Send your dues (\$36) to Toni at the address below.

Tribal Council continues to offer “Active” Tribal Members an opportunity to purchase a “Lifetime” membership. No more worrying about whether your dues are paid up, no more worrying about future increase in dues.

In order to qualify today, your dues must be paid-up through the end of 2005. Then for a one-time fee of \$150, you can become a “lifetime” member of the Tribe. Just send a simple note requesting a “Lifetime” membership along with a check made out to the Native American Mohegans to:

Mrs. Toni Cook
94 Salem Street
Reading, MA 01867

UNITY DANCE TROUPE

The Mashantucket Pequot Nation is sponsoring the Unity Dance Troupe. The Unity Dance Troupe is intertribal dance group comprised of dancers from many Eastern Woodland tribes. Currently there are Pequot, Mohegan, Eastern Pequot, Montauk, Shinnecock, and Narragansett dancers participating. All are welcome to attend, young and old. The Unity Dance Troupe meets every Wednesday evening at 5:30 PM in the gymnasium at the Mashantucket Reservation. There are also classes in making regalia and beading. They also are teaching our young boys to drum and sing. Please join us! If you are interested, contact the office at (860) 892-1039.

HARVEST GATHERING

Redeemer Lutheran Church Parsonage, November 20, 2005

Our annual Harvest Gathering will be held at the Redeemer Lutheran Church Parsonage, Lebanon, CT, on November 20, 2005, from 12:00-4:00pm. Please bring a dish to share.

Anyone making a dish to share is asked to call Mrs. Betty Allard at (860)848-0894. This will make it much easier to plan our menu so we do not have too much of something and not enough of something else. The list is growing for our menu, so please contact Betty as soon as you can.

Please come and enjoy the Harvest Gathering. It's great to get together with our Mohegan families. Hope to see you there.

The Redeemer Lutheran Church Parsonage is located on 328 Village Hill Rd, 361 Beaumont Hwy, Lebanon, CT 06249.

Here are the directions from Norwich, CT:

1. Take RT-32 (Windham Tpk) North to RT-87 (Lebanon Rd).
2. Bear left onto RT-87 (Lebanon Rd) and go Northwest for 4.0 miles to RT-87 (Trumbull Hwy)
3. Continue onto RT-87 (Trumbull Hwy) and go West for 3.4 miles to RT-289 (Beaumont Hwy)
4. Continue onto RT-289 (Beaumont Hwy) and go Northwest for 2.6 miles to 361 Beaumont Hwy.

YOUR TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP STATUS

We still do not have complete profiles for our Tribal Members. At some point we will have to make adjustments to the Tribal Membership Roll. The Tribal Membership Roll will only contain the names of those members who have the following data on file:

1. A complete and signed enrollment form. This is especially a problem for those members who have recently turned 18 years of age.
2. OFFICIAL "long-form" Birth and Marriage certificates. OFFICIAL certificates are those that have a RAISED SEAL imprinted on the certificate. Only the "long-form" specifies both parents. Death Certificates are valuable to prove ancestry where a birth certificate may not be available. For example, Mary Smith's death certificate may show parents, therefore it may pass for verification of Mary's birth. In general, OFFICIAL certificates are required to PROVE that you are who you claim you are. All certificates will not be returned but will be safely stored in a safe deposit box for future access.
3. A complete and accurate member profile, which must include residential addresses. We currently have mailing addresses, which in most cases is the same as a residential address. However, those members that have a P.O. Box must supply a residential address.
4. Evidence that you are an "active" member who is currently up-to-date with dues.

We send annual reminders and there are reminders in most newsletters of your dues obligation. Paying dues is an indication of your interest in maintaining your membership. Not paying dues is an indication that you no longer want to continue your membership.

We have tried and tried to get many of you to provide this information in the past but our requests in many instances have fallen on deaf ears.

On February 10, 2005, the Tribe sent letters to all Tribal Members to help facilitate the collection of this information. In the letter was a "Member Profile". This "Member Profile" summarized the personal information that we must have on file for each Tribal member. We have also included the profiles of all members under 18 living at your address.

We asked that you check the profile(s) carefully. If there was incorrect or missing information, we asked that you markup the "Member Profile" and return it along with any enrollment forms, OFFICIAL certificates, and dues to either of the addresses below.

If you are one of the Tribal Members who still has not provided the requested information then you are running out of time. If we do not have a complete member profile on file you will be removed from the Tribal Roll. If you have your information, then mail all material to either of the addresses below. It is recommended that you send all certificates by "certified mail", so that you will have a receipt of your mailing:

Mrs. Antoinette Cook
94 Salem Street
Reading, MA 01867

or

Native American Mohegans
77 East Town Street
Norwich, CT 06360

You can also hand deliver the material to the office but make certain that you call in advance, (860) 892-1039. The office is located at 77 East Town Street, Norwich, CT. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4 PM.

If you have any questions, feel free to call the office at (860) 892-1039 or Mrs. Antoinette Cook at (781) 944-3580. They can give you the list of those pieces of information currently NOT in your or a family member's file.

Tribal Council.

As a result of the Native American Mohegans Needs Assessment Survey and in an attempt to address some of the issues raised in the survey, we are continuing a regular column in the newsletter of health related programs for those who live in the greater Norwich, CT, area. This column is written and provided by our health services partner, United Community and Family Services. As we have said in the past, if you are interested in finding out more about similar programs in your area contact the office or our Health Services Coordinator, Toni Cook. They may be able to assist you in finding programs in your local area. Here is the second article in the series:

PHARMACY ASSISTANCE

The Pharmacy Assistance Program is a program of Community Health Access Management Program (CHAMP). CHAMP is a project dedicated to improving access to healthcare services including affordable medications for residents of New London County who don't have insurance, are underinsured or don't qualify for any public programs.

Most pharmaceutical companies have Patient Assistance Programs that offer free or discounted medications.

United Community & Family Services, Inc. is pleased to offer the Pharmacy Assistance Program at our Health Center.

Elizabeth Lopez, Pharmacy Assistance Specialist, is available at the UCFS Health Center on Tuesdays, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Elizabeth is also available to provide assistance with the completion of the Pharmaceutical Application Process.

NOTE: This program is only for medications that persons take for long-term treatment as it takes 4-6 weeks for the medication to arrive.

CHARLES CHIBITTY, CODE TALKER

Charles Chibitty, the last survivor of the Comanche code talkers who used their native language to transmit messages for the Allies in Europe during World War II, died on July 22, 2005. He was 83.

Comanche Indians from the Lawton area were selected for special duty in the U.S. Army to provide the Allies with a language that the Germans could not decipher. Like the larger group of Navajo Indians who performed a similar service in the Pacific theater, the Comanches were dubbed "code talkers."

"It's strange, but growing up as a child I was forbidden to speak my native language at school," Chibitty said in 2002. "Later my country asked me to. My language helped win the war and that makes me very proud. Very proud."

In a 1998 story for the Oklahoman, Chibitty recalled being at Normandy on D-Day, and said someone once asked him what he was afraid of most and if he feared dying.

"No. That was something we had already accepted," he said.

"But we landed in deeper water than anticipated. A lot of boys drowned. That's what I was afraid of."

"I wonder what the hell Hitler thought when he heard those strange voices," he once told a gathering.

Chibitty was born Nov. 20, 1921, near Medicine Park and attended high school at Haskell Indian School in Lawrence, Kan. He enlisted in 1941.

In 1999, Chibitty received the Knowlton Award, which recognizes individuals for outstanding intelligence work, during a ceremony at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes.

Having suffered losses in the First World War as a result of the Germans listening to U.S. communications, the commander of the U.S. Army's 142nd Infantry Regiment found a solution. Captain Lawrence overheard two Choctaws speaking in their own language. He arranged for them to become radio communicators. They used common words to replace military terms and spoke Choctaw, thus becoming the first Code Talkers.

On 26 October 1918, in northern France's Argonne Forest, the Choctaws' communications resulted in a completely successful surprise attack against the Germans. Initially there were eight Choctaw Code Talkers, but with subsequent successes, six more were quickly trained.

Germany and Japan sent students to study the Native American cultures and languages following WWI. For this reason, there were many in the U.S. military services who were concerned that the use of code talkers in the Second World War would be insecure. However, the Army did continue the program and during World War II recruited Comanches, Choctaws, Kiowas, Winnebagos, Seminoles, Navajos, Hopis, Cherokees and others.

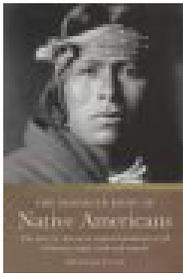
The Marine Corps took the Army work and codified, expanded, refined and perfected it into a true security discipline, using Navajos exclusively. The Marine Corps felt the Navajo language would be more secure for several reasons: the language was virtually unknown outside the Navajo nation, it was unwritten, and it was so complex, involving tonal inflections that it was difficult to learn as an adult. The original 29 recruits began training in May 1942. Over the course of the war, approximately 400 Navajos (and one Caucasian) became part of this very successful code talking program. In campaigns against the enemy on many fronts, the Native American Code Talkers never made a mistake in transmission nor were their codes ever broken.

BOOK REVIEW

THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF NATIVE AMERICANS

The story of America's original inhabitants in all its beauty, magic, truth, and tragedy

edited by Jon E. Lewis



Today Native Americans make up less than one percent of the U. S. population but represent half the languages and cultures in the nation. In this superbly readable new single-volume history, Jon E. Lewis provides a fresh view of America's indigenous peoples, their society, culture, and religion and their

struggle with the European invasion.

The full story of these tribal peoples takes us from their dramatic early entry into North America out of the now submerged continent of Beringia, to the "forgotten wars" of the 16th and 17th centuries which wiped many tribes from the face of the East Coast, and the late struggles of all Native American Tribes up to and through the twenty-first century. Many of the same prejudices and discriminatory practices are still be perpetuated on the Native Americans of today.

Wherever Europeans have settled, the indigenous peoples have had, at best, a very raw deal, at worst, like the Caribs and the Arawaks, they have simply been wiped out by the contact with the Europeans' germs, guns, and slave labor. This book shows how the white immigrants to America cheated, connived and murdered to take the land from the Native Americans. It is a demonstration of how poor a treatment man can give to man ranging from biological warfare, generously handing out blankets contaminated with smallpox, to outright near-genocide with tribe removals to reservations, despite contractual promises. Whenever the Native Americans made a treaty with the government in Washington, it was ignored by the

"whites", and the Native Americans lost even more of their land.

Having been provoked into war with the US, the Native Americans were always at a disadvantage technologically but were superior in their spirituality, loyalty, and bravery. They are all here in this book, the warriors who stood up to the "whites", only to be killed, humiliated, or degraded.

It is a shameful story, told in massive detail, and as difficult to read as accounts of the Nazi Holocaust. The European invaders saw the original Americans as savages, but the book gives the lie to that fiction.

TRADITION !

THE PRAYER CARRIER

By Martin French

The graceful bird of the skies, the eagle, is the prayer carrier and messenger of the native people. As the eagle soars across the skies, one knows he is carrying the prayers to the Creator.

The eagle has great significance for the native people when it comes to healing ceremonies and ceremonies honoring and respecting other people. Although people of different cultures may have different beliefs, respecting others' beliefs is part of the growing process in the Native American way of life.

As a person begins to grow more spiritual, he learns to respect and honor the graceful eagle of the skies. An individual might see himself as the eagle when he prays for the people who are in need of prayer to get them through the rough spots on the road of life.

In the healing ceremonies performed by the medicine man or woman, the eagle carries the sickness out of the body and up to the Creator for healing. The person who is ill must believe in the power of the prayer carrier.

When ones sees this graceful bird flying overhead, one should pray with tobacco in his hand and give thanks to the eagle for showing himself.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John and Ruth Sweet celebrated their 51st Wedding Anniversary August 31, 2005. Congratulations to Ruth and John!

Lawrence "Larry" Fowler, Jr., as agent with Nationwide Insurance in Norwich, recently was re-elected to a two-year term as a trustee on the National Council of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. The council is the association's governing body. The new officers and trustees were elected during

the 2005 NAIFA Convention and Career Conference Center earlier in September in Baltimore, MD. "Larry" has operated the Nationwide Office in Norwich for 27 years. He was a teacher and childcare counselor at the Children's Home in Cromwell for 5 ½ years before getting to the insurance industry. He has a bachelor's

degree from Barrington College in Rhode Island. Congratulations to "Larry" Fowler for his re-election.

(If you have any announcements you would like printed in the next newsletter, send them to the office at 77 East Town Street, Norwich, CT, 06360, or call (860) 892-1039 or email to:

info@nativeamericanmohegans.com.)



Special Remembrances



GLADYS IOLA TANTAQUIDGEON
1899 - 2005

Gladys Iola Tantaquidgeon, the Mohegan Indian Tribe's venerable medicine woman, died Tuesday morning at the age of 106.

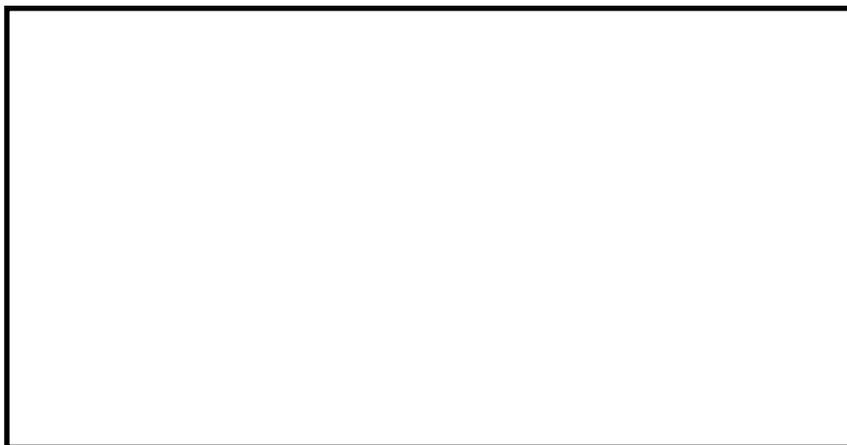
Tantaquidgeon, the tribe's oldest living member, died at her home, Mohegan officials said. Born in 1899, she was one of seven children of John and Harriet Fielding Tantaquidgeon, both Mohegans.

Tantaquidgeon wrote several books on Indian medicine practices and folklore. Her best-known work, "A Study of Delaware Indian Medicine Practices and Folk Beliefs," was published in 1942 and later reprinted in 1972 and 1995 as "Folk Medicine of the Delaware and Related Algonkian Indians."

She became versed in the ways of the tribe's spirituality and use of herbs from her grandmothers. Tantaquidgeon furthered her studies when she entered the University of Pennsylvania and studied anthropology. Tantaquidgeon earned several awards, including honorary doctorates from Yale and the University of Connecticut.

Her work became known nationwide and she was called on by many western tribes to assist in the restoration of their ancient practices.

In 1934, she served as a community worker on the Yankton Sioux reservation in South Dakota and also worked to promote Indian art for the Federal Indian Arts and Crafts Board in the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming. In 1940, she served as the librarian at the state women's prison in Niantic, where she felt her work with families on reservations sensitized her to the needs of women in difficult situations.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

ANNUAL HARVEST GATHERING



The Annual Harvest Gathering will be held Sunday, November 20th, at the Redeemer Lutheran Church Parsonage, Lebanon, CT, from 12:00PM until 4:00PM. Come and see relatives and friends, or reminisce about the past and discuss plans for the future.

The Redeemer Lutheran Church Parsonage is located at 361 Beaumont Hwy, Lebanon, CT (directions enclosed).

For more information call the office at 860/892-1039 or send email to info@nativeamericanmohegans.com.
