

INDIAN LEAP NEWSLETTER

Message from the Tribal Leader of the Native American Mohegan Tribe

Dear Tribal Members,

I wanted to thank you for the support and encouraging words you have given me and our new Tribal Government by coming to the Harvest Gathering we had in November. Over 100 of you came to the Harvest Gathering. It was wonderful to see so many new faces as well as some of you that had not participated in Tribal functions for a long time. I would like to say a special Tabut ne to Nananu' Ruth for getting us a place for the Harvest Gathering at such short notice. I hope to see more members at our Winter Social on March 19, 2006.

I sincerely hope that I have been fulfilling the promises that I have made to you. Such as, answering any questions you may have and /or any suggestions that you would like to see implemented in the tribe.

One thing I would like to ask of all of our Tribal Members, please call the office whenever possible if you need to speak to me or just want to drop in and say hello. At this time I have many appointments and business meetings to attend. I would hate to see you come here and I could not be available to see you.

Also, I would like to welcome Bradley Fowler/Wild Boar, Susan Russ and Ralph Fowler/Two White Deer, Chief Advisor, to the Native American Mohegan Tribal Government Council. Bradley Fowler and Susan Russ are our newest Tribal Government Council members. Ralph Fowler's duties will be to advise the Tribal leader. In my opinion, three great choices.

As always I could not do my job without the dedication of the Tribal Government Council and the people that work with me. Tabut ne to all of you.

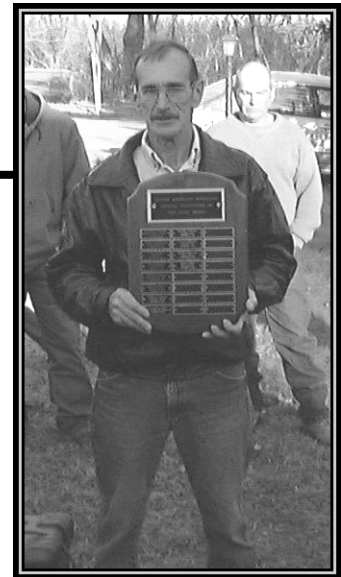
Good Health and Happiness,
Darlene "Eyes of the Wolf" Currier
Tribal Leader

ANNUAL HARVEST GATHERING

The Annual Harvest Gathering was held on Sunday, November 20, 2005, at the Redeemer Lutheran Church Parsonage, Lebanon, CT. There was plenty of food thanks to the efforts of Betty and Paul Allard and others who brought many tasty delights.

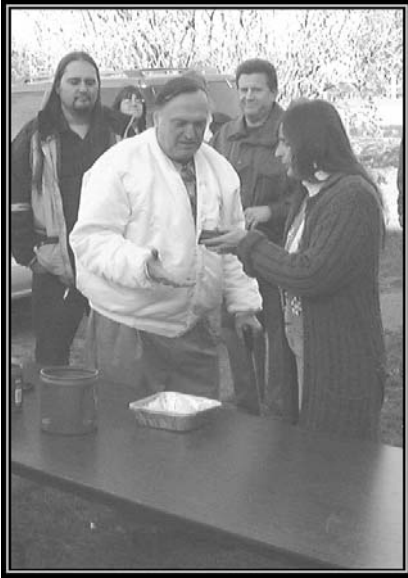
After everyone had an opportunity to finish their meals, the meeting was called to order by Darlene Currier, NAMT Tribal Leader.

The Annual Native American Mohegans "Volunteer of the Year Award" presentations were made by Darlene. The 2004 "Volunteer of the Year Award", selected by last year's recipient, Linda Donovan, was presented to Roger Corey, Sr., and David Lewis for their continued efforts in the



*Roger Corey, Sr., recipient of
2006 Volunteer of the Year
Award.*

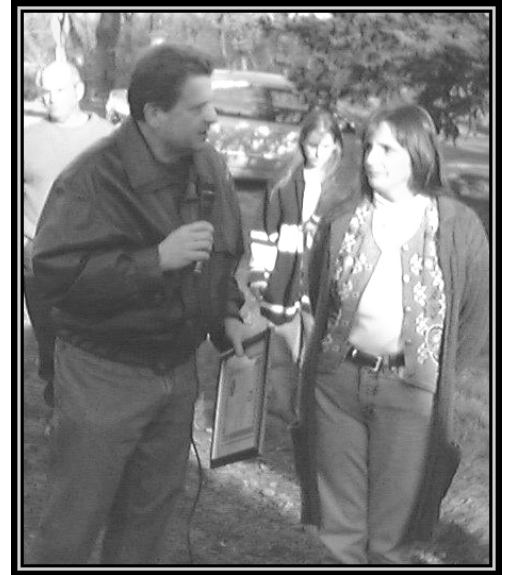
support of the Tribe.



Irving "LonEagle" Fowler accepting special recognition for his years of service to the Tribe.

A special presentation was made to Irving Fowler in recognition of his many years of genealogical and historical research.

Tribal Council recently decided that the time had come to recognize those non-Tribal individuals who have given their time, effort, and resources in support of the Tribe (see enclosed article). This recognition comes in the form of an "Honorary Membership" in the Native American Mohegan Tribe. To date, three individuals have been selected for this recognition; Attorney Stuart Einhorn, Mr. Chuck



Attorney Stuart Einhorn accepting his "Honorary Membership" certificate from Darlene Currier, Tribal Leader.

Seeman, and Mr. Joel Greene. All three of the honorees have given significant resources in support of the Tribe, more than we will ever be able to repay. Attorney Einhorn was on hand to receive his "Honorary Membership" in the form of a framed Certificate of Honorary Membership.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Schaghticoke Clan Mother, "Sweet Berry Kicks Twice" for donating items for the raffle and for helping out with the raffle. No Tribal event would be complete without a raffle.

The meeting portion of the gathering then adjourned and everyone returned to the tables for more refreshments and pleasant conversation.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the NATIVE AMERICAN MOHEGAN TRIBE

The Tribal Council has just completed amending the Tribe's Constitution and By-Laws.

The Tribal Council has performed due diligence in enhancing and clarifying our Constitution and By-Laws. It is now up to the General Membership to ratify the changes at the Winter Social on March 19th.

Tribal Member are invited to visit the office to review and then comment on the amended Constitution and By-Laws from February 15th thru March 17th between 9:00AM and 3:00PM. Generally there will be someone at the office at this time but there may be instances when the office is closed. In order that there are no surprises, make sure you call the office ahead of time to ensure that there is someone at the office. The Constitution and By-Laws will be ratified at the Winter Social on March 19th.

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 Mohegan Tribe to:

Mrs. Toni Cook
94 Salem Street
Reading, MA 01867

HONORARY TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP

At times the Native American Mohegan Tribe is fortunate to develop relationships with individuals outside of the Tribe who selflessly volunteer to help the Tribe in some capacity. The threshold for becoming an Honorary Tribal Member is high and the honor is not bestowed on an individual lightly. However, Tribal Council believes that it is important to acknowledge the good and selfless contribution of non-Tribal Members by making the said individuals Honorary Members of the Tribe.

The criteria for an Honorary Tribal Member are:

- The Individual cannot already be a Tribal Member, and
- The individual cannot be the spouse of a Tribal Member, and
- The individual must have demonstrated an unusually high level of volunteerism and/or commitment, and
- The individual must be endorsed with a unanimous vote of Tribal Council.

POWWOW DATE CHANGED

Tribal Council voted unanimously to move our Intertribal Powwow from June to September. However, we will still be using the Lebanon Fairgrounds in Lebanon, CT. This year’s Native American Mohegan Tribe Intertribal Powwow will be held on September 16/17, 2006.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Here are the dates for this year's social events.

***Winter Social
Canterbury Community Room, March 19, 2006***

Our annual Winter Social will be held at the Canterbury Community Room on March 19, 2006, from 12:00-4:00pm. The Canterbury Community Room is located on Route 14 in Canterbury, CT.

Please bring a dish to share.

Please come and enjoy the Winter Social. It's great to get together with all of our Native American families and friends. Hope to see you there.

Directions: I-395 to exit 88. If traveling north, turn left (west) onto Plainfield Pike Rd.; if traveling south turn right (west) onto Academy Hill Rd.; continue on Academy Hill Rd. until it turns into Cemetery Rd.; continue of Cemetery Rd. until it merges onto CT-14A (Canterbury Rd.); continue onto CT-14 (Canterbury Rd.); continue onto CT-14 until you arrive at Canterbury, CT. The Town Hall and Community Room are located on 1 Municipal Road.

***Spring Social
June 11, 2006***

Location to be determined.

***Native American Mohegans' Annual Intertribal Powwow
September 16/17, 2006***

Lebanon Fairgrounds, Mack Road, Lebanon, CT

We need volunteers to help with the preparations. If you would like to volunteer, call the office at (860) 892-1039, or send email to info@nativeamericanmohegans.com.

With your help we can have another successful Powwow!

***Annual Harvest Gathering
November 19, 2006***

Location to be determined.

NATIVE AMERICAN MOHEGAN COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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. Here is the second article in the series:

GERIATRIC ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

United Community & Family Services offers a Geriatric Assessment & Management Program. This program assists elder at risk people with obtaining expert assessment of their health care needs and development of a comprehensive consultative plan of care targeted to meet the needs of the participant and the family. This is accomplished through the delivery of a wide variety of services. These include, full evaluation of complex physical, psychosocial, functional and medical related problems, on-going specialty medical service and case management. They also receive referral for lab work, additional testing and other specialty services, medical equipment and support services.

There is an initial 90-minute assessment visit for completion of physical exam, Folstein Mental Status, Geriatric Depression Scale, Rapid Disability Rating Scale, Caregiver Interview and patient interview. The next visit is a follow-up 30-minute visit two weeks after the initial visit to review findings and a consultative treatment plan. The consultative treatment plan is sent to the patient's primary care physician.

The treatment plan includes a follow-up visit every 6 months or as needed to assess progress, changes in condition and results of implementation of treatment plan.

For more information on this program please contact please contact Pam Kinder, 889-2375, x370.

'THE NEW WORLD' EVOCATIVE AND CREDIBLE

Editor Note: The New World opens nationwide on January 13, 2006.

"Terrence Malick's "The New World" is a visual tone poem orchestrated around the themes of innocence, discovery and loss. The inspiration is the historical legend of the "Indian princess" Pocahontas and English soldier of fortune John Smith. Malick has tried to base much of his vision on the historical record, delving into the writings of explorers and colonialists in early Virginia to create voice-over monologues by Smith and others. But this is resolutely a film of the imagination. As with all films in Malick's slim body of work, its imagery, haunting sounds and pastoral mood trump narrative.

Clearly "The New World" takes an audience into the rarefied atmosphere of an art film made with a studio budget, making its boxoffice impact hard to assess. The 150-minute film opens Jan. 13, 2006. Its slow, bucolic rhythms and unwillingness to exploit the violence or sex inherent in the story -- the film nevertheless carries a PG-13 rating for its battle scenes -- relegate the film to audiences devoted to Malick's work and film esoterica. In that world, it may become a hit.

The historical record -- especially on the Native American side, where no written language exists, is skimpy. Nevertheless, Malick and production designer Jack Fisk bring us into a primeval Eden that feels credible. The weirdly painted natives and white-skinned, armor-clad intruders eye one another suspiciously. Their worlds, goals and beliefs could not be more antithetical."

BOOK REVIEW

TO DO GOOD TO MY INDIAN BRETHREN
The Writings of Joseph Johnson, 1751-1776
Edited by Laura J. Murray

This book brings together the writings of Joseph Johnson, a Mohegan Indian preacher, schoolteacher, and leader of the movement to relocate eastern Christian Indians to "Brotherton" in upper New York State.

Johnson's diaries, written between 1771 and 1773, document daily life in the Indian Christian communities of Mohegan and Farmington, Connecticut, with a remarkable richness and intimacy. His letters -- to his teacher, Eleazar Wheelock, and other white benefactors, as well as to his fellow Native Americans -- reveal both an

uncommon talent for diplomacy and a powerful vision of Indian solidarity.

Commentary by Laura J. Murray illuminates the meaning of Johnson's writings in their historical context. One essay traces the cultural changes and political conflicts at Mohegan in the generations before Johnson's; other essays illuminate the rhetorical challenges Johnson faced as a literate Indian in the eighteenth century.

"An impressive piece of work. The writings themselves are carefully transcribed and thoughtfully and thoroughly annotated. In addition, there are quite lengthy introductory sections on aspects of Mohegan history and on the general context of Indian writing. All in all, Murray does a very good job of indicating the various contexts in which Johnson's writings can be seen as both interesting and significant. A valuable addition to the scholarly material available on Indian writers." – David Murray, University of Nottingham.

Laura J. Murray is assistant professor in the English Department of Queen's University.

TRADITION !

American Indian Clothing and Regalia

Originally, there were many different traditional clothing styles in North America. Nearly every Native American tribe had its own distinctive style of dress, and the people could often tell each other's tribal identities by looking at their clothes, headdresses, and ornamentation. In most tribes, Native American men wore breechclouts or breechcloths (a long rectangular piece of hide or cloth tucked over a belt, so that the flaps fell down in front and behind), sometimes with leather leggings attached in colder climates. In other tribes Indian men wore a short kilt or fur trousers instead of a breechcloth. Most Indian men did not use shirts, but Plains Indian warriors wore special buckskin war shirts decorated with ermine tails, hair, and intricate quillwork and beadwork. Most Native American women wore skirts and leggings, though the length, design, and material of the skirts varied from tribe to tribe. In some Indian cultures women's shirts were optional and were usually treated more like coats, while in others, women always wore tunics or mantles in public. And in other tribes women usually wore one-piece dresses instead. Nearly all Native Americans had some form of moccasin (a sturdy

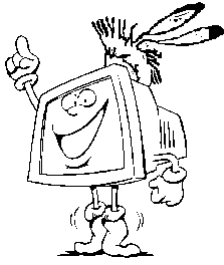
leather shoe) or mukluk (heavier boot), with the styles of footwear differing from tribe to tribe. Most tribes used cloaks in colder weather, but some of the northern tribes wore Inuit-style fur parkas instead. Most variable of all were headgear and formal clothing, which were different in nearly every tribe.

After colonization, Native American clothes began to change. For one thing, as Indian tribes were driven from their ancient lands and forced into closer contact with each other, they began to borrow some of each other's tribal dress, so that fringed buckskin clothing, feather headdresses, and woven blankets became popular among Indians outside of the tribes in which they originated. For another, Indians began to adapt some articles of European costume to their own style, decorating cloth garments with characteristic Native American beadwork, embroidery, and designs. These clothes were not original to the Americas, but by the 1800's they were recognized by anyone viewing them as Indian apparel. Such post-colonial native dress includes beaded jackets and shirts, ribbon shirts, Seminole patchwork skirts, satin shawls, woolen sweaters, broad ribbon applique, jingle dresses, and the Cherokee tear dress. Today, most Native Americans wear contemporary American and Canadian clothes in their daily life; however, unique American Indian clothing styles still exist. Some traditional Indian garments, such as buckskins, ribbon dresses, and beaded moccasins, are still worn in many tribes, particularly to formal events. Others, such as breechcloth, leggings, headdress and dance shawl, are only worn at powwows and religious ceremonies. In general, American Indians use the word "regalia" for traditional clothing which is used for ceremonial occasions. Some native people find the phrase "Native American costume" offensive, due to long association with hurtful red-faced Halloween costumes.

Courtesy of "Native Languages of the America", a Minnesota non-profit corporation, dedicated to the preservation and promotion of endangered American Indian languages. Check out their great web site, <http://www.native-languages.org/>.

ATTENTION CYBER MOHEGANS
Remote Gung Skeedumbork Attendance

The "Virtual Culture Classroom"



One of the activities that the Tribe has been wrestling with is how to get our young REMOTE Tribal members involved in the Gung Skeedumbork Culture Club. One initiative that was recently authorized by Tribal Council was the development of an internet link that could be used for virtual attendance in the Gung Skeedumbork. Any member who subscribes (free) will be able to eavesdrop on the scheduled classes of the Gung Skeedumbork. In this way, remote young members will be able to see and hear what is being done during the classes. We have a prototype up and running but it currently does not allow for remote input, but it is a start. Eventually we would like to have at least audio input from remote Tribal members. If you are at all

interested in the "Virtual Culture Classroom", simply send an email to info@nativeamericanmohegans.com. This email will essentially be your registration. You will get a password that you must use in order to attend the "Virtual Culture Classroom".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Betty (Whispering Butterfly) Allard, Justice of the Peace, was selected to participate in the Bridal Expo at Mashantucket on January 22, 2006.

Congratulations to Betty!!!

James Lewis Lathrop, Sr., married Meme Sherman of Wakefield, RI, on November 19, 2005. Our best wishes and congratulations to James and Meme.

(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

JEROME ANTHONY MCALLISTER
July 31, 1976 - January 6, 2006

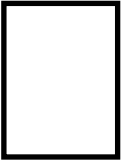


Jerome Anthony McAllister, son of Donna Marie Shank, died on January 6, 2006, at the WakeMed Hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Jerome was survived by his wife of six years, La Shonda McAllister, his mother, Donna Marie Shank, and father, Milton Louis McAllister, his grandparent, Minister Theodore McAllister, his daughters, Tamiya and Tatyana McAllister and Kourtney Sloan, his son, Morgan Johnson, his sister, Kimberly Shank, and brothers, Samuel Shank and Michael Williams and Kenneth Boumenot.

On behalf of the Native American Mohegan Tribe, the Tribal Council wishes to extend their condolences to Donna Shank and all of Jerome's friends and relatives.

Native American Mohegans, Inc.
77 East Town Street
Norwich, CT, 06360



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Winter Social
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Please come and enjoy the Winter Social. It's great to get together with our Mohegan families. Hope to see you there. Please bring a dish to share.

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