

# INDIAN LEAP NEWSLETTER

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## FAMILY GATHERING

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Come and learn more about the tribe's activities, see relatives and friends, reminisce about the past and plan for the future. Bring a dish to share and a folding chair for your comfort and convenience. Please share this information with any other tribal members who may not have e-mail or access to the internet.

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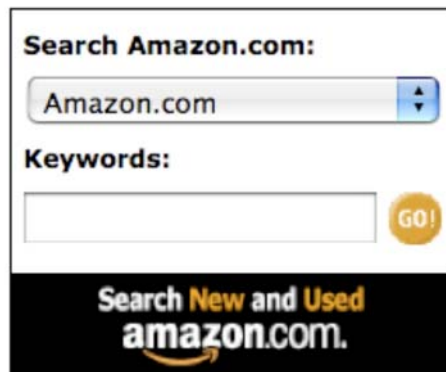
## TRIBAL SHOPPING NETWORK

Thanks to the foresight of and suggestion from Tribal Member David Morgana, the Tribal Council has decided to implement a method that could provide a nominal source of income for NAM. This new method provides a means for Tribal Members to shop on Amazon directly from our web site using a program called Amazon Associates. Amazon Associates is one of the first online affiliate marketing programs that was launched in 1996. The Amazon Associates program has a more than 12 year track record of developing solutions to help website owners, Web developers, and Amazon sellers make money by advertising millions of new and used products from Amazon.com.

If you buy products from Amazon.com using the link on the NAM web site, NAM will automatically earn a referral fee. You do not have to do anything other than purchase products and NAM will receive these referral fees. It is fun and easy to use.

The link provides an environment where you can immediately purchase products from Amazon.com and when you do, NAM can earn up to 15% in referral fees. It is important to emphasize that the purchase must be made from the link on our web site. Just click the "Shop" button on the NAM web site home page.

You can search the Amazon.com catalog by placing product search boxes on your Web page:



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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

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**FAMILY GATHERING**

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It's a potluck, so don't forget to bring a dish, a dessert, or both!

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**2010 POWWOW CALENDAR**

This year's Powwow Calendar has been added to the "Events" page of the web site.

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**2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE**

Tribal Council would first like to thank all Tribal Members for their financial support through 2009. As a result of your support, we were able to maintain our Tribal Office, publish the quarterly newsletter, pay for the function halls we use for meetings and gatherings, and support the culture club for our children.

Send your dues (\$36) to Toni Cook at the address below and if you do not know where you stand with respect to your dues obligation, call Toni at (781) 944-3580.

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 2009. 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

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**EPA SEEKS COMMENTS**

By Rob Capriccioso  
Aug 16, 2010, Indian Country Today

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is requesting comments from federally recognized tribes on the proposed EPA

Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes.

On Nov. 5, 2009, under Executive Order 13175, President Barack Obama directed all federal agencies to develop plans to assure regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials. EPA officials said they began

soliciting input from tribes in January on the agency's plan to develop a consultation policy.

The proposed policy seeks to: 1) establish clear agency standards for the consultation process; 2) designate individuals across EPA responsible for serving as consultation points of contact for both tribes and agency employees to promote consistency and coordination of the consultation process; and 3) establish a management oversight and reporting structure that will help ensure accountability and transparency.

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## INDIAN COUNTRY NEVER GOT ITS OWN VERSION OF 'ROOTS'

by Tim Giago  
Monday, August 16, 2010, Indianz.com

David L. Wolper died last week at age 82. Many of you will wonder what the connection is between Wolper and Indian country.

Wolper will go down in media history as the film producer who brought you the epic story of slavery with his award winning "Roots" which aired in eight parts on ABC in 1977.

The series was based on the best-selling book by Alex Haley. Precedent setting in its day, many viewers thought it brought out race issues that were heretofore rarely seen on television and the series had a tremendous impact on American culture in general. The series won nine Emmy Awards, many going to African-American actors and actresses who seldom were recognized by the Emmy Awards committee. It also brought attention and discussion to racial issues in America.

In recalling Wolper's life in the New York Times, the one television series that was never mentioned was the one connecting Wolper to Indian Country.

In 1980 Wolper was given a script based on Ruth Beebe Hill's book, "Hanta Yo." He loved the script and he saw it, according to an ignorant and misguided public relations specialist, as "the new Roots of Indian country." Of course,

to say something as outlandish as that immediately brought out the antagonists from the woodwork. Wolper and his co-producer, Stan Margulies, ran for cover. They called Larry Red Shirt (now deceased) and Louis Bad Wound (now deceased) of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and asked for their input.

Upon receiving the script at Pine Ridge, they brought it to me at the Lakota Times for review and the three of us spent several days reading it, analyzing it, and literally taking it apart.

After about a week Red Shirt and Bad Wound called Wolper and told him they needed to have a face-to-face talk with him. They told him they wanted me, then editor and publisher of the Lakota Times, to join them. Wolper consented and so the three of us went to California.

By then the proposed three-part television series based on the book had been re-named, "The Mystic Warrior." Wolper felt that the name "Hanta Yo" would be difficult for his mass audience and would mean little to them.

Wolper then brought Joe American Horse and Mike Her Many Horses to LA to ask their opinion. One Lakota lady was actively opposing the television series and she had the media's attention. He needed the support of the Lakota people. He then allowed Red Shirt, Bad Wound and I to act as consultants to the script.

A Yanktonai named Chunksa Yuha, a musician by trade, had written the musical score for the series and he was on the set nearly every day with Ms. Hill. As I said, the series was first intended as a three-part series, but after Red Shirt, Bad Wound and I covered the script with red ink, it was eventually aired in two-parts.

Wolper and Margulies brought the series to the old Elks Theater in Rapid City for a preview and sent out invitations to many tribal leaders and their families. At the luncheon served at the Alex Johnson Hotel after the preview most attendees thought the series was pretty good.

But before it aired on ABC, Bad Wound and I were flown to the ABC offices in New York City to meet with the attorneys representing the

series. Red Shirt was fighting complications of diabetes at the time. We went toe-to-toe with the ABC attorneys because they wanted to put back nearly all of the script changes we had made, changes we felt removed the erroneous parts of the film. Anybody that knew Louis Bad Wound knows that he was tenacious. He let the attorneys know in no uncertain terms that the Lakota Nation would raise holy hell with ABC if they put any of the things we had removed back into the script.

We were naïve in those days and we really believed ABC would honor our requests. Well, they didn't. They did sneak several of the scenes we had deleted back into the series without telling us. In the end, Red Shirt, Bad Wound and I felt that the series would have been much more harmful if we had not made an effort to change it.

Robert Beltran, Will Sampson and a very young Leta Rector were in the series. Sampson is dead, Beltran is in HBO's "Big Love" where he plays an elder tribal chairman of a tribe in Utah, and Rector is living and working in Tulsa.

Wolper made an effort to be the first producer to address Native history on commercial television, but in the long run, "The Mystic Warrior" never became another "Roots" and is deeply buried somewhere in the archives of ABC.

*Tim Giago, an Oglala Lakota, is the editor and publisher of Native Sun News. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard with the Class of 1990. His weekly column won the H. L. Mencken Award in 1985. His book Children Left Behind was awarded the Bronze Medal by Independent Book Publishers. He was the first Native American ever inducted into the South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2007. He can be reached at editor@nsweekly.com.*

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## PRESIDENT PICKS INDIAN EDUCATORS

By Rob Capriccioso  
Aug 16, 2010, Indian Country Today

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama announced June 28 his intent to appoint several individuals to serve as members on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.

"I am proud to nominate such accomplished and dedicated individuals to fill these important roles. They will be valuable additions to my administration as we work to confront our challenges at home and abroad, and I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead."

Their bios, from the White House, follow:

**Sam McCracken:** McCracken is a member of the Sioux and Assiniboine tribes in northeastern Montana on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation....

**Mary Jane Oatman-Wak Wak:** Oatman-Wak Wak is a member of the Nez Perce Tribe....

**Alapaki Nahale-a:** Nahale-a is the founder and owner of The Strive Company, a Hawaii-based consulting practice....

**S. Alan Ray:** Ray is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, and serves on the tribe's Cherokee language immersion school advisory board....

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## WORDS OF WISDOM

### The Wilderness

We did not think of the great open plains, the beautiful rolling hills, and winding streams with tangled growth, as wild. Only to the white man was nature a wilderness, and only to him was the land infested with wild animals and savage people. To us it was tame. Earth was bountiful and we were surrounded with the blessings of the great mystery. Not until the hairy man from the east came and with brutal frenzy heaped injustices upon us and upon the families we loved was it wild for us. When the very animals of the forest began fleeing from his approach, then it was that for us the wild west began.

Chief Luther Standing Bear  
Oglala band of Sioux

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Family Gathering will be held at the Mohegan Park on September 19, 2010, starting at 12:00 noon. Bring a dish to share and if needed a folding chair. Please share this information with any other tribal members who may not have e-mail or access to the internet.

Congratulations are in order for Elizabeth "One Who Walks With Shadows" Corey and Sam Perez who "tied the knot" on July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Franklin Congregational Church in Franklin, CT.

Tribal Elder, Edith "Happy Dove" Cornish, would like to announce the birth of a new great-grandson, Isaih Lincoln Prince Gibbs, born on May 26, 2010.

Tribal Elder, Edith "Happy Dove" Cornish, would also like to announce the birth of a new great granddaughter, Meiloni Tucker, born on June 14, 2010.

Tribal Elder, Edith "Happy Dove" Cornish, would also like to announce the wedding of granddaughter. Leah Cornish, and Eric Sanborn on July 16, 2010.

Catherine Knapp "Standing Tall Mare", daughter of Elder, Patricia "Laughing Spirit" Knapp, married Jeff Stroup on April 30, 2010.

Tammy and Kevin McIntyre wish to announce the birth of a new daughter, Allyson Rosemary McIntyre. Allyson was born July 31, 2010 and weighed 7lbs 2oz. She is the newest granddaughter of Isabel Lewis. Congratulations to all.

*(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.*

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

