



Nashauonk Mittark™



mashpeewampanoagtribe.com January 2010

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DRUM BEAT	DEPARTMENTS	COMMUNITY	OUR STORY	PROGRAMS
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Word from the Chairman

Wuneekeesuq Nutuwam (Hello My Tribal Community);

Happy New Year! As we look forward to the coming year, I'd like to congratulate Trish Keliinui, our newest council member, who was elected in a special election on December 13th. I know that Trish will bring her trademark enthusiasm and deep concern for her fellow tribal members to her work on the council. I would also like to thank Carlton Hendricks, Jr. and Joan Avant for running for office, a time consuming and important effort that makes our tribe stronger.

The past year has been full of challenges for our tribe. Challenges that tested our resolve and our willingness to work together to rise above.

Faced with a scandal that brought our tribe's leadership into question, we elected a slate of new leaders committed to transparency and good government. We have made a concerted effort to improve our Second Sunday General Body Meetings by providing detailed, informative presentations complete with over-head graphics visible to the audience. We have strived to provide a welcoming environment where all members have an opportunity to ask questions and have their voices heard.

Working toward a goal of increased participation, we incorporated an Elders Council with members that represent many Mashpee Wampanoag families. The Elders Council is a strong representation of our Elders' commitment to traditional tribal government providing community support, outreach, recommendations, and a voice for the Elders in the decision making process of the Tribal Council.

We also implemented a Youth Council

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New Partners Introduced at Special Meeting

At a Special Meeting on Sunday, November 29th, tribal leaders presented the Tribe with an update on its relationship with external investors. The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe is forming a new relationship with a major international partner to build a resort-style gaming facility in Southeastern Massachusetts. This new partner, Arkana Limited, is a wholly owned affiliate of Kien Huat, which is an investment company beneficially owned by a Lim family trust of which Mr. Lim Kok Thay of Malaysia and certain members of his family are beneficiaries.

Chairman Cedric Cromwell remarked, "We are extremely excited about this new partnership. Kien Huat and its affiliates bring the business experience and financial strength that the Tribe needs to move forward aggressively with our plans for a resort-style gaming facility." He emphasized that "this is a very positive development for our Tribe and we look forward to bringing good jobs and economic development to both the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the near future."

Representatives from Arkana Limited were present at the Special Meeting to introduce the company and share their experience with gaming worldwide and specifically with

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Voters Seat Trish Keliinui on Council

A rainy Sunday drew 275 tribal voters out for a special election to install Patricia "Trish" Keliinui on the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council on December 13.

"This election has been such a positive experience, having the opportunity to visit and talk with Tribal members and hear their concerns," Keliinui said. "I look forward to working with the whole tribe, getting up to speed quickly on matters before the Council, and being a productive Council member."

Earning 135 votes, Trish will serve the remainder of the term vacated by Richard Oakley who resigned earlier this year. The term expires in February of 2011. She was challenged by Carlton "Carlo" Hendricks, Jr. who got 102 votes and Joan Avant with 35 votes. There were three write-in votes, one of which was for Trish as well.

The polling place was as much a social event as it was political with tribal members lingering even in the rain to reconnect with friends and family.



Trish Keliinui (2nd row, 2nd from left) shown with Tribal Teens



For many, the polling place provided the opportunity to connect with family and friends.



Trish Keliinui standing with son Jordan, on a rainy election day.

January

- 2 Elders Council Meeting, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 11 a.m.
- 4 Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Essay Writing Workshop, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 11 a.m.
- 10 General Body Meeting, Mashpee High School, 2 p.m.
- 11 Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 10 a.m – 3 p.m.
- 11 Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 10 a.m – 3 p.m.
- 25 Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 6:30 p.m.

February

- 1 Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Elders Council Meeting, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 11 a.m.
- 8 Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 10 a.m – 3 p.m.
- 8 Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Tribal Elections, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, Elders vote, 1 p.m., polls open 2 to 4 p.m. for all other registered voters.
- 15 Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 10 a.m – 3 p.m.
- 22 Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 6:30 p.m.

March

- 1 Youth Cultural Night, Mashpee Rod and Gun Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Elders Council Meeting, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 11 a.m.
- 8 Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 10 a.m – 3 p.m.
- 14 General Body Meeting, Mashpee High School, 2 p.m.
- 22 Food Pantry, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Headquarters, 10 a.m – 3 p.m.

Editorial Staff

Leslie Jonas
Selena Jonas
Paula Peters

- Greetings Tribal Members, after much encouragement from My Elders and with help from Aaron Tobey, I am pleased to say that I have been sworn in as a Notary Public, of which I am very proud, for this accomplishment in my life of always striving to better serve My People. Call me to set up a time if you require my service@ 774-521-6029. Thank you all for your support, Winona Hendricks, Notary Public.
- Congratulations to Kimberly Helme on the birth of her son, Ahanuw Ockree Helm this past August 9th. Ahanuw Ockree, who is brother to Alana and grandson of Russell and Toni Helme, weighed 5 pounds and 13 ounces.
- Congratulations to tribal member Marcus Reine who attends 4th grade at the Quashnet School in Mashpee for being listed on the honor roll this past semester.
- Congratulations to tribal member Zoë Harris, who is in 7th grade at the Forestdale School for achieving high honors and a Falcon Award this past semester.
- Students applying for scholarships, college or graduate school can benefit from attending an essay writing workshop to be held at the tribal offices on Saturday, January 9 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. led by U Mass English Professor and tribal member Morgan James Peters. A clear, focused essay that demonstrates good critical thinking skills will tell the scholarship committee or admissions officer what test scores and grades cannot. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Morgan at 508-999-8304.

Tribal members who would like to submit items of interest for On The Drum Beat, Our Story or news for Naushaouk Mittark should send their information to SJonas@mwtribe.com.

The deadline to submit all edited copy is the second Friday of each month.

(Word from the Chairman, continued from page 1)

to provide a youth tribal government component. The Youth Council is responsible for recommendations and voting on tribal youth activity for education, growth and development, community support and outreach and Elder support.

When a Supreme Court decision put the government’s ability to take land into trust for our tribe into question, we worked with federal officials to move toward a resolution to this inequitable situation by developing strong working relationships in Washington, DC and with other tribes from around the country. Now, legislative fixes have been introduced in both the House and the Senate, and we are actively working with the Obama Administration to be sure that the federal government will act on our land into trust application as soon as possible.

In addition, these positive working relationships with federal officials have resulted in millions of dollars in grant funding for our tribe in the areas of education, health care, natural resources, and for our anticipated housing development on Old Meetinghouse Road. This positive working relationship was highlighted by a trip to Washington in November when I had the opportunity to meet with President Obama and express our tribe’s needs surrounding land into trust and true consultation with federal authorities.

Our tribe came together in July and produced a successful traditional, good medicine Powwow. With strong attendance and a professional level of production, our families came together for a deeply powerful weekend. I have been so proud to hear from visitors from across the country who have called our gathering what a real powwow should be.

This summer, we made great progress in the development of our tribe’s judicial

system by hiring two new justices. Our court system is now served by Chief Justice Henry Sockbeson, Judge Rochelle Ducheneaux, and Judge Robert Mills.

Throughout the year, our Enrollment Committee diligently reviewed applications for enrollment. At long last, hundreds of tribal members, whose completed applications had languished for years in some cases, were confirmed as enrolled members.

When it became clear that a changing environment made it necessary to reevaluate our investor relationship, the tribal council not only reached an agreement in principle to dissolve our relationship with our prior investor, but also entered into an agreement with a new investor, Arkana Limited, one of the world’s leading gaming corporations. This new relationship will provide us with the financial backing and the professional management experience to move forward aggressively toward our goal of building and operating a world-class resort-style gaming facility.

In December, we realized the long-awaited goal of opening the Old Indian Meeting House. Among the many people whose hard work made this day a reality, I would like to recognize the Elders who started our efforts to restore the Meeting House and managed the Meeting House Authority for many years. I would also like to recognize David Pocknett for his efforts in reopening the Meeting House, and Treasurer Mark Harding for taking over the project and ensuring its successful completion.

We have come a long way in a year, but there is still much work to do. As we move forward, I invite each and every tribal member to join us in our efforts. Happy New Year, and may the Creator continue to bless us.

Kataputumuw;
Qaqeemasq (Running Bear)

Health Department Update

The Tribal Health Department welcomed a visit from Indian Health Services (IHS) Nashville Area Director Admiral Richie Grinnell and Financial Deputy Martha Ketcher in October. IHS was very impressed with the growth of the department and the diversity of services now offered to the tribal body, but recognized our physical space limitations at 33 Great Neck Road where 12 employees share five offices.

Following the visit, IHS offered the Tribal Health Department two double wide trailers to house our administrative offices and a health clinic. Once we identify a location for the trailers it will greatly improve our ability to provide services including MassHealth, Contract Health Services, Emergency Preparedness and Health Service Patient Registration into the healthcare system.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will also benefit from about \$3 million IHS funding in 2010 to build and maintain

healthcare services.

A team has been formed by the Health Director Rita Gonsalves and Tribal Councilwoman Cheryl Frye- Cromwell to develop a strategic business plan to use these funds effectively. This team includes a Market Analyst Elora Raymond and Strategic Planner Consultant Wanda Lord, who are both funded through Indian Health Services to assist with the business plan. Tribal member Ramona Peters has been invited to consult with the team to share her vast knowledge of traditional History and values of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

Pumukqien Collins, a licensed Social Worker and Behavioral Health Specialist, and Larry Mahan have also joined the team to give their expertise in the areas of Substance Abuse and Mental Health.

The team has been meeting for four months and will continue to meet on a monthly basis to develop a "Center of Excellence" health care system.

TRIBAL MEMBERS RECEIVING MASSHEALTH :

For all MassHealth Members: American Indian or Alaskan Natives who get services from certain Indian Health Organizations are not responsible for MassHealth copays or premiums. If you get a premium bill please call MassHealth at Tribal Health Office for additional assistance.

Health Department In-Take Coordinator Hired



Nitana Hicks has joined the Health Department staff as the new In-take Coordinator for the Earth Recovery Project. Nitana recently moved back to Mashpee from the west coast to begin her PhD at Boston College and will be at the Health Office two days per week.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Health Center's Earth Recovery Program aims to enhance Tribal and western medicine best practices toward reducing substance abuse among our people. Drawing on the strengths of our Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal knowledge, culture and traditions and, with the assistance of western medicine, the project provides specifically appropriate substance abuse outreach and outpatient services to Tribal members.

Nitana can be reached at 508-477-0209 ext. 105.

Tribal Court News By Henry Sockbeson



Like all courts, the Mashpee Wampanoag tribal court has limitations on its jurisdiction. Since the tribe does not yet have land in trust, it has very limited territorial jurisdiction. The Court does, however, have subject matter jurisdiction over actions against the Tribe (including but not limited to enrollment matters) and can consider cases under the Indian Child Welfare Act. The Tribal Council will also be considering other legislation that could extend the jurisdiction of the court. Until land is taken into trust for the Tribe, the Court will concentrate on developing the necessary infrastructure to support court operations.

The Tribal Constitution does mandate that certain items be adopted. Article X, Section 6 of the Tribal Constitution requires that the court "by order establish written rules of procedure and ethics for all Tribal Courts." Rules of procedure tell the court and all parties how to conduct litigation. It specifies what a complaint is, how it should be filed, how to conduct discovery and all other aspects of litigation. Each state has its own rules of procedure and the federal courts have their own. Typically, tribal courts have not adopted state rules but it is not unusual for a tribal court to adopt the federal rules. The difficulty with adopting the federal rules is that they are intended for lawyers and are quite technical and detailed. In some cases a tribal member cannot afford a lawyer and attempts to represent themselves. For example, there are presently enrollment cases on file with the court in which the petitioners are not represented by an attorney (although the tribe is represented). Actions in which a plaintiff appears on their own behalf and without a lawyer, is termed a "pro se" action. The federal rules are difficult for these pro se parties to understand or work with. Consequently, tribal courts often modify the federal rules to simplify them for pro se litigants and to take into account the lower caseload of tribal courts.

On October 23, 2009 the Chief Judge of the Supreme Court issued an order adopting the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. This

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Mashpee Wampanoag Housing Department

The Wampanoag Housing Department would like to remind Tribal Members about some of the services that we offer, and invite all eligible members to take advantage of them. The Housing Department offers Budgeting, Credit Counseling, information about how to prepare to be a first time homebuyer, and Money Management Skills. The Housing Department also receives many listings for low income first time homeownership opportunities all over the state of Massachusetts. For more information about any of our programs, contact Winona Hendricks at 508-477-0208 ext. 234.

The Housing Department is also still looking for a Tribal Member who would be interested in submitting a proposal for the design and construction of a sign that will be erected in front of our new/upcoming housing development on Meetinghouse Road.

First-Time Homebuyer Credit Extended to April 30, 2010; Some Current Homeowners Now Also Qualify

IR-2009-108, Nov. 24, 2009

WASHINGTON — A new law that went into effect Nov. 6 extends the first-time homebuyer credit five months and expands the eligibility requirements for purchasers.

The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 extends the deadline for qualifying home purchases from Nov. 30, 2009, to April 30, 2010. Additionally, if a buyer enters into a binding contract by April 30, 2010 the buyer has until June 30, 2010 to settle on the purchase.

The maximum credit amount remains at \$8,000 for a first-time homebuyer — that is, a buyer who has not owned a primary residence during the three years up to the date of purchase.

But the new law also provides a “long-time resident” credit of up to \$6,500 to others who do not qualify as “first-time homebuyers.” To qualify this way, a buyer must have owned and used the same home as a principal or primary residence for at least five consecutive years of the eight-year period ending on the date of purchase of a new home as a primary residence.

For more details on the credit, visit the First-Time Homebuyer Credit page on IRS.gov.

Open Your Home and Take a Child to Heart Become a Foster Parent

The Massachusetts Department of Children & Families (DCF) is seeking families to open their homes and heart as Foster Parents for children on Cape Cod and the Islands.

Families are needed who can make a difference in a child’s life by providing emotional support and a foster home to a child while DCF provides services to family members.

DCF is committed to preserving families. However, when foster care is needed, it is important for children to remain in their community. As a foster family living on the Cape and Islands, you can help maintain a child’s relationship with friends, biological family, teachers and other

community supports.

DCF will be offering a Foster Parent 24 hour M.A.P.P. (Massachusetts Approach to Partnership in Parenting) Training in the winter and spring of 2010 (Place and dates to be determined). If you can provide foster care in your home and can attend this training, please call the foster parent recruitment line of Tony Brownstein at the Cape and Islands DCF office at 508-760-0229 for further information or to begin the process of application prior to training attendance. More information about DCF may be found on the website: www.dsskids.org.

(New Partners Introduced at Special Meeting, continued from page 1)

Indian Gaming in the United States. The representatives answered all questions asked by tribal members in the audience during the meeting.

The Tribal Council feels that Kien Huat and its affiliates will be strong partners moving forward as the Tribe continues its plan to build a world-class gaming facility in Southeastern Massachusetts. As one of the largest casino and resort operators in the world, Kien Huat brings the experience and the financial backing needed to make the Tribe’s plans a reality. The Tribal Council has been working diligently to put the Tribe in the best possible position to realize the goals of opening a resort-style casino and providing jobs and economic opportunities to tribal members.

Chairman Cromwell also announced that the Tribe has reached an agreement in principle to end our relationship with our former investors. This agreement was reached cooperatively in light of the changed environment over the past year.

Anyone who is interested in sharing a story in the “Our Story” column that is significant to Mashpee Wampanoag history or our heritage, recent or long past, should contact the newsletter committee by calling the tribal office at 508-477-0208 and leaving a message, or by sending an email to mittark@mwtribe.com.

As told by Barbara Hicks Harris

Young people today probably can't imagine living in Mashpee without flat screen television or lap top computers, cell phones or iPods, but for Barbara Hicks Harris, who graduated from the 8th grade at the Samuel G. Davis School in Mashpee in 1954, growing up in Mashpee was the time of her life.

Home, family, community and the great outdoors provided all the entertainment she needed and shared with a close-knit pack of friends known as the Wampettes.

“Lucinda Hicks Lashley was the leader, then besides me there was Brenda Haynes, Ramona Grant, Loretta White, Bernadine Hendricks, Glenna and Ursula Coombs, my sister Louise Hicks, and Natalie and Earline Couett,” recalled Barbara, who is now a member of the Elder's Judiciary Committee. “We just had a lot of fun.”

All of the girls attended school together and were very active in the Mashpee Baptist Church and sang in the choir.

“We also used to have monthly record hops at the USO building and we sold refreshments and had penny sales, real penny sales, where we sold donated items, cans of food and stuff so we could make May baskets to give to needy families.”

During the summer they gathered on the beach at the Mashpee Pond and on occasion they would have overnights at the old one room schoolhouse in South Mashpee where they would camp out and tell ghost stories all night.

During the winter on Friday evenings the girls would gather at the library.

“It was our winter ritual, meeting our friends and getting books,” she said. “It was a big social time for us, and back then we read, that was a big deal looking forward to Friday night at the library.”

“When there was ice on the bogs or the mill pond, we skated,” said Barbara, “We would build a bonfire so we could warm ourselves between skating and roast marshmallows. If there was money, we would cook hot dogs.”

Behind the old fire station on Main Street there was a hill where a Dunkin Donuts is now located. When Barbara was young they looked forward to a snow day when they would go sledding there.

“And we also went over to Mr. George Avant's hill, where you had to be a daredevil because the hill was steep and bumpy and your sled didn't last too long.”

On Christmas Eve the children of Mashpee all went to the school and got gifts from Santa. The gifts were never extravagant, but it was a magical time when Barbara looked forward to meeting Santa. Years later, she learned he was even more special than she had imagined.

“My dad was the Santa for years and I didn't even know it,” she said. “They must have disguised him pretty damn good.”



(Tribal Court News, continued from page 3)

is a temporary measure. The Tribal Constitution authorizes amendment of the rules and that will be done when time permits. The objective will be to make the rules more user friendly for pro se litigants and to tailor the federal rules for the special needs of the tribal community. For the time being, however, the federal rules will provide rules for litigation.

The court is also working on ethics for judges. There is no time limit in the tribe's constitution specifying a date within which the procedural and ethical rules must be adopted. The rules of procedure had to be adopted quickly since the absence of rules meant that there was essentially no guidance on how to conduct litigation.

Judges do have individual ethics and have pledged to “faithfully and impartially” perform their duties as a part of their swearing in so there is some guidance in place. Federal and State courts have not always had ethical rules in place. The first model code of judicial ethics was adopted by the American Bar Association in 1908. Since the states and the federal judges have not operated under written guidelines until the beginning of the last century it is not unreasonable for the tribal court to take a bit of time to develop its own ethical rules that will meet the unique needs of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Court. The rules are presently under development and should be adopted soon.

Old Indian Meetinghouse Re-Opens

The Old Indian Meetinghouse Grand Re-Opening Celebration was held on Saturday, December 19th in Mashpee.

Thanks to the concerted effort of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, the Town of Mashpee's Community Preservation Committee, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation as well as funding from the State, this day happily arrived.

Along with Tribal members and invited guests from outside of the Tribal community, the celebration included a combined Honor drum by Wakeby Lake and Red Hawk singers and a ceremonial ribbon-cutting by the Elders. Chief Vernon "Silent Drum" Lopez and Medicine Man Guy "Soaring Eagle" Cash welcomed the more than 100 Tribal members and guests from the steps of the Meetinghouse. Chief Lopez along with his "partner" as he refers to Chief Earl "Flying Eagle" Mills, Sr., lead the ceremonial ribbon-cutting, each with a touching grasp on the scissors. Many elders that braved the cold during the monumental occasion surrounded the two Chiefs.

Tribal member and C.H. Newton operations manger, Eddie Peters, then presented the key to the building to the Tribal leadership. Tribal members and guests then filed into one of the Tribe's most treasured historical gathering places as Carol Lopez played harmonious tunes on a recently acquired piano set alongside the pulpit.

Once the congregation was seated inside the Meetinghouse, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Genealogist, jessie 'little doe' baird opened the ceremony in the Wampanoag language. Chairman Cedric Cromwell then presided over the remarks, and introduced the guest speakers including Chief Mills, past Tribal Vice-Chairman David Pocknett, who lead the initial effort of the restoration and spoke of the collaborative effort by many including the Massachusetts Historical Commission in seeing this day come to pass. Tribal Treasurer Mark Harding, who took on the responsibility of overseeing the completion of the project since February, spoke with enduring pride as he gazed around the room. Special guest Kenneth Reels from the Mashantucket Pequot nation was asked to share his thoughts and poignantly remarked that he "loves coming to your reservation and feeling the oneness." Mashpee Baptist Church Pastor Curtis Frye, Jr. brought the

ceremony to a close as many realized that he is the first Mashpee Wampanoag pastor in generations to once again speak within the beloved Old Indian Meetinghouse.

State and local officials from across the Commonwealth were among the invited guests including Mashpee Board of Selectman members Theresa Cook, John Cahalane and Wayne Taylor. Mr. Taylor is also the Chairman of the Community Preservation Committee. Mashpee Historic Committee Chairperson, Lee Gurney and State Representative Matthew Patrick were also among the congregation. Mashpee Public School Superintendent Ann Bradshaw was in attendance and shared how absolutely "moved" she was by the entire ceremony, from start to finish.

The Tribe's contractor in the effort was C.H. Newton Builders, which specializes in historic restorations. Our C.H. Newton partners carefully meshed the generations-old characteristics with up-to-date and modern essentials...like a heating system. The pews, flooring and podium, for example were all kept in tact and set back into place. What might be the first most recognizable change will be the two sets of doors on the front of the building, which were part of the building's original design.

Friends and family capped off the celebration by gathering to enjoy delicious traditional refreshments prepared by Sherry Pocknett as well as decadent sweets provided by John Marcellino.



Powwow Princess Chelsie Miranda unlocks the door to the Old Indian Meetinghouse as (from left) Mark Harding, Earl 'Flying Eagle' Mills Sr., Guy 'Soaring Eagle' Cash, Cedric Cromwell and Vernon 'Silent Drum' Lopez look on.



Aerial View of New Meetinghouse Space



Earl 'Flying Eagle' Mills Addresses The Guests



Guests from Far and Wide Came for the Opening Ceremony

Photos Courtesy of WF & A

jessie “little doe” baird Receives Cornerstone Award

jessie “little doe” baird was presented with a Cornerstone Award on December 10, 2009 by the Human Rights Commission of Barnstable County for her work in the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP). The Cornerstone Award, which is presented each year on the anniversary of International Human Rights Day, honors individuals who foster and support human rights.

A member of the WLRP introduced jessie and made her initial remarks in the Wôpanâak Language, explaining that it is because of jessie’s dedication and unwavering commitment to the language project that she and hundreds of others are now able to speak the language that had lain dormant for a century and a half.

As part of her acceptance speech, jessie shared the story of her dream visions in which her ancestors urged that the time had come for the language to be welcomed back home. She further shared the story of the language prophecy that foretold that “those that played a part in breaking the circle would have a hand in closing it again.” An audible gasp rose through the crowd as she explained that indeed, the prophecy had come to pass as she — a 7th generation descendant of Nathan Pocknett, a strong opponent to the colonists’ missionary work — and Ken Hale, a renowned linguist at MIT and direct descendant of Rhode Island founder Roger Williams, were united across three centuries by a rare book in the Institute’s archives, a book which had contributed to the decline of the Wôpanâak language and which played a role in bringing it back. The two became collaborators and close friends in their joint effort to restore Wôpanâak to its 17th-century richness and, thus, closed the broken circle.

For her closing remarks and in honor of International Human Rights Day, jessie read the following prayer in both English and Wôpanâak:

Leave my People to abide in the land where they were created. Do not cause my People to leave and steal their land, lest you steal their blood and bones.

Leave me to learn the ways of life in the manner which my People find most appropriate. Do not force your ideas, but let me listen without having to offer an opinion.

Leave me to speak in the Language given my People by my Creator. Do not silence a People by taking away our words; our way of communicating with Creation.

Above all things; never do or say any thing that will cause harm to a child or cause a child to suffer. For in this eventuality will there ever truly be Peace between all Peoples. hô. -- jessie little doe

To learn more about the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project (WLRP) including class schedules and ways to help the project, please visit www.wlrp.org.

February 2010 Election Update

Four Council seats will be up for re-election on Sunday, February 14, 2010. During the Special Election on December 13th, nomination papers for the February election were made available to tribal members.

Incumbents Yvonne Avant, Cheryl Frye Cromwell, Martin “Bruzzy” Hendricks, and Edwina “Winnie” Graham are all expected to run for re-election.

Among those who have already taken out papers are Michelle M. Fernandes, Laura Miranda, Myrna Nuey, Marty Tobey, and David Weeden.

Nomination papers are available at the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal offices and must be turned in by Sunday, January 10th. Candidates who meet the requirements with at least 25 qualifying signatures on their nomination papers and can show they have attended at least six general body or council meetings in the 12 months prior to January 10 will have their names appear on the ballot in February.



Election Committee members seated left to right, Kimberly Frye, Chair; Elzy Tubbs; Michelle Fernandes, Vice-Chair; Mijja Black, Secretary; and alternate Nancy Joseph standing. Not photographed, Election Committee member Wendy Pocknett and alternate Brad Kelley.

In the previous edition of Nashauonk Mittark incorrect information was provided and published regarding the hours for the new Rehab and Weatherization Specialist.

Valerie will be available weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The newsletter staff strives for accuracy in every edition.




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