

Journal #3514 from sdc 11.27.15

The Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address: Worth Reading Today, and Every Day

Indigenous, nature, wildlife and companion animal news

White House video

Court sides with Indian inmates over closure of sweat lodge

The Native American Sargent York you've never heard of

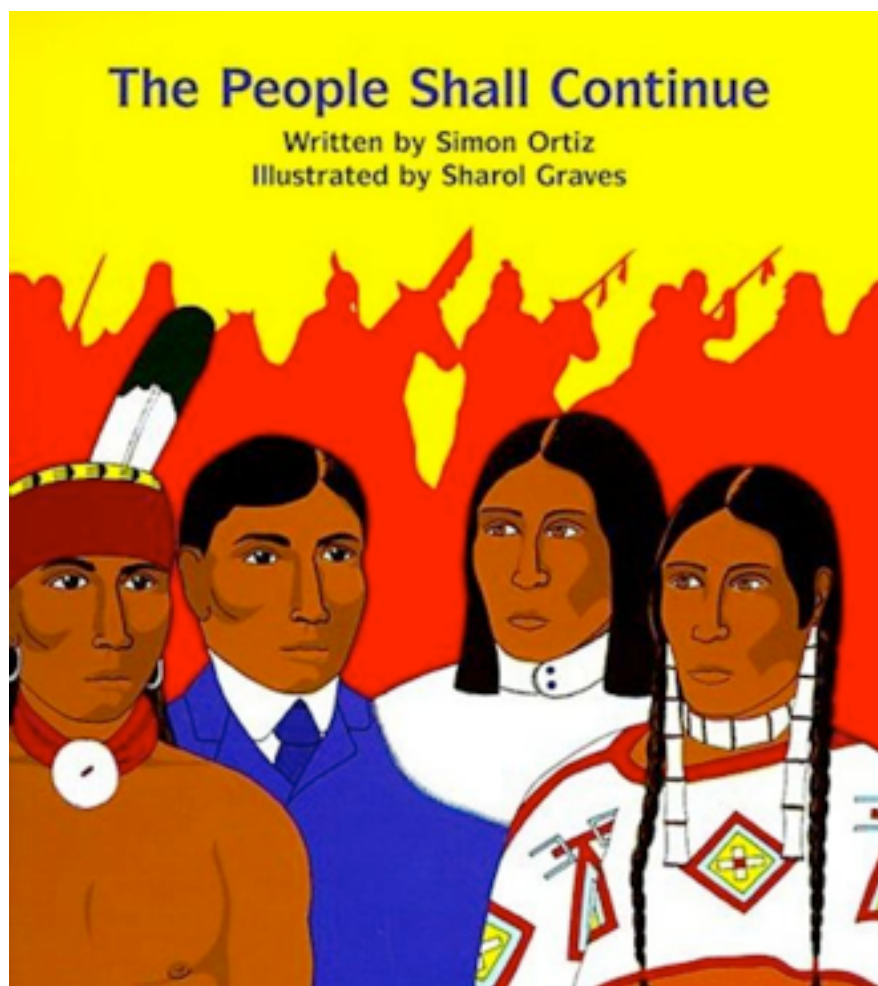
Archaeologists Dig Up An 800-Year-Old Pot. What They Find Inside Changes History...

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The Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address: Worth Reading Today, and Every Day

ICTMN Staff 11/27/14

The question "Do Native Americans celebrate Thanksgiving?" has no simple answer. American Indians are not a monolithic people, but a collection of many cultures, and individuals within

cultures are certainly bound to have different feelings about the day based on their own experiences and upbringings. "No, I don't celebrate [Thanksgiving]" [wrote Dennis Zotigh in a 2011 essay](#). "But I do take advantage of the holiday and get together with family and friends to share a large meal without once thinking of the Thanksgiving in 1621. I think it is the same in many Native households."

Another answer many American Indians give to the question is that, yes, they do give thanks on the day designated Thanksgiving—just as they they give thanks for the gifts from the Creator every day. Being thankful is not something you do on a specific day, in a specific setting; being thankful is something you are.

Native expressions of thanks, of thanks-giving, are therefore not tied to a holiday or event. They are appropriate every day, including the day called Thanksgiving. The National Museum of the American Indian has shared the spirit of thankfulness with this version of a [Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address](#) (credit information follows the text)—sentiments suitable for sharing today, and every day:

Greetings to the Natural World

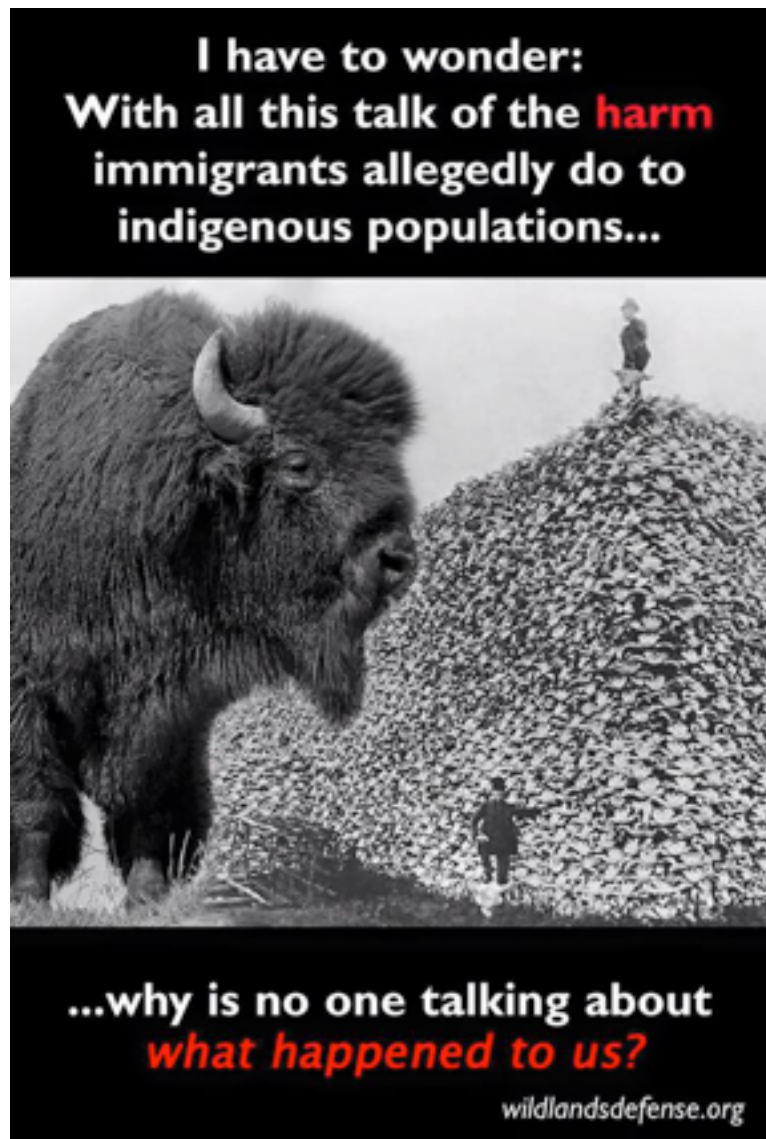
The People

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as people.

Now our minds are one.

The Earth Mother

We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as



she has from the beginning of time. To our mother, we send greetings and thanks.
Now our minds are one.

The Waters

We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms—waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of Water.
Now our minds are one.

The Fish

We turn our minds to the all the Fish life in the water. They were instructed to cleanse and purify the water. They also give themselves to us as food. We are grateful that we can still find pure water. So, we turn now to the Fish and send our greetings and thanks.
Now our minds are one.

The Plants

Now we turn toward the vast fields of Plant life. As far as the eye can see, the Plants grow, working many wonders. They sustain many life forms. With our minds gathered together, we give thanks and look forward to seeing Plant life for many generations to come.
Now our minds are one.

The Food Plants

With one mind, we turn to honor and thank all the Food Plants we harvest from the garden. Since the beginning of time, the grains, vegetables, beans and berries have helped the people survive. Many other living things draw strength from them too. We gather all the Plant Foods together as one and send them a greeting of thanks.
Now our minds are one.

The Medicine Herbs

Now we turn to all the Medicine herbs of the world. From the beginning they were instructed to take away sickness. They are always waiting and ready to heal us. We are happy there are still among us those special few who remember how to use these plants for healing. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the Medicines and to the keepers of the Medicines.
Now our minds are one.

The Animals

We gather our minds together to send greetings and thanks to all the Animal life in the world. They have many things to teach us as people. We are honored by them when they give up their lives so we may use their bodies as food for our people. We see them near our homes and in the deep forests. We are glad they are still here and we hope that it will always be so.
Now our minds are one

The Trees

We now turn our thoughts to the Trees. The Earth has many families of Trees who have their own instructions and uses. Some provide us with shelter and shade, others with fruit, beauty and other useful things. Many people of the world use a Tree as a symbol of peace and strength. With one

mind, we greet and thank the Tree life.
Now our minds are one.

The Birds

We put our minds together as one and thank all the Birds who move and fly about over our heads. The Creator gave them beautiful songs. Each day they remind us to enjoy and appreciate life. The Eagle was chosen to be their leader. To all the Birds-from the smallest to the largest-we send our joyful greetings and thanks.
Now our minds are one.

The Four Winds

We are all thankful to the powers we know as the Four Winds. We hear their voices in the moving air as they refresh us and purify the air we breathe. They help us to bring the change of seasons. From the four directions they come, bringing us messages and giving us strength. With one mind, we send our greetings and thanks to the Four Winds.
Now our minds are one.

The Thunderers

Now we turn to the west where our grandfathers, the Thunder Beings, live. With lightning and thundering voices, they bring with them the water that renews life. We are thankful that they keep those evil things made by Okwiseres underground. We bring our minds together as one to send greetings and thanks to our Grandfathers, the Thunderers.
Now our minds are one.

The Sun

We now send greetings and thanks to our eldest Brother, the Sun. Each day without fail he travels the sky from east to west, bringing the light of a new day. He is the source of all the fires of life. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Brother, the Sun.
Now our minds are one.

Grandmother Moon

We put our minds together to give thanks to our oldest Grandmother, the Moon, who lights the night-time sky. She is the leader of woman all over the world, and she governs the movement of the ocean tides. By her changing face we measure time, and it is the Moon who watches over the arrival of children here on Earth. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to our Grandmother, the Moon.
Now our minds are one.

The Stars

We give thanks to the Stars who are spread across the sky like jewelry. We see them in the night, helping the Moon to light the darkness and bringing dew to the gardens and growing things. When we travel at night, they guide us home. With our minds gathered together as one, we send greetings and thanks to the Stars.
Now our minds are one.

The Enlightened Teachers

We gather our minds to greet and thank the enlightened Teachers who have come to help

throughout the ages. When we forget how to live in harmony, they remind us of the way we were instructed to live as people. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to these caring teachers.

Now our minds are one.

The Creator

Now we turn our thoughts to the creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on this Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

Now our minds are one.

Closing Words

We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it was not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.

Now our minds are one.

* * *

This translation of the Mohawk version of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address was developed, published in 1993, and provided, courtesy of:

Six Nations Indian Museum and the Tracking Project

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Thanksgiving Address: Greetings to the Natural World

English version: John Stokes and Kanawahienton (David Benedict, Turtle Clan/Mohawk)

Mohawk version: Rokwaho (Dan Thompson, Wolf Clan/Mohawk) Original inspiration: Tekaronianekon (Jake Swamp, Wolf Clan Mohawk)



- ['Thanksgiving,' a Poem by Jonathan Garfield](#)
[What do Native Americans have to be thankful for at Thanksgiving?](#)

indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com

- [What Do Native Americans do on Thanksgiving?](#)
[Native American blogger Simon Moya-Smith discusses his views on Thanksgiving and what his family does.](#)

Todaymedianetwork.com

- [Thanksgiving not popular for all Americans, especially the original inhabitants](#)
[As millions of Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, some Native Americans are pushing back](#)

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Indigenous, nature, wildlife and companion animal news. Pass it on!

www.whitewolfpack.com | By White Wolf

[The White House's video](#)

[0:03/1:44](#)

[The White House](#)

[June 15, 2014](#) ·

“Every American, including every Native American, deserves the chance to work hard and get ahead.” —President Obama at the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota: <http://youtu.be/70wsOvkZUMA>

Court sides with Indian inmates over closure of sweat lodge

The Massachusetts Department of Corrections shut down a sweat lodge after just six months due to alleged health risks. indianz.com

[Patrick Doyle](#)

The Native American Sargent York you've never heard of.

Joseph Oklahombi (Choctaw) was the most decorated soldier from Oklahoma during WW1. His amazing exploits surpass even Sgt. York's even while being almost exactly the same, and a few days apart from each other.

At 23 years old he ran behind an enemy machine gun installation that was mowing down his comrades. As an expert hunter he was able to run across a series of barbed wire baracades and he pinned down over 250 German soldiers. After killing 79, the remaining 171 gave up.

His citation for the Croix de Guerre reads:

Under a violent barrage, [Pvt. Oklahombi] dashed to the attack of an enemy position, covering about 210 yards through barbed-wire entanglements. He rushed on machine-gun nests, capturing

171 prisoners. He stormed a strongly held position containing more than 50 machine guns, and a number of trench mortars. Turned the captured guns on the enemy, and held the position for four days, in spite of a constant barrage of large projectiles and of gas shells. Crossed no man's land many times to get information concerning the enemy, and to assist his wounded comrades.

<http://www.choctawnation.com/.../code-talke.../joseph-oklahombi/>

http://www.worldwar1.com/dbc/j_oklah.htm

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10153394286484302&set=a.10150174130594302.307884.666659301&type=3>)

Archaeologists Dig Up An 800-Year-Old Pot. What They Find Inside Changes History...

In 2008, on a dig in the First Nation's Menominee Reservation in Wisconsin, archaeologists made a small but stunning discovery: a tiny clay pot. Though it might not have seemed very impressive at first glimpse, this little piece of pottery was determined to be about 800 years old.

And inside that po...

littlethings.com|By Laura Caseley



[Native Americans revive squash from seeds found in an 800-year-old pot](#)

[Some Native Americans found squash seeds in a pot about 800 years old and revived the plant for the first time in centuries. The seeds from the large, bright orange squash have been distributed to nat](#)

ancient-origins.net

- [This 'extinct squash' has been grown from 800-year-old seeds](#)
[What if you found a clay pot filled with seeds of a species of fruit you thought was extinct and you try to grow them? I know what you thinking, Jurassic Park all over again. Well this is what happened in Wisconsin.](#)
[sciencedump.com](#)
- [Students revive extinct squash with 800-year-old seeds](#)
[Seeds found during an archaeological dig on First Nations land revive a long-lost varietal.](#)
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Mother Nature Network

Register now for the

2016 Reno-Tahoe Senior Winter Games!
January 30 - February 14, 2016

What are the Senior Winter Games?

The Games are a wide variety of competitions for seniors 50+ years old. These sports range from indoor table games to outdoor sports. Players compete against other athletes in their own age division for gold, silver and bronze medals. An Opening Ceremony and a Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance, as a closing ceremony, frame this "Olympic" style competition.

How to sign up:

NEW for 2016 - Online Registration

Go to www.reno.gov/seniorgames and click on the link at the top of the page. For help with online registration check out the step by step instructions located right below the form link or call [775-334-2262](tel:775-334-2262).

Download the pdf. registration file attached to this email.

Open the [registration form](#). Before filling it out, save a copy to your computer (use your name as the file name). Open the file and fill it out then save it again. Open an email and address it to SeniorServices@Reno.Gov. Attach the file to the email and send it, we'll call you to arrange for payment. If you don't hear from us within 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, send it again. You can always print the form and drop it by or mail it.

Drop a completed form off to a recreation facility.

Open the [registration form](#) and print it or pick one up at your local recreation facility, fill it out and then drop it by the facility to pay your fees. You can also mail the form with a check to one of the facilities listed at the bottom of the page.

What's new for 2016?

We've added some new sports/events for these games - Minnesota (a card game), a slot tournament, Yahtzee, Indoor Golf Scramble, Pool (9 ball) and Shuffleboard. We also have an open reception on Wednesday, February 10th at the Sands Regency!

We haven't nailed down the location for the Poker event and the Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance but those should be firmed up in early December.

Important Information:

The deadline to sign up is Tuesday, January 19, 2016 but players who register before January 4, 2016 will save \$10.00! Cost is \$25.00 to register up to January 4th / Cost is \$35.00 if you register between January 5th and January 19th. No registration accepted after January 19th.

A lift ticket or season pass is required to compete in the Ski & Snowboard Racing Event.

Questions?

Any time you have questions you can always call us at [775-657-4602](tel:775-657-4602) or send an email to SeniorServices@Reno.Gov.

**So what are you waiting for?
Sign up today!!**

2016 List of Games - Archery, Basketball Skills, Beanbag Baseball, Beanbag Toss, Bowling, Card Games (Cribbage, Minnesota & Poker), Chance Games (Slot Tournament & Yahtzee), Cross Country Skiing / Snowshoeing, Hockey Shot / Timed Ice Skating, Indoor Golf, Pickleball, Pool (9 Ball), Shuffleboard, Ski & Snowboard Racing & Table Tennis.

[Nunavut family outraged after fashion label copies sacred Inuit design](#)

A family in Iqaluit discovers that a high-end European retailer has copied the design of a caribou skin parka worn by their shaman ancestor. cbc.ca

City of Las Vegas plans to go to 100 percent renewable energy by 2017. “Every city light, city park, community center, fire station and service yard will be 100 percent covered by renewable energy,” mayor Carolyn Goodman said. The cost of solar for NV Energy will be about \$48 a megawatt hour — a price drop of more than 50 percent over the past five years in Nevada for large-scale solar projects.

“It’s cheaper than what we could build a new natural gas plant for,” Caudill said... [See More](#)

[Steve Rypka November 24 at 6:35pm ·](#)

For years I've advocated for Nevada to become the first carbon-neutral state in the U.S. The City of Las Vegas has announced that it will be powered by 100% ren... [See More](#)

[City of Las Vegas plans to go to 100 percent renewable energy](#)

As the sun beat down on a small array of solar panels in front of City Hall today, Mayor Carolyn Goodman announced Las Vegas would be the first city of its... lasvegassun.com

Ridgley Leora Bill's Obituary on Reno Gazette-Journal

Read the Obituary and view the Guest Book, leave condolences or send flowers. | Ridgley Leora

Bill Jan 17, 1931 November 20, 2015 Ridgley Leora Bill born 1/17/31 passed away on 11/20/15. She lived in Fallon, NV. Her mother was Annie Bill and her Father Charlie Bill, she had 6 brothers and sisters, and 12 children and numerous grandchildren. The viewing will be held at the Smith Family Funeral home at 505 Rio Vista Drive 9am-5pm on Friday November 27, 2015. There will also be a cry dance held after the viewing at the Lovelock Indian Colony at 8pm. The funeral will be at the Lovelock Indian Colony gym Saturday November 28, 2015 at 11 am. - See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/rgj/obituary.aspx?n=ridgley-leora->



[bill&pid=176637009&fhid=16190#sthash.CS09mh6P.dpuf](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/rgj/obituary.aspx?n=ridgley-leora-bill&pid=176637009&fhid=16190#sthash.CS09mh6P.dpuf)

***PS If you did not get yesterday's Journal, let me know. Also sorry about delay this monring.
sdc***