



# Roots Awakening



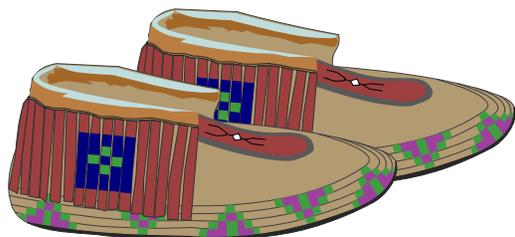
A Publication of the Pittsburgh Federal Executive  
Board Native American Heritage Committee

July 2006

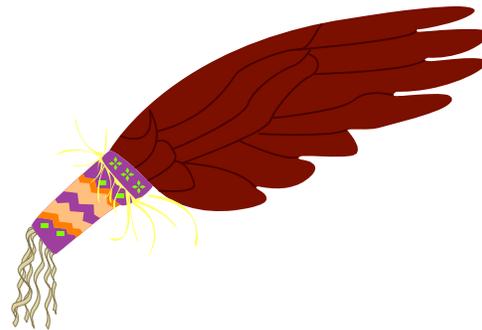
**The Earth Our Mother - The Foundation Of Our Existence...**  
Celebrating and honoring the gifts our mother earth gives us everyday.

## 2006 Annual Arts Program:

*From Onondaga to Osage, Sac and Fox to Seneca, Cherokee to Cree... Whichever one of the over 500 tribes you select for your entry(s) Select a tribe(s) and show us how each tribe(s) or nation(s) you pick has their own unique celebration(s), creative works of art, everyday items or even ceremonial items such as pots, baskets, jewelry, clothing, paintings, drawings, etc. that are connected to, celebrate or honor a gift of some kind from our Mother Earth. Our 16th annual exhibition and program is held in conjunction with the West Virginia University's Native American Studies Program, and be held at The Monongalia Arts Center in Morgantown West Virginia*



For an entry form, more details  
and/or a copy of the prospectus call:  
412-885-5097, 412-260-8582,  
412-310-7243 or email:  
[aliyo@bellatlantic.net](mailto:aliyo@bellatlantic.net)



## 2005 Art Program Winners

**2-D:** Ruth Richardson, 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Edward Maier, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Jeri Corbin, Honorable Mention  
**3-D/Sculpture:** Edward Maier 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Corrin Corbin,  
Committee's Choice

The November 2005 Art Exhibition  
was held at the **The Union Art Gallery**  
at **Duquesne University**

This annual program is an educational project to  
accomplish a greater understanding and  
awareness of the American Indian culture  
through the sensual and visual interpretation of  
the arts. This program is further designed to  
celebrate November as Native American Month

## **Pondering, Poems and Pride**

“American” culture is becoming increasingly diverse. America should not be viewed as the melting pot. A more accurate image is a tossed salad or a stew; where various ingredients remain distinct, even as they are mixed together. To better ourselves as employees, employers, governments, family units and individuals we should open up our hearts and minds to explore the diverse world around us. We can accomplish this through learning others’ history, exploring museums, attending cultural, folk or ethnic celebrations, addressing questions that come up, even if they are funny, sad, or even difficult to answer. Native American or “Indian” culture represents the ultimate of diversity. We are people of many lands, many cultures, and many political groups; both before and after 1492. Native Americans have left and continue to leave our mark in many areas; such as government, politics, military, agriculture, science, sports, entertainment, art and literature. Today we still face issues that many other cultures face; like education, poverty, inaccurate reporting of history and health issues to name a few. Among some of the issues that Native Americans face that are unique to us are land issues, treaty rights, past injustices and genocide. We all have cultural pride and identity. Many times we chose to express this through various art forms such as poetry or song. I am co-teaching a 3 credit course at Community College of Allegheny County. The course is Native American History and Anthropology. One of the projects I asked my students to do this past term was to find or create a story or poem that reflect how they see some of the issues or concerns that face contemporary Native people. I was so touched by some of them I have decided to share some of them with you in this issue of Roots Awakening. I have also included a popular song that express Native concerns for you to ponder. My students this term, made me very proud of the lessons they learned. Not one student was Native American. However they represent various diverse backgrounds. They opened up their hearts and minds to the diverse world around them, and left with a better understanding of Native American people and culture. These poems are not meant to insult or hurt anyone. They are only here to serve as a reminder of some of the tragedy of the past that sometimes still comes to surface today in the hearts and minds of Native Americans, and perhaps to spark an open dialogue. Through the reading and hopefully understanding of these poems

## **UNTITLED**

**by  
Dan Schofield**

We came with our hand hands,  
We snickered, as we stole the land.  
Tell me what was the very first WMD\*,  
As I say to you it was smallpox indeed.  
We started from the east and headed west,  
Knowing they couldn’t beat our best.  
We killed all the buffalo,  
Knowing they had no place to go.  
The genocide started about 1492,  
Kill’em, make’em sick, that’s what we do.  
The genocide would last more than 500 years,  
And then we created the Trail of Tears.  
Then came a racist Manifest Destiny,  
We wiped them out from sea to shinning sea.  
Then we gave them the BIA\*\*,  
It wasn’t fair would’t you say.  
Clearly the white man has blood on his hands,  
A!;l to clear and plow and steal the land.  
For we raped, pillaged and plundered,  
Screaming God, who, they often wondered.  
We raped plundered and pillaged,  
Destroying a vast and wonderful village.  
Knowing now what should’ve been done,  
The Native Americans should’ve won.  
This land was always theirs,  
Yes, we stole it true and fair.

\*WMD – weapons of mass destruction

\*\*BIA –Bureau of Indian Affairs

## **MY GUIDE**

**By**

**Paul Lucas**

Breathing in this moonless night  
Can still remind me of better times.  
These nights that are filled with lightless stars.  
In a city where none knows just how far.

You’d have to go  
To complete your journey,  
Or to find your spirit wolf  
And have him wash way all these illusions.

He could guide me back  
To a more sensible time.  
Where we could thrive together  
To give thanks to the Mother our Earth so divine

I know  
He would mead me to my afterlife  
To be with my fathers and mothers  
In a world I could never find.

**Untitled**  
**By**  
**Matt Byars**

I didn't even realize how ignorant I was.  
I fought against racial discrimination –  
won awards for the word I'd done.  
When people said "they all look the  
same" or "they all do this" or "listen to  
that" I would attack those  
generalizations.

I knew people of what I thought were all  
races.

It didn't even occur to me that the  
movies were wrong; the sports teams  
were insulting, thanksgiving is false.  
Whoa Whoa information overload, a  
smack back into reality. They are not all  
the same rain dancing, pipe smoking,  
buffalo-eating caricatures we see on the  
screen.

From trine to tribe and Nation to Nation,  
Native People are different.

They are not all on reservations, they  
live with us.

But unlike most of them remember and  
respect where they've come from.

Tradition is strong and the fight for  
preservation is alive.

Native Americans north, south, east and  
west are different, but united.

I didn't realize that a diverse culture is  
right in front of my eyes.

A people who think and live differently  
but all the while are portrayed  
negatively.

Now I can't look at the American  
forefathers the same way.

History view from another's angle  
doesn't look so rosy.

Manifest Destiny or Disease Disaster?

Nobody is all good but perspective  
makes a huge difference.

**DAM IT!!!!!!!!!!!!**  
*Welcome to the Lands of*  
*Kinzua*

*(song from J.Cash's Bitter Tears Album)*

*"As long as the moon shall rise"*

*"As long as the rivers flow"*

*"As long as the sun will shine"*

*"As long as the grass shall grow"*

*The Seneca are an Indian Tribe of the*  
*Iroquois Nation*

*Down on the New York-Pennsylvania*  
*line you will find their reservation,*  
*After the US Revolution, Cornplanter*  
*was the Chief*

*He told the tribe these men could be*  
*trusted. That was his true belief*  
*He went down to Independence Hall and*  
*a treaty was signed*  
*That promised peace to the US and*  
*Indian rights combined.*

*George Washington gave his signature*  
*The Government gave its hand*  
*they said for now and every more that*  
*this was Indian Land*

*"As long as the moon shall rise"*

*"As long as the rivers flow"*

*"As long as the sun will shine"*

*"As long as the grass shall grow"*

*On the Seneca Reservation there is much*  
*sadness now*

*Washington's treaty has been broken*  
*and there ain't no hope no how.*

*Across the Allegheny River they are*  
*puttin up a Dam*

*That will flood the Indian Country, a*  
*proud day for Uncle Sam.*

*It has broken an ancient treaty with a*  
*politician's grin*

*It will flood the Indian's grave yards..  
"Cornplanter can you swim?  
The Earth is Mother to the Seneca, they  
have trampled sacred ground  
Changing the mint green earth to black  
mud flats hobble down.*

*"As long as the moon shall rise"  
"As long as the rivers flow"  
"As long as the sun will shine"  
"As long as the grass shall grow"*

*The Iroquois Indians used to rule from  
Canada way south  
But no one fears the Indians now and  
smiles from a liars mouth  
The Seneca's hired an expert, to find  
another site  
But the wonderful Corp of Engineers  
said that they had no right  
Although he showed them another way,  
they laughed in his face  
And said KINZUA DAM IS HERE TO  
STAY!!  
Congress turned the indians down,  
brushed away their plea  
So the Seneca has renamed the Dam,  
they call it LAKE PERFIDY!*

*"As long as the moon shall rise"  
"As long as the rivers flow"  
"As long as the sun will shine"  
"As long as the grass shall grow"*

*Washington, Adams and Kennedy now  
hear their pledges ring  
the treaty's safe we will keep our word.  
But what is that I hear girgling?  
it's the back waters from Lake Perfidy  
It's rising all the time, over the homes  
and fields over the promise find,  
No boats will sail over Lake Perfidy, and  
the winter it will fill  
In the Summer it will be a swamp, and  
all the fish it will kill  
But the Government of the USA has*

*corrected George's Vow  
The father of our country must be wrong,  
What's an Indian any how??!*

*"As long as the moon shall rise"  
"As long as the rivers flow"  
"As long as the sun will shine"  
"As long as the grass shall grow"*

*"Did it make cents/sense?"*

*These are the lands of Kinzua*

### **Available for Purchase:**

Our *NAHC Cookbook* is now available. This unique, one-of-a-kind cookbook includes not only Native American recipes from all over the country, but is also a great tool for the outdoor person, with lots of ways to use the meat from their most recent hunting excursion. The book also serves as coffee table art book, with original artwork from over a dozen local artists. Also, included are historical notations and special information articles. We also have NAHC T-shirts, sweat shirts, and baseball caps. In addition our exclusive Cherokee Flute Music Tape or CD "We Get Our Music from Nature." Visit [WWW.ECHOES4.COM](http://WWW.ECHOES4.COM), Call (412) 885-5097, or e-mail [aliyo@bellatlantic.net](mailto:aliyo@bellatlantic.net) for more information, pricing & availability.

### **Roots Awakening Editor:**

*Earl Dingus (Yun-wi-yv)*

**Pittsburgh Federal Executive Board  
Native American Heritage Committee  
406 Federal Building  
1000 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222**