



AMERICAN INDIAN SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC

VOL XLIII ISSUE NO. 1

JANUARY 2009

Dec 2 – The American Indian Inaugural Ball Committee (AIIBC) held a regular meeting at the Hunton & Williams law firm in McLean (Tyson's Corner), Virginia. Those present included Pete Homer (Chairman), Tia Gibbs (Recorder), Cherie Seibert, Sam Wakefield, Dave Henderson, Karen Collins, Michael Nephew, Eloise Giordano, Mary Arpante Sunbeam, Jim Ward, Nedra Darling, John Danner, Steve Hill, Keevin Lewis, Pete Neconie, Karen Rodriguez, Juanita Neconie, Evans Craig, Joanna Stancil, Joyce Wakefield, Faye Lone and Mitchell Bush. Our thanks to Hunton & Williams for the use of their office space and for providing complimentary coffee and cold drinks. Several committee members brought pies and other snacks. The meeting began with a prayer by Steve Hill. Chairman Homer gave an overall report and asked for reports from Faye Lone on ticket sales, website development and bank account status, Sam Wakefield on security status, Steve Hill on entertainment, Pete Neconie on the Inaugural Pow Wow, Nedra Darling on publicity/media status, Michael Nephew on awards, Evans Craig on the silent auction, and John Danner on filming/video development. Steve reported on the offer of the Hard Rock Café/Seminole Tribe to host the entertainment, Cherie reported on a souvenir t-shirt offer we have received, Pete reported on room availability and Steve reported on a tuxedo rental offer we received and offers from other entertainers. Steve is going to audition the dance band Phoenix for the ball. Mitchell advised Steve that we had voted to contract with Reflections to take formal photos the night of the ball. The next meeting will be at the law firm on December 10. Pete Neconie will host a potluck dinner at the Lincoln Park Community Center around January 16 to meet the head staff.

Dec 3 – Karen Collins, Eloise Giordano, Manuel/Karen Rodriguez, Verde Halley and Mitchell Bush met for dinner at the Atlantis Restaurant in the Bradlee Shopping Center in Alexandria, VA before the AIS monthly meeting. The group met earlier than usual because AIS had much business to discuss and needed additional time.

Dec 4 – Karen Collins, Chuck/Judy Gray, Herb Bush, Brandy Berger and Mitchell Bush had breakfast/coffee together at the Stafford Diner near Boswell Corners, VA. Karen showed snapshots of the Native Foods booth participants at the Toronto Native Festival taken from Thanksgiving day to the weekend. Hill family members Gerald and Edna/Carlos took part. Several of the younger folks (Leah/Alexis Hill, Junior/Cheyenne Van Pelt) danced and Josh Hill took 3rd in the fancy dance competition. The Native Foods booth sold Indian Tacos, frybread, wild rice/corn soup, and more.

Dec 6 – Charity Anne Pearson (daughter of Pat Pearson and the late Luther Pearson) and Gerald William Umbel (son of Gerald Hill and Tammy Umbel) were married in a ceremony held at Wakefield Chapel in Annandale, VA. Following the wedding ceremony, the wedding party and guests traveled to the Waterford at Springfield, VA for a reception/luncheon. Around 140 guests were in attendance. Guests outside the families of the newlyweds included Jim/Beth Armagost, Manuel/Karen Rodriguez, Michael Nephew, Michelle Bynum, Naomi Little, Verde Halley and Mitchell Bush. Members of the Hill family not named above in attendance included Eve/Marietta/Theresa/Tim/Jay/Steve/Phil Hill. Other guests included Erlette Lamont/Tia Gibbs/Cathi Hill/Crucita Grover/Mike Beatty; Eve's brothers Pete/Nick King and her sister Phyllis and her family Tom/Jessica/Rose David; and also the next generation of Hills: Timmy/Heather Hill, Josh Hill/Katy Issenock, Leah/Raven/Petey Hill, Cody Adams, Nicklaus Gibbs-Hill, Alexis Hill, Vanessa Van Pelt. The first two dances were for the bride/groom and then the groom danced with his mother. Steve Hill then smudged the couple and gave a prayer. After dinner, the wedding cake

was served, the bridal bouquet and bride's garter tossed. Then the wedding party dispersed to their respective homes as a light snow began to fall.

Dec 10 – The AIIBC met at the Hunton & Williams law firm. Chairman Pete Homer was traveling and Michael Nephew filled in for him. AIIBC members present included Nedra Darling, Joanna Stancil/Charles Richtenbach, John Warren, Evans Craig, Mary Sunbeam, Cherie Seibert, Sam Wakefield, Joyce Wakefield, Keevin Lewis, Faye Lone, Kristine Poafpybitty/Gina Moser, Eloise Giordano, Karen Collins, Manuel/Karen Rodriguez, Juanita Neconie, Manuel Recio and Mitchell Bush. Pete Neconie, Mary Milam and Sonny Fields arrived just before the meeting adjourned having attended another function. The chairman of subcommittees gave reports following a prayer by Michael to open the meeting. Sam gave a detailed report on security; Joyce/Mary gave the status of their efforts to recruit volunteers; Michael reported on our insurance concerns; Joanna/Nedra reported on publicity. Nedra also reported on her letter requesting our ball be sanctioned by the Presidential Inaugural Committee. Faye reported on tickets/tables/room request and the bank account status. Faye reported that Noemi Perez is busy seeking corporate sponsors. John Warren reported on filming/video developments. Michael spoke about awards and asked Mitchell what he planned to do with his award/reward and Mitchell indicated he will donate the money to the AIS scholarship fund. Faye showed a slide show of items received for the silent auction. Michael/Nedra reported that the Hard Rock Café will provide the main entertainment but we are still waiting for Steve Hill to select a dance band (Phoenix, most likely). Complimentary room needs were discussed. Pete Neconie reported that Pete Yazzie is handling booths at the powwow which will cost \$150. Mitchell asked for and received permission to mail inaugural ball invitations to the 325 persons on our mailing list. He expects he can do the project in about a week. Nedra asked that we print 400 invitations as she can send some to Capitol Hill. Our thanks to those of you who brought food/snacks to the meeting. It is very much appreciated. The next meeting will be held on December 18, 7 pm at Hunton & Williams.

Dec 13 – AIS member Keevin Lewis hosted a benefit reception in recognition of the Iroquois Indian Museum at his home in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood in Washington, DC. This museum is located in Howe's Cavern, NY. Guests included the following: Annabelle Toledo, Faye Lone, Thomas Steiver, Randall Simmons, Novaline Wilson, Bryan, Candace Donald, Francene Blythe, Wanda Johnson, and of course, Keevin. The reception raised \$301 for the museum.

Dec 14 – The AIS hosted its annual Christmas party at the Burgundy Community Center in outer Alexandria, VA. Sunny Drew acted as our resident hostess. After a feast featuring fried chicken, roast turkey, meatloaf, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, relish tray, enchiladas, cornbread, cookies, coffee and soft drinks, a gift exchange was held. A door prize of a homemade wreath by Karen Collins was won by Tia Gibbs. Steve Hill gave the opening prayer before dinner and led the group in a special prayer for Jim Armagost. Those present, not already named, were Michael Nephew, Karen/Manuel Rodriguez, Faye Lone, Eloise Giordano, Eve Hill, Phil/Cathi/Alexis Hill, Tim Hill/Tammy Umbel, Nicklaus Hill, Marietta Van Pelt/Cody Adams, Vanessa Van Pelt/Maya & Brooklyn Winfield, Johnny Drew, Raven/Petey Hill, Keevin Lewis, Annabelle Toledo, Pete Homer and Verde Halley/Brandy Berger/Mitchell Bush. Keevin announced that three of our scholarship recipients (Johnny/Vanessa/Cathi) were present. Our thanks to Sunny/Karen Collins/Manuel/Karen/Verde/Brandy/Mitchell who helped setup the tables/chairs and put table cloths on tables and to all those who helped clean up when we were ready to leave.

Dec 15 – Fort A. P. Hill unveiled an interpretive sign on Mill Creek which flows through the military post. The sign informs visitors of the Indian tribes which once lived around Mill Creek and

tells about plants and wildlife native to the area. Representing the Rappahannock Tribe were Chief Ann Richardson, Faith Fortune and Wanda Fortune (who works at AP Hill). Deanna Beacham represented the Virginia Council on Indians. The Caroline Progress reported on the event in its December 18 edition.

Dec 17 – The PRIDE dancers performed for the NIH Summit at the Gaylord Hotel & Convention Center in the newly opened National Harbor complex near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Clayton Old Elk gave the invocation. PRIDE dancers were Ciera/Leah/Raven Hill, Alexis Hill, Cody Adams, Cheyenne/Rob Jr. Van Pelt. Mitchell Bush served as emcee. The group danced to taped music. Along for moral support (and chauffeur duty) were Phil/Cathi Hill, Marietta VanPelt, Theresa Hill/Mike Beatty and Deysi Lopez and her friend. There were several Indians among the NIH folks.

Dec 18 – Mitchell Bush/Brandy Berger spent the afternoon labeling, stamping and sealing American Indian Inaugural Ball (AIIB) invitations being mailed to AIS members. When they finished, Mitchell took the invitations to the post office for mailing on his way to Tysons Corner to attend the AIIBC meeting. The AIIBC meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Homer. Also in attendance were Nedra Darling, Karen Collins, Steve Hill/Tia Gibbs, Cherie Seibert, Sam Wakefield, Mary Sunbeam, Joyce Wakefield, Sonny Fields, Pete Neconie, Juanita Neconie, Manuel Recio, James Ward, Eloise Giordano, Evans Craig, Kristine Poafpybitty, Michael Nephew, Keevin Lewis, John Danner, Joanna Stancil, Faye Lone, Mitchell Bush and Michael Woestchoff (Navajo). Juanita opened the meeting with a prayer. Tia read the minutes of the last meeting. Committee reports were given. Mary reported on volunteers. Pete Neconie on the pow wow, Sam on security, Nedra on publicity and her efforts to have the ball sanctioned. Keevin reported on the silent auction, Steve Hill on entertainment, John on the filming/video development, and t-shirts were discussed and Sonny presented a proposal on t-shirts. The next meeting will be at the law office on December 29.

Dec 21 - “Well there are some things that must be kept private. But some things are just too good to keep to ourselves. They need to be shared with everyone.” Another native told me that once during a discussion about certain tribal ceremonies that are now shared with others. There is a common belief that we started as one people. Then we grew and traveled to the four directions, settling in different places developing different lifestyles, languages and customs according to need. But despite the diversity that has evolved, there are some beliefs and practices that cultures should share in common. And there are times when we need to come together to celebrate those commonalities. With that in mind, Peruvian born Inka descendent Ricardo Sanchez created a program to help people of all cultures to regain balance in their lives by sharing the two sacred keystones of the Inka tradition: living in community (AYLLU) and Reciprocity (AYNI). To help people gain balance in their lives, and reconnect with nature and the Creator, he conducts monthly workshops, bi-annual Qhapaq Raymi (Winter Solstice) and Inti Raymi (Summer Solstice) ceremonies, and excursions to Inka ancestral sites in Peru. (See <http://www.inkawisdom.org/>). A Despacho ceremony (Kintukuy) was conducted at the home of Tom Noll in Manassas on Dec. 21 to celebrate the Inka holiday of Qhapaq Raymi. It was a multi-cultural/multi-national gathering devoted to the theme of spiritual renewal, giving thanks, and enhancing understanding between cultures. Local natives and AIS members in attendance included Shelia/Curt Hanson, Evans Craig, Marie Taylor, Elizabeth Peterson and Kathleen Dorn. Ricardo can be contacted at info@inkawisdom.org Submitted by Kathleen Dorn.

Dec 22 – Karen Collins hosted a lunch in honor of her birthday at the new Iverson’s Restaurant in Ladysmith, VA. Guests included Chuck/Judy Gray, Verde Halley and Mitchell Bush.

Dec 25 – On a sunny but chilly day, members of Red Crooked Sky, an Indian dance troupe, participated in the Ukrops Super Value Christmas Parade held in Richmond, VA. The troupe members were traditional, fancy shawl, jingle dancers. The television coverage did not show whether a drum accompanied the dancers or whether they had taped music. Thanks, folks, for representing us well.

Dec 26 – Karen Collins, Chuck/Judy Gray, Herb Bush/Brandy Berger and Mitchell Bush met at the Stafford Diner for breakfast/coffee. They discussed the menu for the February Boys Birthday dinner to be held on February 1 at the diner. Karen also mentioned seeing Dr. Mitchell Bush from the Smithsonian on television. Dr. Bush has worked at the National Zoo for many years.

Dec 29 – The AIIBC met at the Hunton & Williams law offices in Tysons Corner, VA. Present were Pete Homer (Chair), Karen Collins, Nedra Darling, Cherie Siebert, Manuel/Karen Rodriguez, Dave Henderson, Evans Craig, Juanita Neconie, Donita Neconie, Sonny Fields, Joanna Stancil, Michael Woestchoff, Pete Neconie, Faye Lone and Mitchell Bush. Several of the committee chairs were absent but we did discuss the pow wow, bank deposits/tickets/registrations/ silent auction, publicity/programs and other pressing issues. Primarily, we asked Tia Gibbs to send us (email) copies of the entertainers’ contracts because of a problem with the Hard Rock group over Joanne Shenandoah’s performance. We discussed the budget and suggested several ways to lower budget. Near the end, Pete Homer brought up an email from Faye Lone. Faye was apparently seeking information about the lady who was to sing the National Anthem. The lady and her backers, however, withdrew their plans to participate in the inaugural ball. The next meeting will take place at the Hyatt Regency on January 6, 7 pm.

WHAT’S NEW

Our thanks to Judith and Walter Jones for donating \$150 (\$50 each) to AIS scholarship, general and property funds; Marie Taylor and Lieutenant Colonel Miles who each donated \$100 to our general fund, Gary and Kathleen Scholl for their \$50 donation to our general fund; and to the Pitingoro Family and Shawna Robbins for general fund donations, and Carolyn Lewis and Les LoBaugh for scholarship fund donations... We received a note from Cletis Harper who is doing fairly well and is enjoying being home with daughter Kathy/Willie and enjoying the wildlife on the property. He asked that his thanks for remembering him in your thoughts and prayers be passed on – he misses everyone.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AIS Meetings 1 st Wed. of every month: Feb 4/Mar 4/Apr 1/May 6/June 3/Jul 1/Aug 5/Sep 2/Oct 7/Nov 4/Dec 2 The Church of St. Clement Episcopal, 1701 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA
Baltimore American Indian Center Cultural Classes – Tuesdays from 6:00-9:00 pm Baltimore American Indian Center, 113 South Broadway, Baltimore, MD
AIS MEMBERSHIP DUES/SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS ARE DUE. \$20 Family Membership/\$15 Individual Membership/\$17 newsletter subscription only. Memberships include 1 newsletter subscription. Send to: American Indian Society of Washington DC, PO Box 6431, Falls Church, VA 22040-6431
Mar 7 – Lawilowan American Indian Festival, Carlisle Expo Center, 100 K Street, Carlisle, PA 17013 (across from Carlisle Fairgrounds). Info, contact Arvil Meisenhelter at walksas1one@yahoo.com , 717-817-6421 or Noni Nickerson at ManyHawks@comcast.net , 717-776-1075
Aug 8-9, 2009 - SAVE THE DATE: American Indian Inter-Tribal Cultural Organization (AIITCO) 2009 Pow Wow. NEW LOCATION: Calvert County Fairgrounds, 140 Calvert Fair Drive, Prince Frederick, MD 20678. Camping for vendors/dancers on grounds. Info: email tsalagi1947@msn.com or call AIITCO's voice line for updates: 301-869-9381
SEE WEBSITE FOR LISTING OF UPCOMING EVENTS 2008 www.aisdc.org

American Indian Society of Washington, DC
Minutes – January 7, 2009
The Church of St. Clement - Episcopal, Alexandria, Virginia

President Michael Nephew called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. The following members were present: Mitchell Bush, Karen Collins, Evans Craig, Nedra Darling, Brenda DesMoines, Barbara Drifmeyer, Eloise Giordano, Keevin Lewis, Faye/Naqua/Nayko Lone, Pete Neconie, Juanita Neconie, J. Winter Nightwolf/Rita Ayeni, Nicole PastorKovich, Karen Rodriguez, Riccaree/Cynthia/Tiombe/Tahj Vaughan and John Wigle. Several guests were present and introduced: Amy Hunt, Hawk, John Shook, Rhett Robinson and Samuel Lauther. Juanita Neconie offered the opening prayer.

The minutes of the December 3, 2008 meeting were read by Karen Mallicoat-Rodriguez and approved with one correction – it was Michael Nephew who initially extended the inaugural ball/powwow invitation to President-elect Obama. Faye Lone gave the treasurer's report of AIS accounts.

Old Business: Keevin reported that all but three scholarship checks have been sent... Mitchell reported on the Christmas party... AIIBC met with the Hyatt and trimmed the bill, partly due to the Seminole Tribe of Florida picking up sound costs. Developed the Memorandum of Agreement with the Seminole Tribe and met at the hotel with Native Music Rocks. The 10 year old youth star search winner will sing after Joanne Shennandoah sings the *Star Spangled Banner* at the ball. T shirts with the name the Crow people gave President Elect Obama will be sold at the pow wow and ball. Both powwow and ball programs will be sold. Pete reported on the powwow and its fundraising efforts. Motion Barbara Drifmeyer that \$1500 from t-shirt sales go to powwow, seconded by Brenda DesMoines and carried unanimously. Rick West donated \$500 to the powwow on behalf of La Donna Harris and a special will be done. 10 or more drums are expected and food basket donations are requested – contact Pete Neconie or bring to the community potluck the powwow committee is hosting on January 18 at Lincoln Park Community Center. Please bring a dish. AIS will donate paper products in stock. The potluck is an opportunity for the local Indian community and powwow/Inaugural Ball staff, sponsors, participants to meet before inaugural events and to welcome those coming here for inaugural events. Nedra thanked Pete Neconie for the great job he is doing with the pow wow. Our ball was not selected as one of ten sanctioned balls by the Presidential Inaugural Committee but is one of over 40 inaugural balls in the area listed at inauguralballs.dc.gov website. The Presidential Inaugural Committee requested we do a service to the community event – probably a blanket dance. AIIB Press release will go out next week. Importance of coming out in the black was stressed. Brenda DesMoines donated a book of Edward Curtis photos for the scholarship silent auction... Juanita Neconie has been working with AIS Princess Tiombe Vaughan at Blackbear drum practices. Tiombe gave a speech – met with applause. She'll practice at Bel Air pow wow this weekend. Pete Yazzi has the AIS crown and a sash is

being made. The Vaughan's thanked Juanita for her help and a motion by John Wigle that Juanita be designated by AIS as the representative responsible for the princess was carried unanimously. It was suggested that outgoing princesses help incoming princesses... There will be a round dance from 4-5 on January 17 at NMAI.



New Business – Hawk of Buffalo Messengers spoke about the white and black buffalos born in southwest Pennsylvania (about 4 hours from DC), their significance, the organization's mission, and extended an invitation to visit and pray. They will have a June 19-20 powwow at which Bill Miller will play and they invited the AIS booth and members. They have an outdoor amphitheater they offered where they would like to host a two day Native music festival. Buffalo Messengers website: www.buffalomessengers.org. Buffalo Messengers was invited to set up a table at the inaugural powwow and we will link to their website from ours to help them get their message out... Jay Nightwolf introduced his daughter Rita who works for the U.S. Census. Rita spoke about the census history, importance of outreach to Native communities, and that Native peoples identify themselves on the census. Jobs are coming available and Rita will forward information on the census and jobs to go out via email. Census job information at 1-866-861-2010 or www.2010censusjobs.gov. An information table at the powwow was offered... AIS will purchase 12 tables to be used at Indian Pines which can be used for Inaugural events to save on number of tables rented from hotel... Evans Craig received a call from elders requesting he coordinate an Elders Talking Circle as part of inaugural events. NCAI will provide gift baskets and a room at the Hyatt. Members voted to incorporate the Elder's Talking Circle into the Inaugural activities and sanction it this year on Sunday, Jan 18, from 7-10 pm at the Hyatt. Volunteers and donations of blankets requested–AIS princess will help... Jay Nightwolf invited Michael Nephew, Nedra Darling and Pete Neconie to call in Friday for 10 minutes air time on his radio show and to go to the studio at 7 pm the following Friday to tape a show for DC TV... John Wigle's work limits what he can do as Legal Advocate for AIS and he is looking for a lawyer or paralegal to help out – T. Carter and Cherie Seibert were suggested. John will work on AIIB video letter of agreement and will review bylaws. Discussed AIS policy that people remain alcohol free at meetings/events when representing AIS, including the ball where alcohol will be available. Those working the ball will be made aware of the policy.

Announcements – Longtime AIS member Chuck Emery passed away last Sunday.

Having no further business, John Wigle made a motion, seconded by Karen Collins, and carried unanimously to adjourn at 10:40 pm. The next meeting will be February 4, 2009, at the Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Mallicoat-Rodriguez – Secretary

 <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>AMERICAN INDIAN SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC P.O. Box 6431 Falls Church, VA 22040-6431 Website: http://www.aisdc.org</p> </div> 
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American Indian Society of Washington DC

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