

November 8-11, 2013
Ancient Voices - Contemporary Contexts Forum
Caring for Earth for Our Common Future
Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico

This is a period of vast change in the world as ancient ice melts, ocean levels rise, and weather patterns become ever more erratic. These are not unexpected changes. Much of what is happening today was predicted in the teachings and prophecies of the indigenous peoples of North and South America. Now those prophecies can tell us a great deal about what still lies ahead. You can share in this wisdom at the sixth Ancient Voices - Contemporary Contexts Forum: Caring for Earth for Our Common Future. You will hear the teachings and prophecies as told by Native American Elders from the four directions. You can explore the alternative endings to the stories and thereby learn what you can do to help bend the path into the future.



The American Indian Institute & Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth



American Indian Institute
502 West Mendenhall Street
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Ancient Voices - Contemporary Contexts

A People's Cross-Cultural Forum at Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico
Please join the conversation.



Chimney Rock formation at the Ghost Ranch

Understanding Our Responsibilities

The spiritual voice of the Elders, with its holistic view of environmental and social responsibility, offers a way back to understanding our responsibilities to Earth, each other, and the generations yet to come.

An Unprecedented Gathering

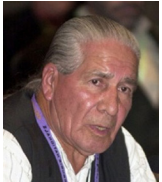
Seldom do so many traditional grassroots spiritual leaders of Indigenous nations of North and South America come together to share their cultural and spiritual wisdom with non-Native people. Contemporary social and environmental problems are in desperate need of alternative approaches. The traditional Native perspective offers new ground from which to address these issues.

The voice of Elders is an ancient voice with deep spiritual roots.

Participants at the *Ancient Voices* Forum will have an opportunity to share in the perspective of traditional Native American leaders and together will:

- Explore common concerns about the human condition in modern times.

Traditional Speakers



Oren Lyons, Joagquisho, Faithkeeper, Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation, is a clear, persistent and respected voice for Indigenous peoples throughout the world.

His perspective is known and valued by business leaders, environmentalists, artists, academics, politicians, spiritual leaders, entertainers, and athletes from around the world. He is equally well known to traditional leaders among numerous Indigenous communities. His message of peace proclaims that human beings can no longer afford to act irresponsibly toward Creation; nor can people of the modern world continue to disregard the messages emanating from Indigenous peoples.



Leonard Little Finger, Miniconjou Lakota, great-great grandson of Sitanka (Chief Big Foot), is an educator, Lakota elder, and founder of Lakota Circle Village and the Sacred Hoop School in Oglala, SD. The Sacred Hoop School is dedicated to Lakota language preservation and teaching the traditional Lakota values and principles to elementary aged children.

Highly regarded as a presenter for Native American rights throughout the world, Leonard has twice been a representative and presenter to the United Nations Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva and has presented at the Bundestag in Bonn, Germany.

He has spent a lifetime studying and conducting research into the Wounded Creek Massacre of 1890, where 30 of his 37 relatives died.



Mindhahi Crescencio Bastida Muñoz, General Coordinator of the Otomi Alto Lerma Regional Council in Mexico, advisor to the Provost of UAM-Unidad Lerma, President of the Mexican Council on Sustainable Development and General Coordinator of the Otomi del Alto Lerma Regional Council. He was official Delegate of Mexico to the World

Summit of Johannesburg and Indigenous Peoples Delegate at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Mindhahi has written extensively on the relationship between the State and Indigenous Peoples, intercultural education, intellectual property rights, and associated traditional knowledge, among other topics. In 2013, he was elected as Steering Committee member of the IPCC (Indigenous Peoples' Biocultural Climate Change Assessment Initiative).

- Seek ways of living within the natural capacities of the Earth.
- Recognize what the future holds for our children, and explore alternatives.

The messages of ancient indigenous voices are relevant to today's world, and may hold keys to our common survival. This three-day Forum offers participants a unique opportunity to sit with the most revered traditional voices from Indian country – to hear first-hand their perspectives and concerns, and to explore these ideas in close dialogue.

The Elders begin each day in ceremony of thanksgiving. An Elder address follows, laying the foundation for discussions in small group sessions, each led by one or more traditional leaders. These sessions provide the opportunity for close exploration and discussion of traditional indigenous wisdom and its modern relevance and implications.

Afternoons are devoted to small group activities related to indigenous cultures.

Other speakers and discussion leaders include:

Danny Blackgoat, Diné (Navajo). Danny is a linguist, Navajo language educator and a life-long resister of forced relocation.

Vickie Downey, Tewa/Tesuque Pueblo, an educator who travels extensively in the U.S. lecturing on the values of Native-American families and communities. She is a team co-coordinator with Tewa Women United, an independent Native woman-run non-profit organization working in the Northern Pueblos of New Mexico.

Jose Lucero of the White Corn and Winter Clan Family at Santa Clara Pueblo. Jose teaches Agricultural Education at Espanola Valley High School, Espanola, NM. He works with youth at the Pueblo and is a traditional farming mentor.

Geraldine Patrick is a member of the Otomi-Hñahñu Regional Council in Mexico. She is an in-depth researcher into the ancestral ways of conceiving cycles and measuring time in Mesoamerica. She brings extensive knowledge of astronomical implications that led the Otomi and Maya to pick 2012-2013 as the time for the closing and opening of great cycles.

General Forum Schedule

November 8 – Friday

Forum Registration, Check in, Dinner

November 9 - Saturday

*Sunrise Ceremony, Breakfast, Opening Ceremony, Plenary Welcome and Orientation
Elder Address, Discussion Circles
Cultural Sessions and Outdoor Activities*

November 10 - Sunday

*Sunrise Ceremony, Elder Address, Plenary Discussion
Elder Address, Cultural Activities, Discussion Circles*

November 11 - Monday

Sunrise Ceremony, Elder Address, Participant-led Group Discussions, Plenary Concluding Roundtable, Closing Ceremony

November 12 - Tuesday

Feast Day Dances at either Taytsugeh Pueblo or Walatowa (Jemez) Pueblo

The *Ancient Voices - Contemporary Contexts* series of forums series is a program of the American Indian Institute, 502 West Mendenhall Street, Bozeman, Montana 59715. For more information call 406-587-1002 or visit www.twocircles.org.