

Who Should Attend?

Anyone interested in participating in a dialogue about new perspectives of living in harmony with each other and the natural world. Community, business, and religious leaders, educators, students, opinion leaders – all are invited.

An Unprecedented Gathering

Seldom have so many traditional grassroots spiritual leaders of Indigenous nations of North 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 the 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 our common concerns about the human condition in modern times.
- * Seek ways of living within the natural capacities of the earth.
- * Recognize what the future holds for our children, and explore alternatives.



Ancient Voices - Contemporary Contexts Forum

The ancient indigenous voice is 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 will begin each day in ceremony of thanksgiving. A keynote address will follow, laying the foundation for discussions in small group sessions, each led by a pair of traditional leaders.

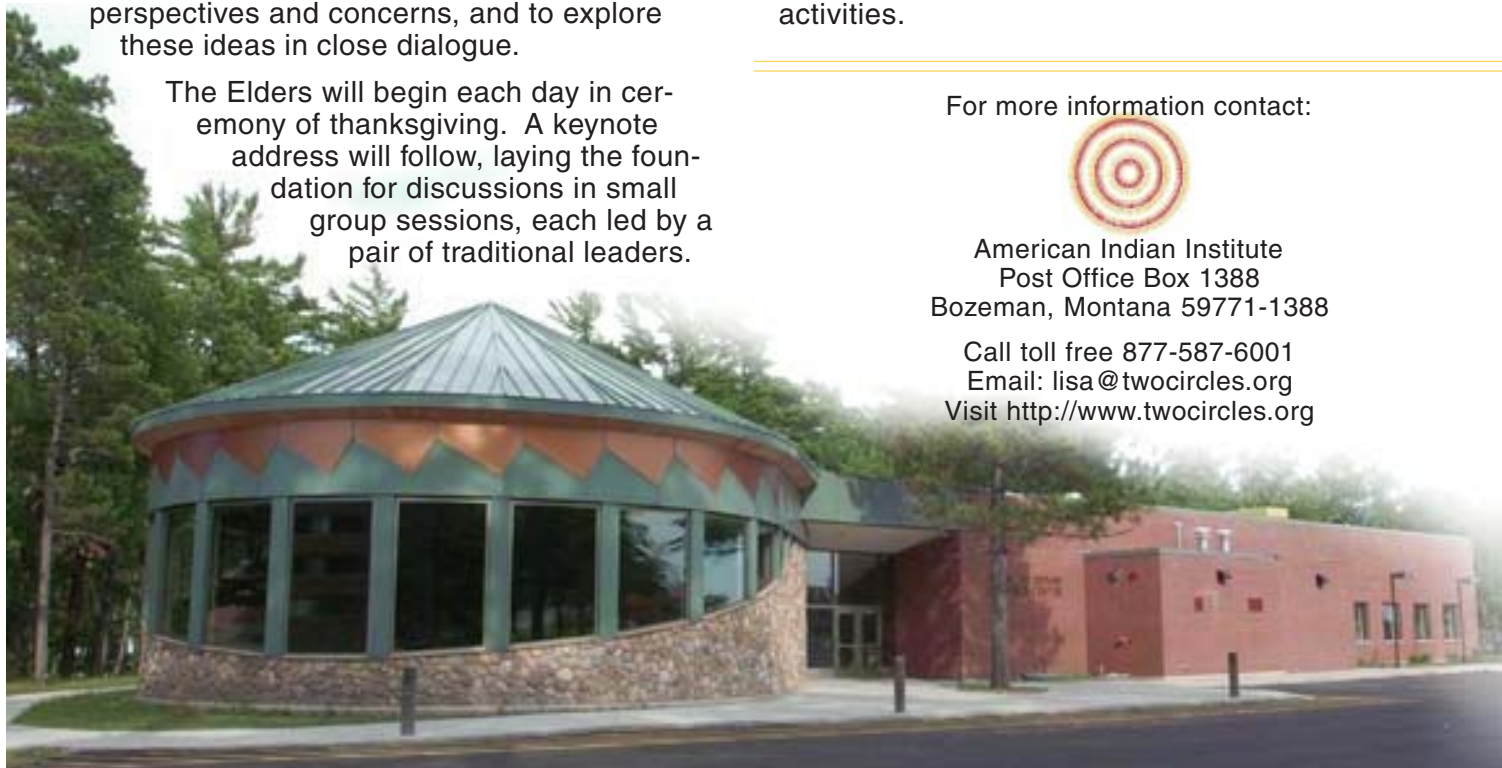
These sessions provide the opportunity for close exploration and discussion of traditional indigenous wisdom and its modern relevance and implications. Evenings will include celebrations involving Native storytelling, drumming, dancing and other cultural activities.

For more information contact:



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The unique American Indian Resource Center facility was designed by AmerINDIAN Architecture, Dennis Sun Rhodes, Arapahoe.

Ancient Voices Contemporary Contexts

A People's Cross-Cultural Forum

You are invited to join Native America's most eloquent traditional spokespersons in a unique conversation and exploration of indigenous wisdom and its relevance to the social and environmental crises of today.

June 23-25, 2006

American Indian Resource Center, Bemidji, Minnesota

Keynote Presenters

Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper, Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation



Oren Lyons is a clear, persistent, and respected voice for the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy), and for Indigenous people throughout the world.

Lyons, whose clan name is Joagquisho, was born in 1930. He attended Traditional Ceremony throughout his childhood on Onondaga Nation Territory in Central New York. In 1967, after successfully pursuing careers away from the Nation as an educator and artist, he returned to the Onondaga Nation, at the request of Clan-mothers, to be raised as a Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan.

He has spoken to world famous environmentalists, artists, academics, businessmen, politicians, spiritual leaders, entertainers, and athletes in world forums. He is equally well known to traditional leaders among various Indigenous communities all over the world. He has traversed this world with a critical eye on all that serves to degrade and destroy the natural world. His message of peace is that human beings can no longer afford to act irresponsibly toward Creation; nor can people of the Modern World continue to disregard the messages coming from Indigenous people.

Wilma Mankiller, former Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma



Wilma Mankiller served for two years as the first female elected deputy chief and for ten years as first female principal chief of the 220,000 member Cherokee Nation. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, the International Women's Hall of Fame, the Minority Business Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame, and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. She has 18 honorary doctorates from universities, including Yale, Dartmouth and Smith Colleges. She was a Chubb Fellow at Yale and a Montgomery Fellow at Dartmouth. She served as the Morse Chair Professor of Law and Politics at the University of Oregon in the fall of 2005. She has presented more than 100 lectures at universities and published more than a dozen papers in journals and newspapers. She is one of a handful of Native American recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

She is a trustee of the Ford Foundation, the Freedom Forum and the Newseum, a Museum of the News. She serves on the external diversity advisory board for Merrill Lynch. She co-edited "A Reader's Companion to the History of Women in the U.S.", Houghton-Mifflin, co-authored, *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People*, St. Martin's Press, and her newest book, *Every Day is a Good Day* was published by Fulcrum Press in the fall of 2004.

John Mohawk, Seneca, author, professor at the Center for the Americas, State University, Buffalo



John Mohawk served as a delegate for the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy to the conflict on the Ganienkeh Indian Territory in 1975. He represented Akwesasne Notes during a fact-finding trip to Teheran, Iran, during the American Embassy hostage crisis in 1980. He was a founding board member of the Seventh Generation Fund and the Indian Law Resource Center. He was a negotiator for the Mohawk Nation at the Crisis at Racquette Point in 1981. He was also an active member of the Seneca Nation's Salamanca Lease Committee and helped to negotiate the settlement that became the 1988 Salamanca Settlement Act. In 1990 he was designated a representative

from the Haudenosaunee to the Oka Crisis in Southern Quebec. He is widely recognized as a leading scholar of Seneca culture and history. He is author of dozens of newspaper and magazine articles and received the Native American Journalism Association Best Historical Perspective of Indigenous People Award in 2000 and 2001. His latest book is *Iroquois Creation Story: John Arthur Gibson and J.N.B Hewitt's Myth of the Earth Grasper*. He teaches a wide range of courses including Topics in Cultural History, American Indian History, Native American Identity Crisis, American Indian Law, American Pluralism, and others.

Discussion Leaders

Small discussion groups will be led by a pair of traditional leaders, who include the three keynote presenters and other Elders from the Six Nations of the Northeast, the pueblos of the Southwest, and the tribes of the Northwest Coast and Great Plains.

When & Where

The *Ancient Voices – Contemporary Contexts* Forum will take place June 23-25, 2006 at the American Indian Resource Center at Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minnesota.

Co-sponsors are the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth, and the American Indian Institute of Bozeman, Montana.

General Forum Schedule

June 23

- Registration throughout the morning and afternoon
- Opening ceremony begins at 5:00 p.m.
- Plenary welcome & keynote address
- Dinner and social gathering

June 24

- Morning ceremony
- Breakfast
- Keynote address
- Discussion circles
- Buffet lunch
- Discussion circles
- Dinner followed by dancing & entertainment

June 25

- Morning ceremony
- Breakfast
- Keynote address
- Discussion circles
- Buffet lunch
- Discussion groups roundtable
- Forum assessment keynote
- Dinner followed by dancing & entertainment

