



## Chairman's Column



Wunee Keesuq Tribal family,

We have an amazing tribal nation. We are an intelligent, resourceful and committed people. I'm constantly reminded of this each day that I walk into our Community and Government Center. It also serves as a constant reminder of what we are working towards while in tribal council...a strong tribal nation that empowers our next generation to set the achievement bar a little higher.

We truly are here for the next seven generations and the work we've focused on over the past few months shows that we have not forgotten that point.

Yes, we continue to focus significant efforts towards the legislation that will forever protect our homeland. However, the point that is too often missed is that these efforts will result in a foundation to strengthen our culture and traditions. We made a huge step forward in May with the House passage of Tribal Bill HR 312. This legislation will ensure our children always have a home within their tribal community.

We've also taken more immediate steps over the past year to protect our homeland. In January we successfully delayed the planned development of Gooseberry Island. This was a monumental win for our wetland habitat and allowed us to focus on our Shellfish Farm that surrounds the

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## CNN Tackles National Day of Mourning

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the National Day of Mourning. To commemorate the event CNN's Victor Blackwell sat down with tribal leaders to understand the history.

It all started as residents of Plymouth, Massachusetts, prepared for a dinner in 1970 to mark the Mayflower landing, a leader of the Wampanoag that had feasted with the Pilgrims drafted a speech to deliver at the event.

"The Pilgrims had hardly explored the shores of Cape Cod for four days before they had robbed the graves of my ancestors and stolen their corn and beans," reads a line from the remarks that Aquinnah Wampanoag tribal leader Wamsutta Frank James had planned to give.

"When he presented it to them, they said, 'Well, we can't allow you to read that 'cause 90% of the people would walk out,'" Tall Oak, a tribal elder, recalled to Victor Blackwell

for CNN.

Wamsutta was asked to re-write the speech, but he refused. "So, he withdrew," Tall Oak said.

As word spread of that outcome, so was born the National Day of Mourning, a sort of counter-commemoration that happens every fourth Thursday of November.

Illustrations of what the first Thanksgiving might have looked like often depict Massasoit Ousamequin, the leader of the Wampanoag tribe, accepting an invitation from the Pilgrims of Plymouth to join them in a feast.

"There's this whole Norman Rockwell fantasy of what Thanksgiving was about, that it was this huge celebration between the first settlers and the tribes that sat down and talked, and that really wasn't the case," said Cedric Cromwell, chairman of the Wampanoag tribe.

## Apply Now for Tribe's AmeriCorps Program

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe AmeriCorps Program is now recruiting for the 2020 program year. AmeriCorps provides valuable life experience and skill development while on a team with fellow 18-24 year olds, earn money for college, and help your Tribal community while receiving a weekly pay stipend.

To set up an appointment for additional information and apply please contact AmeriCorps Assistant Program Manager/Emergency Preparedness Specialist Allyssa Hathaway at Allyssa.Hathaway@mwtribe-nsn.gov or at (508) 477-0208 Ext 166.

## Youth Basketball with Carlton Hendricks Starts January 11

Council Member Carlton Hendricks has organized co-ed youth basketball for tribal kids grades 3 – 6. Signup for basketball will be on Saturday, Jan 11 at 9:00 AM for youth in grades 3-4 and at 10:30 AM for youth in grades 5-6.

Basketball will continue on Saturdays from 9:00 – 10:30 AM for kids in grades 3-4 and from 10:30 AM to Noon for grades 5-6. This is for tribal youth only. For more information, please contact Council Member Carlton Hendricks at (774) 238-1075 or at chendricks@mwtribe-nsn.gov.

## New Events

December 8 - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Membership Meeting, *MWTCGC*

December 14 - 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
AmeriCorps Graduation, *MWTCGC*

December 21

Princess Toy Drive and Elders Brunch,  
*MWTCGC*

January 11 - 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Signups for co-ed basketball,  
*MWTCGC*

January 12 - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Membership Meeting, *MWTCGC*

## Weekly Events

Tuesdays - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Elders Lunch & Learn, *MWTCGC*

Tuesdays - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Volleyball, *MWTCGC*

Wednesdays - 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Tribal Health Yoga Classes with Yoga  
Neighborhood, *MWTCGC*

Thursdays - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Elders Lunch & Learn, *MWTCGC*

## Monthly Meetings

First Saturday of the Month - 11 a.m.  
Elders Meeting, *MWTCGC*

First Tuesday of the Month - 6:00 p.m.  
Chief's Circle, *Old Indian Meeting House*

## Food Pantry Hours

Monday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

## Peabody Essex Museum Hosts Unique Photo Shoot



On November 24 the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) hosted a catered social as a community give-back for tribal members participation in a truly unique exhibit, *Indigenous Photographic Exchange*. Photographer Will Wilson took tintype portraits of tribal members using the historic wet plate collodion process. Tribal members received the wetplate image in exchange for granting Wilson permission to use their portrait in future exhibits.

The lens used for the portraits



is 150 years old.

In addition to PEM and Will Wilson, Aquinnah Wampanoag Jonathan Perry worked to coordinate the community event. Catered food was provided by Sly Fox Den, owned by tribal member Sherry Pocknett.

For additional questions about the event or the *Indigenous Photographic Exchange* project, please contact Jonathan Perry at [jonathanperry.aquinnah@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanperry.aquinnah@gmail.com).

Save the Date  
Princess Toy Drive  
and Elders Brunch  
December 21, 2019

## Remembering Janet Grace Johnson 1948-2019

Janet Grace (Hines) Johnson was born on October 30th, 1948 to the late Frederick Shaw Hines, Sr. and Bertha Elizabeth Hines, in Louisville, Ky. Two days shy of her 71st birthday, Janet passed away on October 28th, 2019, surrounded by her loving family at the Rolling Hills Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in New Albany, IN. After a long and courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease, God saw best that it was time for Janet to rest in eternal peace. Janet was a life-long member of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ where she

served in several ministries during her early adult life.

Janet Grace embraced her Native American heritage, with great pride and humility. She included the Wampanoag Indian culture in her daily walk of life, as well as in her daughter and grandson. Janet's strong family roots were planted deep; cultivating a vine, producing a rich history and legacy that will continue to grow and strive.

## Marlene Lopez represents Rabbit Clan

Marlene Lopez, a Mashpee Wampanoag elder and Rabbit Clan mother carries on practices like finger weaving, used for centuries.

Last month she gave a demonstration of the practice at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls, Massachusetts.

The free event, sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Nolumbeka Project, gave attendees a chance to see Lopez demonstrate the art, weaving with only the fingers, without a loom, to create ceremonial sashes, garters and other items.

"It's not that difficult once you know what you're doing, but it's getting to that point," Lopez said.

Lopez shared designs of the Eastern Woodland and Plains people of Turtle Island from the 1700s, and demonstrated a style of finger weaving called "warp face," called such because only the warp strands show on the finished garment.

Designs discussed included



diamond, lighting, arrow and chevron patterns.

While the event was a demonstration, a large amount of time was spent talking about the importance of the woven items to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe — which are used and worn in religious ceremonies. The "spiritual" items are worn during prayers to help send messages to the Creator.

Also discussed was the importance of Lopez's role as a clan mother — a cultural position within the tribe that denotes an advisor and caretaker, among other roles.

## Junie Hendricks Makes Honor Roll

Junie "Swift Deer" Hendricks made honor roll for first term. He is a sophomore at Wareham High School. Junie is the son of Jody Santagate and Larry Hendricks of Wareham. The great grandson of Francis Cash Hendricks of East Falmouth and the grandson of the late Lawrence Hendricks III.

## Tribe to Hold AmeriCorps First Year Closeout Ceremony and Graduation on December 14

The first year class of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe AmeriCorps program ended their ten month service year at the end of November and will receive their certificates at a graduation ceremony on December, 14 from 11AM – 1PM at the MWT Community and Government Center. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

2019 Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe AmeriCorps Members Graduating Class includes Robert Hendricks

Jr, Steven Costa ,Dayla Fitzpatrick, and Joseph Spinola.

The program was led by team Leader Adam Jonas Jr under the Emergency Management Department direction of Assistant AmeriCorps Program Manager/Emergency Preparedness Specialist Allyssa Hathaway and AmeriCorps Program Director/Emergency Management Director Nelson Andrews Jr

## Four Winds Students Raise Money for Tribe

At Four Winds middle school in Greenfield, MA, Columbus Day was marked with a fundraiser for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

It all started last year, when students learned about the arrival of the Mayflower and the subsequent relationships between the European colonists and the natives, according to school Director Becca Lipton.

"It left all our students with this sense of European guilt, or something," she said.

Students and teachers brainstormed, and found out about Mashpee Wampanoag, a Native American tribe based on Cape Cod that is directly descended from the people who dealt with the Mayflower's colonists, Lipton said. The tribe was not federally recognized until 2007, and is still involved in legal battles over land rights, she said.

So, the school had a walkathon to raise money to donate to the tribe. The fundraiser was organized by the Four Winds' parents organization, which Lipton said is new as of September.

## Sasumuneash (Cranberry) Recipes and many stories from Aunt Joan Avant Tavares

Aunt Joan Avant Tavares has opened up her archives to share some seasonal recipes that include cranberries. She's also provided a short story about the cranberry and a special prayer and important thoughts on the state flag. You can also visit [www.mittark.com](http://www.mittark.com) for the full article and to print out the many recipes that she has shared with her Tribe.

## Co-Ed Volleyball on Tuesday Evenings

Co-Ed Volleyball has returned to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community and Government Center Gymnasium. Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. you can join family and friends for spirited games.

Co-Ed Volleyball was initiated by the MWT Tribal Health Department in 2012 to provide a fun, healthy activity for community members of all ages. After many years of strong attendance, participation began to dwindle. Thankfully, the success of the beach volleyball has re-ignited interest and indoor volleyball has returned.

## Chairman's Column (continued)

island. Thanks to additional grant funding we secured in March we were able to launch a Shellfish Farm Expansion Project. Our First Light Oysters provide a sustainable food source while cleaning our bay. Our connection to this land is sacred.

Education is another important pillar in our effort to lift the future generations. We have a strong education department with a grant funded Building Pathways program that provides the tools for our young men and women to succeed in higher education. And what can I say about our language program that you don't already know. Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project is amazing and the new yurt classroom allowed the immersion school to expand to grade 4.

I've also directed our tribal operations to continue to open up avenues for additional grant funding. I'm

proud to say that we increased funding from the BIA almost 100% from 2018-2019. We received almost \$1MM in funding from the BIA this fiscal year. We're stabilizing support for our service programs and now supporting staff positions and 2 mortgages with the increase in grant funding.

What we accomplish on a daily basis is broad and necessary. From housing development and quality health care to ICWA, our Tribal Nation is growing.

However, we need your help to track this growth. I realize this sounds like a tall task, but it's as simple as completing your 2020 Census Form in April. I need you and your family to stand and be counted. By doing this, you will make it clear that we are still here.

Kutâputunumuw;  
Chairman Cedric Cromwell  
Qaqeemasq (Running Bear)

## Old Indian Meeting House Committee Gives Thanks

Another Successful Native American Thanks Giving was held on Saturday, November 23. The Old Indian Meeting House Committee hosted a beautiful service at the church with a full house consisting of Tribal families and many guest from the Mashpee Community. .

Crowd favorites from the large buffet tables were Bernadine Pocknett's warm Indian Pudding; Corey Hendricks' fresh "First Light Oysters on the half shell and Buddy Pocknett's baked fish with vegetables and Erin Bassett's deer hindquarter provided

us with tons of venison stew. Our Tribal fishermen and hunters supported us with their generous donations of food and their time. Thank you so much – you went above and beyond. And the drummers performed their much appreciated Tribal songs.

We hope everyone enjoyed this annual celebration that showed off our beautiful historic meeting house and the generosity the Mashpee Wampanoag have shown their visitors for centuries.

## Construction Began on Native American Veterans Memorial



Work began last month on the National Mall to establish a long-sought memorial recognizing the military service of Native Americans – service that many in the United States remain unaware of, according to leaders of the project.

Mashpee Wampanoag tribal members have served and sacrificed honorably for the United States of America in every conflict since the Revolutionary War.

## "Our" Story Wampanoag History Exhibit Unveils New Chapter: The Return of Tisquantum

"Our" Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History, an educational and cultural exhibit about the Wampanoag tribe, unveiled a new chapter "Tisquantum Returns" last month. The new chapter was officially unveiled at the Tantaquidgeon Museum

in Uncasville, Connecticut. The new section features three panels and a 7-minute video depicting Tisquantum's return to the Patuxet village after the Great Dying in 1619

You may view the video online at [www.mittark.com](http://www.mittark.com).