“Language Art History”

LANGUAGE - ART - HISTORY
BE A PART OF OUR NATION'S FIRST CULTURAL WEEK
MAY 31, JUNE 4, 2004
IN WYANDOTTE, OKLAHOMA

By Sallie Cotter Andrews

At our pow wow in September 2003, a group of members from our nation and The Wyandot Nation of Kansas met with Chief Bearskin and Second Chief Jim Bland to discuss our tribal culture and how we might better share with everyone the information that is available. A Cultural Committee was formed, and plans were made for our first Cultural Week. The dates for this event are May 31 through June 4, 2004, in Wyandotte, Oklahoma, at the Tribal Center.

During Cultural Week, tribal members of our four nations (The Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma, The Wyandot Nation of Kansas, The Wyandot Nation of Anderdon, and The Huron Wendat of Wendake Canada) are invited to come together to meet, study and learn from each other. Several experts will be with us including Bruce Pearson, a linguist from Columbia, South Carolina, and Michael Espinola of Wendake who will help us with our language.

Cultural Week is open to tribal members only and their spouses, not the general public. Members of the Seneca/Cayuga Nation of Oklahoma are also invited because they have always extended an invitation to our nation to participate in their ceremonies. This is a time of learning for us. We realize that some of our people may not be able to attend for the whole time, and everyone is welcome to come for however long they can participate.

There is no charge to participate. You should bring a notebook and materials for recording what is presented.

The Cultural Committee has been working very hard via email since September to do several things. First, we have discussed what areas of study are important to us; we have determined where we need to begin to better educate ourselves to gain a deeper understanding of our culture; and we have been making plans for "Cultural Week." On March 22 and 23 the committee met in person to finalize plans for Cultural Week and presented an outline to Chief Bearskin and the Board of Directors for approval. It was approved!

Our schedule will begin with a welcome cookout at the pow wow grounds on Monday evening, May 31. Tribal members may camp there. On Tuesday morning we will begin our Cultural Week program focusing on Language, Art and History. Tuesday evening we will enjoy a traditional dinner provided by the Wyandotte Nation of Kansas. Wednesday and Thursday we will continue our studies with optional evening activities available, too. On Friday, we will conclude our first Cultural Week.

If you have had a desire in your heart to experience your Wyandotte heritage at a deeper level, to learn the basics of our language, to get a grasp of our historical timeline, and to express yourself through traditional forms of art, then take time to be a part of this first Cultural Week. You'll never regret it. By spending even one day at Cultural Week, you will have a big start on your personal journey. For more information and to let us know you are coming, please visit www.wyandotte-nation.org or return the form in the newsletter to the Tribal Center.

"Working on plans for Cultural Week - May 31 through June 4 - are (l - r) Richard Zane Smith, Sherri Clemens, Sallie Andrews, Lloyd Divine, Ronnie Burnside and Juanita McQuistion. Patty Garrison also met with the committee. The committee met for two days and presented a plan to Chief Bearskin and the Board of Directors, which was approved."
Monday, May 31, 2004
3:30 p.m. - A time of gathering begins
5:30 p.m. - Cookout and covered dish dinner at the Pow Wow grounds hosted by the Cultural Committee
Evening - Social time

Tuesday, June 1
8:30 a.m. - Smoke ceremony - Dennis Smootherman
Morning prayers and thanksgiving - Richard Zane Smith, Wyandotte Nation of Kansas
9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Language study at the Tribal Center; Artie Nesvold Community Building (hosted by linguists Bruce Pearson and Michael Espinola)
11:30 to 12:30 - Lunch on your own
12:30 to 3:00 p.m. - Art demonstrations at the Twin Bridges Annex Building (pottery, beadwork, flint knapping, bow making, born rattles, hide tanning, and clothing)
3:30 to 5:00 p.m. - History, at the Twin Bridges Annex Building (1702 - 1843 hosted by Lloyd Divine, Wyandotte Nation of Kansas)
9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Language study at the Tribal Center; Artie Nesvold Community Building (hosted by Linguists Bruce Pearson and Michael Espinola)
11:30 to 12:30 - Lunch on your own
12:30 to 3:00 p.m. - Art demonstrations at the Twin Bridges Annex Building (pottery, beadwork, flint knapping, bow making, born rattles, hide tanning, and clothing)
3:30 to 5:00 p.m. - History, at the Twin Bridges Annex Building (1844 - Present hosted by Sallie Andrews, Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma History & Cultural Committees)
6:00 p.m. - Traditional Dinner at the Tribal Center - Chief Leofard Bearnisk, Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma to speak to all participants about our culture and traditions. All Chiefs present will be the to speak to participants.
Evening - Social time

Wednesday, June 2
8:30 a.m. - Smoke ceremony - Dennis Smootherman
Morning prayers and thanksgiving - Second Chief Jim Bland, Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma
9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Language study at the Tribal Center; Artie Nesvold Community Building (hosted by linguists Bruce Pearson and Michael Espinola)
11:30 to 12:30 - Lunch on your own
12:30 to 3:00 p.m. - Art demonstrations at the Twin Bridges Annex Building (pottery, beadwork, flint knapping, bow making, born rattles, hide tanning, and clothing)
3:30 to 5:00 p.m. - History, at the Twin Bridges Annex Building (1844 - Present hosted by Sallie Andrews, Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma History & Cultural Committees - Chief Steve Gronda of the Wyandott of Anderdon)
6:00 p.m. - Dinner on your own
7:30 p.m. - Special Night - Display of items from the Historical Office at the Tribal Center; Artie Nesvold Building presented by the Cultural Committee.
Evening Social Time

Friday, June 4
8:30 a.m. - Smoke ceremony - Dennis Smootherman
Morning prayers and thanksgiving Second Chief Jim Bland
Wrap up of 1st Cultural Week Language, Art and History
3:30 to 5:00 p.m. - History, at the Twin Bridges Annex Building (1844 - Present hosted by Sallie Andrews, Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma History & Cultural Committees - Chief Steve Gronda of the Wyandott of Anderdon)

Commentary:

Message (cont.)
literature of the language and commit as much of it as possible to memory. That doesn’t necessarily mean memorizing entire stories. It is enough to fix in mind certain phrases from key points in a story. Then, faced with a similar situation, you can say to yourself, “This is just like when the girl in ‘The Medicine Men’ said yehawi’ d’ uda’ tara’ (I carried off the breath).” A having fixed idea in mind, it becomes possible to substitute any other noun for “bread” to make similar statements. Test this in your own experience. We all know the words to familiar songs and can call up these words at will. If you had to memorize poems or lines from Shakespeare in school, chances are you still remember many of these passages. If you were ever in a school play, you may still remember many of the speeches you learned. Suppose you had memorized this in an unfamiliar language. You would still have a few key words and phrases at your disposal for building a full command of the language. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes. Children make mistakes all the time, but they are still understood. And eventually they correct themselves when it becomes important enough to them. A living language is always undergoing change. New words are added and old words fall into disuse. People find new ways of saying things because a living language needs to grow, and it belongs to the people who use it. Jump in and have fun! Come to Cultural Week.