Traditions And Ceremonies

By Jack White Eagle Shryock

Some time ago, Usdi Wohali and I attended an inter-tribal social dance in Miami, Oklahoma. There are eight tribes living in the Miami, Ok. Area. Most of them participate in the dances together whatever the event might be, such as competition, social, or a stomp dance. My memories while growing up near there is that most of these were social gatherings. Then, as well as now, they are spiritual events honoring our Creator. At the gathering that we attended, the announcer, whom I believe was of the Peoria tribe, made a statement that made a lasting impression on me. He said we do not know all that we would like to know of the ways of our ancestors, but we do the best that we can with what we do know.

This drew to my attention the fact that no matter how much or how little Native blood that we might have, we are all going through the never ending process of learning as we seek knowledge of the "old ways" and being aware of our spirit guides in the world around us that provide us with the means to live and thrive spiritually on the path we choose as individuals.

We must recognize the fact that if we do not teach our young people "the Ways as we know them", we are falling short in giving them an opportunity to learn so that when the time comes for them to step into leadership or ceremonial positions, they are prepared with the knowledge and spirituality to do so. Creating activities of interest in our band meetings and letting them know how important they are to us and to the future of our tribe.

For those who are unable to attend ceremonies at our National Grounds, ceremonies can still be done as a family or as individuals wherever they may be. If you are in an area where there is no band available and you wish to form a new band, the information of how to do this is available on our web site: www.SECCI.com. Or, if you do not have Internet services, you may contact me at 417-865-1834. Anyone not having the basic knowledge of how our ceremonies should be performed can contact any of our tribal council members for this information.

"Wado!"

Jack White Eagle Shryock,
Leader Of Bands # # #

David Singing Bear crosses over

David Singing Bear (Cherokee Holy Man) passed away on 12-31-2012

David Singing Bear pertained to the Medicine Keepers Band of the Southeastern Cherokee Council, located in Sedona, Arizona and derived from the Easter Band of Cherokees He was an international teacher, healer, historian, story teller and ceremonial leader. He created the Bioridian healing technique. He traveled extensively with his teachings and helped many people. He was a certified counselor, Reiki Master, and Doctor of Metaphysical Sciences.

David was loved and respected by every person he came in contact with. His heart was always open with grace and compassion to anyone in need of his help and healing ways. His wisdom an work truly rippled out into the Universe.

His memorial services was conducted by Band Chief Ayanvli Rick of the Medicine Keepers band of SeCCI located in Sedona, Arizona. Assisting in the service was Joseph Grey Wolf, and son Joshua Alan Hicks also assisted by representing Cherokee Veterans. # # #