

PATHWAYS TO SPIRIT

Volume 8 Issue 1

Spring 2004

REMEMBERING BELOVED SPIRITUAL LEADERS

The Passing of Wallace Black Elk and Selo Black Crow

It is with great sorrow that we give the news of the passing of two spiritual leaders and friends of Pathways to Spirit. Much support and wisdom was shared by these two men and they will be missed in more ways than we can express.

Wallace Black Elk made his journey on January 25, 2004. He leaves behind seven children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. At his wake in Evergreen, Colorado, his son Wesley, told us that his father wanted us to know that all of us who knew him were now his legacy. Wanbli Cikala was Grandfather Wallace's Lakota name. He became known to people around the world as "Grandpa Wallace", spiritual leader, medicine man, Sundance Chief, Elder and Advisor of many organizations. He walked on Mother Earth as *Mitakuye Oyasin* (we are all related).

We would like to pass on a tiny piece of wisdom he so often shared in his travels all around the world. Wanbli Cikala spent his entire life teaching about peace and love for all humanity. He said, "all the things you've done good for Him, for others, you'll be rewarded for what you did. And the Creator will have mercy on you and resurrect you from the dead and that robe he will save, like clean your robe and put it back on you, that will be your reward. And there will be no more death, no more pain, no more growing old, no more sickness. There won't be anybody there to collect rent, nothing. The joy and happiness will be with you forever. We're not here to

change the world or to conquer the whole world. We're here to conquer ourselves, to help each other so that we may live forever. So let's cut this out. No more of this- my way, your way, their way.....So the love is here, but we'll add more love towards it. So I think we should share that towards other people. Not here, not



today, but the remaining of our time. People will see this tomorrow and they will hear."

Selo Black Crow, made his journey on March 5, 2004. Grandfather Selo was an inspiration to all who knew him around the world. Grandfather also traveled the world fighting for the rights of the indigenous people of the Americas. He spoke often of his trips to Washington, D.C. to meet with President Ford and his representatives. Most of all, Grandfather Selo loved Mother Earth. He understood Her sacredness and life giving heart. He often spoke of the sacredness of all women because they are the life givers on this planet. He often said, "respect Mother Earth, respect your Mother and respect yourself."

Selo was often called upon by the elders and prophecy keepers of many nations for advice. In November of 2003, Grandfather gave the following message through the internet to all the world. "My friends, my relatives, maybe I want to tell you something that is very important. Remember to pray and honor

Earth Mother and change your whole way of life. Give thanks for everything and appreciate the oxygen that comes from the trees. The trees are dying so pray sincerely so the trees will not die. Mother Earth is trying to tell us something. Maybe Earth Mother is saying that she is trying to get back in balance. We have to expect more Spiritual Shock. Maybe some of us will listen to Earth Mother, maybe some of us won't. Earth Mother is our beginning-our home. Pray sincerely so she will be merciful to the children and future generations. What have we

done so this happened? Why is Earth Mother not in balance? What can we do to help? Pray, give thanks, change your whole way of life. Honor Earth Mother and nature and remember your reason for being here now." Selo spoke of the 5 keys of life:

- Understand
- Remember
- Realization of what you know
- Believe from your heart
- Identity to know and not think you know

We hope in sharing the wisdom of these very great men who walked on the Earth through extremely difficult times, that you will receive strength and courage to walk through difficult times in your life.

ONE STEP CLOSER

Library Plans Approved by Community Leaders

On April 6th, representatives of Pathways to Spirit met with community leaders of the Porcupine District on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Our purpose was to present the architectural drawings as well as discuss all matters concerning the library. We couldn't have wished for a more successful visit.

We expressed to the people of Porcupine that this was their library and we would like to form a partnership/friendship with their community for a very long time.

The following representatives were present at the meeting and we wish to thank them for welcoming us.

- **Philip Good Crow** - Oglala Sioux Tribal Representative
- **Dominic Running Hawk** - Porcupine District Chairman
- **Edgar Bear Runner** - Federal Program Monitor
- **Harvey Iron Boy** - Diabetes Prevention Program
- **Paul Iron Cloud** - Porcupine Health Clinic
- **Dean Applegarth** - Principal of the Porcupine School
- **Dwona Pourier** - Porcupine/RockyFord School Library Aide
- **Robert Clifford** - Editor of the Black Hills Peoples News

We presented the initial design along with a scale model of the building and discussed the needs of the community and how the library could serve them. All present agreed that we needed to ensure that the building honored tribal traditions, symbols and history and we had to make certain that the building responds to the site and weather conditions on the reservation. Also important was that the design be large enough to insure future growth of the community.

Edgar Bear Runner very poignantly

said, *"I see this library as a light at the end of the tunnel and ties directly into the survival of our tribe."* At that moment all the eyes in the room looked at me. I wished at that moment that all the Pathways supporters could have been present.

It was agreed that Pathways will construct the building, do the landscaping, interior work and fill it to the brim with books. The tribe will



From left: Philip Good Crow, Dominic Running Hawk, Harvey Iron Boy

insure the building, maintain and hire the necessary staff after it is built. We also decided on a lower level which would house the community archives. Bear Runner said, *"I envision a Native American Law Library here too. A place where students can study Federal Indian Law."*

We were told about the history of Porcupine and its chiefs. Paul Iron Cloud told us, *"there are still people that know these things. We would like to tape these things. This library is a gift from God. There is definitely a light at the end of the tunnel."* He added, *"The No Child Left Behind Act is critical, so our children are not left behind. We need to prepare them for the future. Just think what this library could do once built. And all the other districts will want one too."*

There are nine districts on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Districts are like

what we would call counties. We can only imagine having such a need.

It was decided to tie the library in with the local school. The principal agreed. Dean Applegarth told us that through national testing it was revealed that the children of the reservation are way below federal reading standards. Paul Iron Cloud said, *"Our children will never be successful at anything if they cannot read."*

We were concerned about finding a librarian for the reservation and were delighted to find out that Mr. Applegarth as well as his wife are certified librarians.

This is truly a historic moment for the Porcupine Community and Pathways to Spirit. We are asking now for your help as we prepare to break ground in 2005. Our grant writer is very busy preparing all the documents necessary for building funds.

We are now asking for your help also. Over the years, many have called and written regarding their desire to help in the building process. If you are serious about being a part of this historic project we ask you to go to our web site at: www.pathwaystospirit.org and click on the library icon. There you will find an application and commitment form. Either email or regular mail that to us as soon as possible.

We are looking for the following volunteers:

Skilled/Certified: Builders, framers, electricians, plumbers, roofers, dry-wallers, finish carpenters, landscapers, painters and we need a volunteer research assistant for our grant writer. Please call or go to the web site for a commitment form.

We thank you so much for all the support, advice and financial assistance you give to the library.

VISIT OUR BOOTH AT THE BOULDER CREEK FESTIVAL

JJ WELLS OF BOULDER PARTNERS WITH PATHWAYS

Bring your worn jeans and visit our booth at the Boulder Creek Festival on May 29, 30, & 31. JJ Wells, a Boulder women's clothing company, is partnering with Pathways to Spirit. Here's how it works. You bring your worn jeans, which will become part of a beautiful quilt made by native women, and you'll receive a discount coupon for JJ Wells. We will also have a jeans quilt on display.

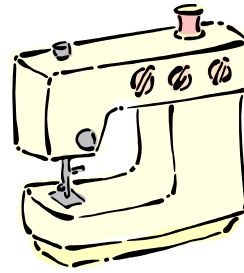
JJ Wells is an "Experience". Three women with a passion and a flair for fashion founded the store in 1982. The store, located at the Village Shopping Center on the corner of Folsom and Canyon, is designed to create a woman's shopping sanctuary that is authentic; where self-acceptance and internal beauty act to transform and enrich the client's life. They feature casual cloth-

ing, professional attire, unique evening-wear, and handcrafted jewelry. They cater to women who want to look fabulous and feel confident.

Even more unique is the fact that JJ Wells hosts a variety of special events each year providing opportunities for non-profits to receive community wide support and recognition.

When JJ Wells saw our jeans quilt, and heard about our other programs to support native people, they found it so charming that they wanted to be part of promoting Pathways to Spirit. They decided the Boulder Creek Festival was the perfect place for many thousands of people to experience who we are and what we do. We invite you to bring you family for a

day of fun and at the same time meet some of the Pathways volunteers, get rid of your worn jeans and maybe become a volunteer yourself.



The Boulder Creek Festival is in its 17th year and includes the Boulder Boulder Race. The three days of festivities encompass an eclectic mix of events including arts and crafts, outdoor equipment and services, health alternatives, children's activities

and technology as well as a whole section showcasing area non-profits.

Our booth will also feature native artists doing their crafts. So please join us in a weekend of fun and inspiration from creative community individuals.

SO YOU WANT TO HELP.....

Pathways has many opportunities to donate without putting out cash. Whether shopping on line for books, flowers or unique gifts, just go to our web site and into your favorite on-line stores through a click of the mouse. We'll receive a percentage and you can shop from the ease of your armchair. Remember, every little bit helps. We want to thank all who sent donations after receiving our last newsletter. A record was set for financial donations. We appreciate you all very much.

REMEMBERING WISDOM

Arvol Looking Horse, Keeper of the Sacred Bundle of the Lakota People said, "In the last hundred years the two-legged is the only species that is destroying our Mother Earth and all its inhabitants along with it. The knowledge that has been passed down is the key to change this path of dysfunction we are now on, to keep our spiritual center strong. I would like to see our sacred way of life return, along with all the other Indigenous People's bundles and ceremonies, so the future of our generations to come have a chance to witness the beauty of what our Mother Earth has to offer. May we live in Peace and Harmony."

YES! PLEASE COUNT ME AS A SUPPORTER OF PATHWAYS TO SPIRIT

4307 Goldeneye Drive, Ft. Collins, CO. 80526 (970) 282-8573 www.pathwaystospirit.org email: pathways@webaccess.net

Please make your tax-deductible donations payable to: Pathways to Spirit

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Enclosed is my contribution of _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other

Earmark my contribution for General Operating Budget _____ Moving Mobile Home _____ Native American Sewing _____

Library Building Fund _____

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR NEW ADDRESS WHEN YOU MOVE AS BULK MAIL IS NOT FORWARDED!



A COLORADO NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

4307 Goldeneye Dr.
Ft. Collins, CO 80526
(970) 282-8573

www.pathwaystospirit.org
Email: pathways@webaccess.net

MOBILE HOMES ON THE MOVE

Mobile homes continue to move to the reservation for the homeless. For our new readers, there are 40,000 people on Pine Ridge and according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 40% are homeless. Pictured here is a small shack which housed 6 people until a few weeks ago. After seeing this family live this way, we got them a home in 2 days.

We often wish you could be there when a family sees that home coming. The following is a portion of a recent letter from a family that received a home. *"Since the day you brought it I was very overjoyed. I couldn't believe how blessed I was, my children and family was very excited. I have been praying*

each night to God for that day and have been blessed. I said to myself that this isn't real. Then as the days went on I just couldn't believe I actually was standing in our home. "

The move for this home was generously donated by a retired couple in Ft.



Collins, Colorado. For \$800 they brought more happiness to this family than they will ever know. You too can be a part of bringing a family a home. We appreciate all who have donated all or part of moving a used good condition mobile home to the reservation.

Donna and Friday Palinkx deserve much thanks for working tirelessly to find these homes. Many must be looked at before we find a suitable one. They are all in excellent condition and will not end up in the landfills across Colorado. Call us if you have a home to donate or any questions regarding this program.

FREE ALBERTSONS COMMUNITY PARTNER CARD

HELP US WITHOUT SPENDING EXTRA MONEY. SHOW YOUR CARD EACH TIME YOU SHOP AND WE RECEIVE A PERCENTAGE. CALL OR EMAIL US TODAY FOR YOUR ALBERTSONS CARD. (970) 282-8573