

The Story of Indian Summer

There is a man who is a very great farmer. He always has great success. He always gives thanks to the Creator and to the plants.

And he always shares whatever he grows with everyone in the village and in his family. They really rely on him. Without the food he grows, they would not survive.

But what happens is that one year, everything goes wrong. He plants his crops and a freeze comes and kills them. But he



has kept more seeds, so he plants a second time. This time, hard rains wash away the seeds. A third time, the insects and birds come and eat all the plants. Then he plants a fourth time and now the sun is hot and the rain does not fall, so the plants dry out and die.

But instead of complaining, he again gives thanks to the Creator.

That night when he goes to bed, he has a dream which he hears a beautiful voice saying to him, "You have always been so thankful and so I will reward you by giving you special seeds and a special time to plant them."

When he wakes in the morning, there is a basketful of seeds by his bed. Giant seeds.

He goes outside and the sun is shining and it is as warm as summer.

When he plants those seeds, they grow up and produce a harvest within the space of a few days so that he and his people do not starve. As soon as they've harvested the crops, the cold winter comes back and again the snow begins to come. The summer is gone.

We no longer have these special seeds, but as long as we are thankful each year, the Creator will give us that special time.

In Abenaki, we have a name for that time of year, that time of warmth that comes in the fall. We call it nibun alnoba, which means a person's summer.

But you know it as Indian summer.



Sacred Circle

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Phone

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E-MAIL

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Gathering

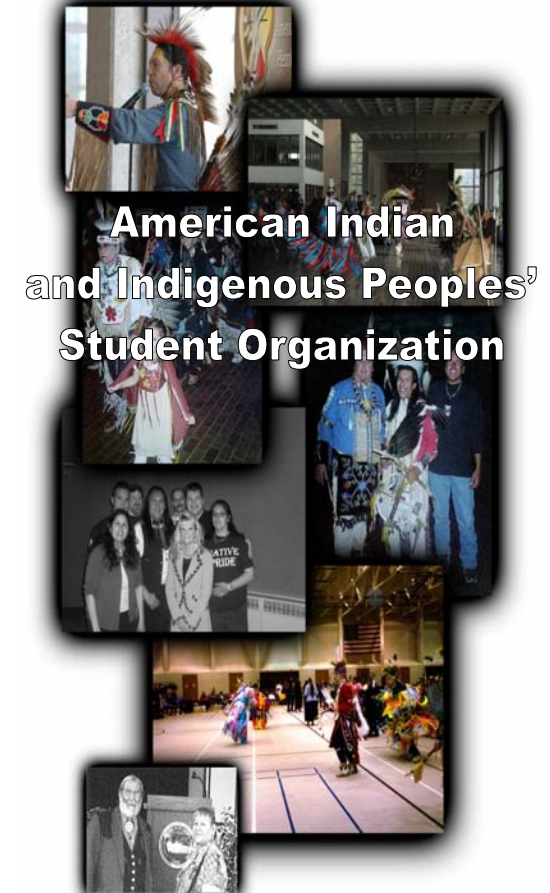
University of Wisconsin Parkside
Mondays at Noon
Molinaro 109

Webpage

<http://www.uwp.edu> KEYWORD sacred circle

My Yahoo! Groups

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sacredcircle>

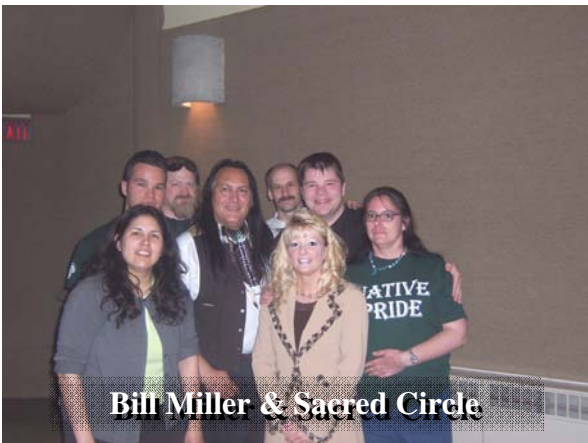


What is Sacred Circle?


SACRED CIRCLE was founded in 1997 by the students of UW-Parkside. The name SACRED CIRCLE was given to the organization by a UW-Parkside student from the Sioux Nation on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. In the fall of 2002, it was agreed upon that "American Indian and Indigenous Peoples' Student Organization" would be added to the founding name for the sake of clarification.


What Does Sacred Circle Do?

Since 1997, Sacred Circle has honored the cultures of American Indian and indigenous peoples through recognizing, supporting, and promoting activities that increase awareness, education, and understanding of American Indian & Indigenous Peoples and their cultures.




Bill Miller & Sacred Circle


 Establishing a community of friendship and support among students, staff, faculty members, and residents.


 Promoting awareness, education, and understanding with regard to American Indian and Indigenous people and their culture.



Skip Twardosz

 Being a voice with and for American Indian and Indigenous people.

 Providing personal and professional growth opportunities to its members and the community through means of leadership, education, training, and cultural events.

 Providing a harmonious atmosphere for all who uphold this organization's purpose.



Oneida Dancers

How Can I Get Involved?

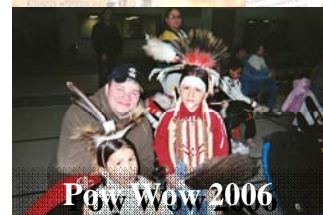
Sacred Circle thought-out the years have added various campus organizations to its circle of friends as well as members of the community. Any interested person is welcome to attend our weekly meetings and events.



Native American Heritage Month
Join our Legacy, Vibrant and Living! discussion:
 Attending our weekly meeting is just one way of learning more about Sacred Circle. Members are welcome to join at anytime and time commitments are flexible.

Join the Listserv: One of the ways members keep in touch is through, My Yahoo Groups®, a email list to inform each other of meetings, events, issues, etc.

Work on an issue or project: Every other year Sacred Circle invites both students and community to an annual Pow Wow hosted at UW-Parkside. Past events included Grammy Award Winner Bill Miller, the presence of actress/singer Irene Bedard (Inupiat/Cree) of Disney's Pocahontas fame, film director Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/Arapaho) of Skinwalkers creation, pipe ceremony, Issue Speak Out, Rethinking Thanksgiving, guest speakers and direct descendent of Crazy Horse, Jerry Clown, actor/rap artist Litefoot (Cherokee/Chichimecca)



Pow Wow 2006

and Jean Ann Day, and her reflection on her time with Leonard at Incident at Ogallala. No matter what your interest, we have something for you.