



2021 Winter Newsletter



Wunee Wuskee Kautamoo! (Happy NEW Year!)

For us at Tomaquag Museum, 2020 was a celebration of diversity, Indigenous Women, the gifts of the land and the flourishing of Native American cultural traditions! Voices were heard, people honored, thanks given, friends and partnerships made, and grants and donations received.



VOICES heard . . . The voices of influential Indigenous women as educators, speakers, storytellers and political activists were highlighted in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the right for women to vote!

Our own Princess Red Wing, co-founder of Tomaquag Museum, a Narragansett/Wampanoag political leader, was spotlighted in our blog, in the news, and in the WCFA *Abiding Courage* exhibit as one of the top ten most influential women in RI in the last 100 years for her deliberate attempts to preserve and pass on cultural traditions through stories, education & advocacy.

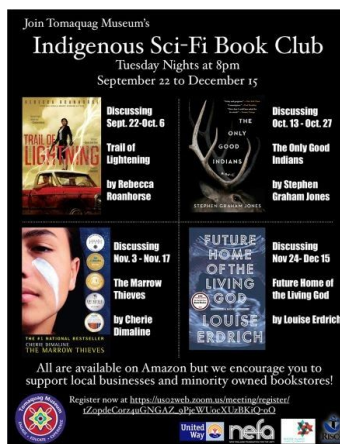
Current voices were promoted in Tomaquag's Native Women Author Series, the Fall Indigenous Book Club, the new biographical exhibit, *Warrior Women*, and of course, in the 17th Annual Honoring & Cultural Showcase! Director, Lorén Spears and Assistant Director, Silvermoon LaRose added their voices with teacher-trainings on diversity and inclusion, talks on environmental stewardship, Native American Spirituality and on the care and representation of Indigenous cultural belongings.



PEOPLE honored . . . Five Indigenous Women and their achievements as entrepreneurs, scholars, artists, educators and champions were



honored along with presentations by local artists, storytellers, singers and dancers in Tomaquag's first virtual [Honoring Event on YouTube](#). New virtual programs including the Quarantine Creatives series helped us celebrate, get to know, and empower Indigenous Artists during the COVID crisis.



THANKS given . . . **Tabutantamooônk** The tradition of giving thanks for the gifts of the land and water - the animals, plants, people and sacred spaces, continued virtually and throughout every season. Narragansett words, stories and traditions were integrated into weekly Summer and Fall virtual Children's Hours. A month-long Strawberry Thanksgiving and a week-long Cranberry Thanksgiving were celebrated with an [art contest](#), memories from friends and relatives, and pictures from these celebrations almost 30 years ago.



Blog Revived - Check out the [From the Archives](#) posts featuring photographs, audio, video, and historical documents. A new blog post with videos from a Brown University class, co-taught by Dr. Ronald Potvin and Director Lorén Spears, entitled “Pursuit of Happiness; Environmental Justice & Indigenous Rights” speaks to a sacred sense of place and the history and longevity of the Narragansett people in RI. These [short videos](#) also document the use of monuments to erase Indigenous people from the landscape.

FRIENDS made . . . The UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) who fights for social justice and equality, respects the natural environment and appreciates Native American Spirituality, championed Tomaquag Museum as their charity of choice for their National General Assembly Meeting. This 2020 Meeting was to be held in Providence, RI but due to COVID it happened entirely online. Director Lorén Spears, was asked to present in the exhibit gallery, provide a workshop on Indigenous Spirituality: A Narragansett Perspective and open the Sunday Service with a blessing and provide a short video about the Museum, since we would not be able to attend the live event. Check out our contributions to this conference. [General Assembly 2020 Online Events for Public Viewing](#)



Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!

What happened next was a complete surprise and a huge blessing for the future of Tomaquag Museum! The National Conference was attended by thousands of people across the United States who tuned in from their homes! The largest annual gathering of UU's for Sunday Morning Worship was now open to the public and advertised that a collection was to be taken up for Tomaquag Museum. The social justice goals of the Assembly to be a multicultural faith community promoting understanding, responsibility, inclusivity and equality among all people, were clearly in practice by the UU members.

In the end, 2,195 people donated to the Tomaquag Museum, from nearly all of the 50 states - including Alaska and Hawaii! The gifts collected on our behalf came to a phenomenal total of \$94,867!

Kutaputush! Our thanks to the UUA General Assembly 2020 for



Empowering Tomaquag Museum to securely move into the future!

Thank YOU! Donations received . . . Over 800 more individual donations were received by friends in 2020 through 401 Gives, the Spring Annual Appeal, gifts and special fundraisers in memory and in honor of loved ones, Giving Tuesday, and the December year-end appeal. You also gave extra donations above and beyond sales in our online gift shop and helped make up for lost ticket sales by donating to attend our virtual Honoring Ceremony! (next month see full Annual Report for fiscal year 2019-2020 on our website)

Kutaputush to the many funders who provided COVID Resilience Grants including United Way of Rhode Island, Expansion Arts, RI State Council on the Arts, Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, Champlin Foundation, and New England Foundation for the Arts. We also received grant funding for projects from the RI Foundation, USDA Rural Development, RI State Senate, RI House of Representatives, RIEEA, and the Washington Trust Company.

Without YOU, we could not have weathered this past year and come out stronger. Thank you! Please forgive any omissions, please know we have gratitude for the support and generosity of you all.



Your generosity and support has positioned us for a strong 2021. We have launched several new programs and partnerships. Join us on Tuesday evenings for the [Indigenous Author Book Club](#) led by Silvermoon LaRose. Participate in our monthly [Literature & Culture Author Conversations](#). In both of these programs, we are implementing lessons learned through our partnership with the RI Council for the Humanities, Culture is Key. With our partner, We Are the Seeds, we have launched [Gathering Seeds](#) Indigenous Artist monthly Workshops. Keep your eye open for Children's Hour once Lynsea Montanari returns. Thank you for all your well wishes for a full recovery.

**And the Grand Finale - Dreaming about our future!
Because of all of these blessings in 2020 and another new partnership, our future looks so bright! Why?**

Stay tuned for more information . . . coming soon!

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