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“Windtalker Experience”
Concert Dates

Wed., August 8th

Winter Growth Adult Day
Care
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
(Private Performance)

Thursday, August 16th

The Village at Rockville
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
(Private Performance)

Monday, August 20th

Germantown Recreation
Center
18905 Kingsview Drive
Germantown, MD 20874
11:00 am to 12:00 pm
(Open to the Public)

Wed., August 22nd

Marian Assisted Living
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
(Private Performance)

Friday, August 31st

Brooke Grove Retirement
Village – Bldg. #1612
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
(Private Performance)

Monday, September 17th

Asbury Methodist Village –
Kindley Hall
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
(Private Performance)

Thursday, Sept. 20th

Country Meadows of
Frederick
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
(Private Performance)



An Amazing Event to Benefit Pine Ridge



On Saturday evening, July 7th, I had the pleasure of being the guest performer at a very special birthday party held in Falls Church, Virginia. The party was for a longtime supporter of the Lakota/Oglala on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Ever since visiting the reservation as a member of the non-profit Re-Member.org years ago, and witnessing firsthand the horrendous conditions there, Linda Kamel has made it her mission to regularly collect coats and blankets to be sent to the reservation. She used the celebration of her birthday to further that cause by asking that everyone attending the party bring a coat, in lieu of birthday gifts for her.

I was sincerely humbled to be able to contribute to this wonderful event with a 1-hour concert, during which I also provided information on Native American history and cultures to the audience, many of them from other countries. The statistics I provided about the conditions at Pine Ridge, which you will read about on Page 2 of this newsletter, and my mention of Re-Member.org, helped to generate some online donations. One lady was so moved by the performance and information I shared, that the day after the party she presented Linda with a box of men's coats and some pure wool blankets. It was truly a magical evening to benefit a worthy cause and I was honored to be a part of it.



A Few Scary Days!

Two days after the Pine Ridge Benefit concert, I visited my family dentist to find out why I had been battling a sore tooth for over a week; a situation that made playing very uncomfortable. An X-ray revealed that a tooth that had been filled previously had degenerated to the point where it needed to be extracted. During a visit to an oral surgeon that same day, I was informed that, indeed, the tooth needed to come out along with the wisdom tooth behind it.

Normally, this would not be a big deal, but in this instance, due to minimal jaw bone in the area where the problem tooth would be removed, and a nerve very close to the extraction site, the surgery would be quite delicate and complicated. According to the surgeon, there was a chance that when the bad tooth was removed, a small hole could remain between my mouth and sinus cavity. If that happened, playing a flute would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, because air from my mouth would go into my sinus and out my nose. If this hole did not close on its own, this could potentially end my flute playing career unless I had additional surgery which could not be done for 6 to 8 weeks after the extraction. With a full schedule of performances the remainder of the year, including a memorial service a week after the surgery and my first opportunity to perform at the Sweetgrass Flute and Nature Festival in September, I was justly concerned.

Knowing that I was a professional flute player, Dr. Funari and his team used all of their skills and knowledge to perform a successful operation on July 12th so I could continue to do what I am so passionate about. The first few days after the surgery were quite painful, as you can imagine, and I was severely restricted as to my activities. However, with the surgeon's skill and the prayers of family, friends, and fellow flute players from around the world, many of whom I have never met, I am on the mend and look forward to many more years of playing.

Performance Schedule (continued)

Fri. through Sun.
September 28th to 30th

Sweetgrass Flute and
Nature Festival
Hiawatha, Iowa
(2 performances)
(Open to the Public)

Wed. October 30th

Brooke Grove Retirement
Village – Rehab Bldg.
10:45 am to 11:45 am
(Private Performance)

Tuesday, October 16th

Riderwood – Arbor Ridge
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
(Private Performance)

Thursday, October 18th

Churchill Senior Living
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
(Private Performance)

Monday, October 22nd

Brightview/Falls Grove
Senior Living
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
(Private Performance)

Wed., October 24th

Brooke Grove Retirement
Village – Bldg. #1637
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
(Private Performance)

Monday, October 29th

The Village at Rockville
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
(Private Performance)

Wed., November 7th

Native American Heritage
Month Celebration
Holiday Park Senior Center
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
(Open to the Public –
Seniors Only)

Friday, November 9th

Native American Heritage
Month Celebration
Marian Assisted Living
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
(Private Performance)

Monday, November 19th

Native American Heritage
Month Celebration
Germantown Recreation
Center
18905 Kingsview Drive
Germantown, MD 20874
11:00 am to 12:00 pm
(Open to the Public)

A Celebration of Life

I was planning on taking the month of July off from performing, but when a couple of special opportunities to play presented themselves, I just could not pass them up. When good friend, and fellow flute player, Stephen Darnell, was unable to accept an invitation to perform for a “Celebration of Life” service, he graciously referred the client to me. On July 21st, I had the privilege to perform four acapella songs at the service for Ms. Gini Huebner at the Hidden Valley Farm in Ijamsville, MD. Ms. Huebner’s greatest love was nature, its animals and plant kingdoms and she cared passionately about the conservation of the Earth’s natural beauty, resources, and the health of our planet. She also loved the sound of Native American flute and that is why it became an integral part of her ceremony. I was extremely honored to be a part of the service.

Pine Ridge Reservation – A Shameful American Legacy

The Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota was originally established in 1889 as Camp 334 for indigenous prisoners of war as white colonists pressed westward across the North American continent. It is home to the Oglala Lakota, a tribe that is part of the Sioux people and covers 3,469 square miles. (2.8 million acres). In many ways, the Pine Ridge Reservation is still a type of prisoner of war camp, as the following information will reveal.

- Population: 15,521 (one of the most difficult statistics to confirm – US Census)
- The poorest county in the United States.
- Rapid City, South Dakota, **located 120 miles from the reservation**, is the nearest town of size in which to find work.
- 97% of the population lives far below the U.S. federal poverty line with a median household income ranging between **\$2,600 and \$3,500 per year**.
- There is no industry, technology or commercial infrastructure to provide employment for its residents, contributing to its **90% unemployment rate**.
- There is no public transportation available on the Reservation.
- There are no banks, motels, discount stores, or movie theaters, and the **one grocery store of moderate size is tasked with providing for the entire community**.
- There is a **70% high school dropout rate**.
- The average life expectancy on the Reservation is **47 years for men and 52 years for women**.
- The teenage suicide rate is 150% higher than the national average.
- The infant mortality rate is the highest on this continent, and about 300% higher than the U.S. national average.
- An estimated average of 17 people live in each family home, a home that may only have two to three rooms. Some Reservation families are forced to sleep on dirt floors.
- **Over 33% of homes have no electricity or basic water and sewage systems**, forcing many to carry (often contaminated) water from local rivers daily for their personal needs.
- At least 60% of homes on the Reservation need to be demolished and replaced due to infestation of potentially fatal black mold; however, there are no insurance or government programs to assist families in replacing their homes.
- Weather is extreme on the Reservation. Severe winds are always a factor. **Summer temperatures reach well over 110° F and winters bring bitter cold and can reach -50° F below zero or worse.**

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The horrific conditions at Pine Ridge rival those of Third World countries and stand as the most prominent and appalling result of the United States’ broken treaties and inhumane treatment of Native Americans for hundreds of years. It is truly a black mark on this country’s history.

If you would like to help our brothers and sisters on the reservation, please go to <https://www.re-member.org> and see how you can help.

Philámayaye (“Thank You” in the Lakota language)