



Signals

Mid American Indian Fellowships, 8471 SW State Route V,
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Passing the Stick

Although Robert Francis aka jisquoquo will continue fulfilling his responsibilities as daksi gatiyo uku (Daksi Grounds Peace Chief) as long as his health and the will of the people allow, he will retire from his role as Consultant/Helper for Mid American Indian Fellowships, effective January 2022. Janet Francis will also step down from her role as Secretary/Treasurer for Mid American Indian Fellowships in January 2022.

The Mid American Indian Fellowships Council is pleased to report that Jan Owens, of Neosho, Missouri has agreed to serve as Consultant/Helper for Mid American Indian Fellowships beginning in January 2022. Ron Owens, also of Neosho, will serve as Secretary/Treasurer. Oshara Meesha, of Topeka, Kansas, will serve as *Signals* newsletter editor, assisted by Nancy Heitzig, also of Topeka. Following the indigenous tradition of local leadership, we are confident these wonderful people from our own indigenous community will help Mid American Indian Fellowships continue to promote and encourage harmonious relationship with Creator and Creation, to serve as a bridge for colonized persons to re-enter and participate in indigenous Native American Indian community, culture and/or spirituality, to promote healing/balancing of persons, peoples, cultures and land, to promote and encourage reconciliation within and between persons, peoples, the Earth and all Creation and Creator, to promote Native American Indian cultural awareness and appreciation, to promote, encourage and provide opportunities for active decolonization and indigenous cultural revitalization and restoration and to act as a network of indigenous spiritual groups for many years to come.

Meet Jan and Ron Owens: Consultant/Helper and Secretary/Treasurer for MAIF Beginning January 2022

Jan and Ron Owens were introduced to the Mid American Indian Fellowships in 2013 at the home of Kathy and Randy Whitley who were hosting the walela Indian Fellowship.

Since then, Jan and Ron have been active with Mid American Indian Fellowships and were both ordained as MAIF Helpers in February 2017. They host the do'hi soquili Indian Fellowship which currently meets at their home, near Neosho, Missouri, the third Thursday evening of each month.

Jan and Ron also serve as clan elders at the Daksi Grounds, Ron for the Red Paint Clan, and Jan as clan mother for the Twister Clan. Both Jan and Ron are current apprentices of the Daksi Medicine Society, and are active in all spiritual aspects of the ceremonies at their home and at the Daksi Grounds.

Other activities include being active in Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Right Relations with Native Americans: an interactive program which facilitates a platform of understanding the historical injustices faced by Native Americans. Jan and Ron frequently attended water protection protests during



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their time in Kansas City. Jan spent time at Standing Rock in North Dakota in 2017. Jan joined activist and dear friend, Linda Daniels to celebrate and support the water protectors, as well as celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the World Drum.

Both Jan and Ron are humbled by the rolls they will be taking in the continuation of Mid American Indian Fellowships and are eager to share this adventure with all of you.

Jan and Ron live at 8744 E Hwy 86, Neosho, MO 64850. To keep in touch, you may e-mail Jan at kcbodywork@gmail.com or call her at (816) 896-1044. Beginning in January 2022, donations for Mid American Indian Fellowships should be sent c/o Ron Owens, 8744 E Hwy 86, Neosho, MO 64850.

Signals to have New Editor in 2022



Oshara Meesha will be the new editor of *Signals* newsletter beginning in January.

Living in Topeka, Kansas, Oshara is an activist for social justice and an accomplished artist, having been chosen as one of the core artists for the Brown v. Board Arts Connect Topeka Mural Project and the Topeka Police Department Mural Project. Oshara has been a member of the aniyansa Indian Fellowship in Topeka since its beginning and serves as a Mid American Indian Fellowships Council Member representing the aniyansa Indian Fellowship. She is also an active member of the daksi gatiyo (Traditional Chickamauga Cherokee Ceremonial Grounds in Bates County, Missouri). We are proud to have Oshara as our soon-to-be editor for *Signals*.

To ensure you continue receiving the *Signals* newsletter, please contact Oshara before January either by sending her an e-mail or a note through the postal service. Her e-mail is osharameesha@gmail.com . Her U.S.P.S. address is Oshara Meesha, 2321 SE Pennsylvania Ave., Topeka, KS 66605. Her phone number is (785) 830-0026.

Nancy Heitzig, of Topeka, Kansas will be assisting Oshara Meesha as she assumes her role as editor of *Signals* newsletter.

A retired educator, Nancy is a member of and host for the aniyansa Indian Fellowship in Topeka and serves as an MAIF Council Member for that fellowship. She is also a regular at the daksi gatiyo.

A Note from Oshara Meesha:

Hello I am so glad to be a part of Mid American Indian Fellowships. Some years ago, I was wondering if a Cherokee community existed in Kansas. When I discovered it, it made me so happy. I give my thanks and adoration to Linda Daniels for bringing me to this fellowship.

I am overjoyed to be taking the role as newsletter editor.

I've been politically active in the community and Topeka, Kansas. I find that being able to do community work brings me great joy and pleasure. I like to see different people come together and make change in our community. I've currently been made the chair for the African-American Democratic Caucus of Shawnee county. This is a role that is new for me. I had been the vice chair for one year and glad to have served under Yolanda Taylor. I'm looking forward to seeing what great things can happen in our county. I am also an artist. I love the creative process and hope I can bring creativity to everything I do. Some time ago, I was newsletter editor for my congregation in Topeka.

I hope that you will let me know what your thoughts are as far as the newsletter is concerned. I want to make sure that we continue to be the great community that we are. If there's anything that you need from me or any questions you may have please do not hesitate to call me at 785-830-0026 I will be happy to speak with you. I'm looking forward to the great things in the future for Mid American Indian Fellowships.

Oshara




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Mid American Indian Fellowships Gathering 2021 Schedule of Events

19th [almost] Annual Mid American Indian Fellowships Gathering, Saturday, September 18, 2021 at Deer Run RV Park, 5055 NW Hwy B, Appleton City, Missouri 64724

Things to Bring:

- Lawn chairs
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Face mask
 - Food and drinks sufficient for you and your household (Food will not be shared communally. Everyone is on their own at meal times.)
 - Eating and drinking utensils for you and your household (Bring enough for the day; take them home to wash.)
 - Something to donate for the auction
- 



Saturday, September 18

8:00 a.m. Going to Water
9:00 a.m. Bringing the Fire
10:00 a.m. Crafts: Feather Wrapping; Making Chokers & Necklaces
11:00 a.m. Brunch (Everyone is on their own for meals; households may eat together.)
12:00 p.m. In the Circle with Jan Owens
1:00 p.m. Cherokee Marbles ~~ASL~~ digadayosdi
2:30 p.m. Stickball ~~DINK~~ anejoti (One on One Games)
4:00 p.m. Crafts: Finishing the Projects
5:00 p.m. Dinner (Everyone is on their own for meals; households may eat together.)
6:00 p.m. Auction
8:00 p.m. Moon Ceremony
10:00 pm. Dance & Story Telling

Note: This schedule is only a guideline; all times are approximate.

Sharing of Stories: Traditional stories will be shared between dances Saturday evening. If you are prepared to tell a story from your own tribal Oral Tradition, let Robert Francis or Bud Moellinger know, so they can call on you. The story should be related from the heart, in your own words, not read. Remember, it is *Oral* Tradition.

Additional Gathering Information

The 19th [almost] Annual Mid American Indian Fellowships Gathering is scheduled for Saturday, September 18, 2021 at Deer Run RV Park, 5055 NW Hwy. B, Appleton City, Missouri 64724.

While participants may arrive on Friday and camp on Friday night and/or Saturday night, scheduled gathering activities will happen only on Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. and winding up around midnight.

Activities will include indigenous crafts, games, auction, ceremonies, dance and a talking circle, as in previous years. There will be one speaker at the gathering, with most of the day and evening given to activities.

Food: There will be breaks for brunch and dinner. Individuals and/or households are on their own for meals. Food will not be shared communally. Bring food, drinks and eating and drinking utensils for yourself and/or your household. Take utensils home to wash.

Auction: Please consider bringing crafts, art, culturally relevant books, handmade articles, etc. to donate for auction. Proceeds help defray Gathering and other MAIF expenses.

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Deer Run RV Park is located on the North side of Hwy. B, 11 miles west of Osceola, Missouri and 27 miles east of Rich Hill, Missouri. RV Camping is \$15 per night. Tent camping is \$10 per night. Those planning to camp should please contact the park directly. The phone number is **(660) 598-2481**. The address is **5055 NW Hwy. B, Appleton City, MO 64724**. Be sure to let the park know you are coming for the Mid American Indian Fellowships Gathering. If we have a minimum of three campers, we get to use the clubhouse free of charge.

Other Lodging in the Area:

- Wildflower Inn, Osceola, Missouri (11 miles away) (417) 646-2555
- Weaubleau Motel, Weaubleau, Missouri (25 miles away) (417) 428-3516
- Apache Motel, Rich Hill, Missouri (27 miles away) (417) 395-2161
- Parkfield Inn, Clinton, Missouri (35 miles away) (844) 793-2498
- Westbridge Inn and Suites, Clinton, Missouri (35 miles away) (660) 885-2206
- USA Inn, Clinton, Missouri (35 miles away) (660) 885-2267



Covid-19 Protocols

- Temperatures will be taken upon arrival and hand sanitizing stations will be available.
- As much as is possible, all activities will be outdoors, including crafting and the auction. (There are plenty of shade trees and two people have volunteered to bring portable canopies.)
- Unvaccinated individuals must wear masks when less than 20 feet from those not of their own households whether indoors or outdoors.
- For the fully vaccinated, masks will be optional while outdoors although recommended in closer quarters.
- In the event use of the clubhouse or lodge becomes necessary, everyone entering the clubhouse or lodge, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, must wear a mask.
- Children too young to wear a mask and anyone else who cannot wear a mask, should either not attend this gathering or be kept away from the crowd and out of the clubhouse or lodge.
- Everyone must be mindful to maintain (as much as is possible) distance of 10 feet or more from those not of their own households while at the gathering (Why 10 feet and not six feet? Because we have all seen how quickly six feet can shrink to four feet.).
- There will be no potluck or communal sharing of food; rather, each person and/or household will be responsible for their own food, drink and utensils, with people separating into household groups at mealtimes.
- Those unwilling to abide by and follow these protocols should not attend this gathering.

Mid American Indian Fellowships Meeting Schedule, Etc.

Please call or e-mail for information about when and where meetings may occur and for Covid-19 protocols.

DheohU aniyansa Indian Fellowship: Topeka, KS: For info contact Robert Francis maif7784@gmail.com (660) 464-1749, Nancy Heitzig nmheitzig@gmail.com (559) 281-4759 or Ruth Tipton ravenclan71@gmail.com (316) 518-2599.

ΛΛ FOP do'hi soquili Indian Fellowship: Neosho, MO. For info contact Jan Owens kcbdywork@gmail.com (816) 896-1044 or Ron Owens ronlowens@yahoo.com (816) 616-4360.

Indian Fellowship of Joplin: Joplin, MO. For info contact Bruce Redden kannonkocker@yahoo.com (417) 291-5848 or Jay Redden (417) 781-6791.

ΘΘΜΘΕ kanalusgv Indian Fellowship: New Bloomfield, MO. For info, contact Bud Moellinger budsheri@ktis.net (573) 252-4494 or Robert Francis maif7784@gmail.com (660) 464-1749.

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G&W walela Indian Fellowship: St. Joseph, MO. For info contact Kathy Whitley kathywhitley@ymail.com (816) 244-8942 or Randy Whitley (816) 676-8895.

Traditional aniyvwiya Dhebi or Chickamauga Cherokee Ceremonies are held at the daksi gatiyo tob sji in Bates County, Missouri. Those *seriously* interested in attending and participating may contact Robert Francis at maif7784@gmail.com (660) 464-1749.

To help with Compassionate Veterinary Care, serving indigenous people and their animal helpers in South Dakota and Missouri, contact Sheri Moellinger, DVM (573) 252-4494 budsheri@ktis.net.

To get information about, help with or schedule a “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relations with Native Peoples” presentation, contact Jan Owens (816) 896-1044 kcbodywork@gmail.com or Ron Owens (816) 616-4360 ronlowens@yahoo.com.

Addressing Covid-19 Issues

by Marcia Kilpatrick, RN, August 1, 2021

Mid American Indian Fellowships Health Consultant

I was asked to write an article about Covid-19. Having done due research, I would like to address the following:

1. What is the latest data concerning the upsurge from the Delta Variant?
2. Was the vaccine rushed?
3. What does a person dying of Covid-19 experience?
4. What should we do?
5. Sources and recommended reading.

Just when we thought we were going to be able to live life more normally, along comes the Delta Variant of Covid-19! As of this date, the hardest hit states are Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and Florida. Over the last month (July 2021), there has been a four-fold upsurge in new cases per day. Ninety-seven percent of hospitalized Covid-19 patients have not been vaccinated. Sadly, people I know who are caring for some of these are experiencing patients begging for the vaccine as they are gasping for air, only to have to tell them, “It is too late.”

Many people have been reluctant to get the Covid-19 vaccine, because it became available so quickly. In fact, much of the preliminary work on this vaccine had been completed years earlier. When this new coronavirus reared its ugly head, they had a head start. They were able to quickly begin clinical trials, because many people were eager to volunteer. Please follow up with recommended reading (listed below) for more detailed information.

As I read the information about what it is like to die of Covid-19, I was reminded of watching my mother die in the nursing home in February 2020, a few weeks before Covid-19 was being diagnosed here. I believe, looking back, that she died of Covid-19. We will never know, for sure. Those dying today of this horrible disease are dying alone, except for their ever-caring nurses, doctors and respiratory therapists dressed in protective garb with only their eyes visible. They are gasping for air, breathing faster and faster. Patients in critical condition describe their lungs feeling like they are on fire or like thousands of bees are stinging them inside their chests. They have a feeling of being smothered, a feeling of impending doom.

A small percentage of vaccinated people get Covid-19 and can infect others even if they have no symptoms. Very few get sick enough to require hospitalization. I believe it behooves us all to do our part to curtail this pandemic.

1. Once again wear a mask and social distance in public.
2. If you are unvaccinated, because of a valid medical condition prohibiting it, take extra precautions:
 - a) Avoid anyone who isn't masked.
 - b) Avoid being indoors with other unvaccinated people, especially if they have been going out in public unmasked.
3. If you are unvaccinated and do not have a valid medical reason, PLEASE SAVE LIVES!! GET VACCINATED!! I believe our Creator has sent us the vaccine as our boat or helicopter, so to speak, to save us from this flood, the pandemic of Covid-19.

Sources and Recommended Reading:

1. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/covid-cases.html?action=click&module=Spotlight&pgtype=Homepage>
“Coronavirus in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count”

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2. <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/coronavirus-disease-2019-vs-the-flu> "Covid-19 vs. the Flu"
3. <https://www.mydr.com.au/covid-19/was-the-covid-19-vaccine-rushed-dr-norman-swain/> "Was the Covid-19 Vaccine Rushed?" by Dr. Norman Swan"
4. <https://www.nebraskamed.com/COVID/were-the-covid-19-vaccines-rushed> "Were the Covid-19 Vaccines Rushed? Here's how the Vaccines Were Developed so Fast"
5. <https://www.vox.com/2021/2/20/22280817/covid-19-deaths-us-nursing-home-icu-ventilator> "What It's Like to Die from Covid-19?"
6. <https://www.nebraskamed.com/COVID/vaccine/faq> "Covid-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions"
7. FACEBOOK Covid-19 Information Center

On the evening of the New Moon, June 10, 2021, as those spirits identifying themselves as the Horse Warriors rode through the daksi gatiyo, I spoke with them, expressing frustration with some of our people not being vaccinated for the Covid-19 Coronavirus, seeing in this a lack of the spirit of gadugi (cooperative group effort). "Do not judge the people as lacking the spirit of gadugi," the Horse Warriors replied. "You see this as a gadugi issue, and so it is. There are others who see this as a decolonization issue, and so it is. Do not judge them harshly in this, and maybe they will not judge you harshly."

And so, I realize we should attempt to see from other perspectives, not to necessarily agree but to build understanding. Blanket generalizations of naivete or selfishness are unfair. Life situations and human thought processes are too complex for that. Even so, I still worry; I still lose sleep, and each time I hear a loved one has lain hesitancy aside to receive vaccination, I weep for relief and joy.

"Social Media": What a misnomer! They could more accurately be called, "Antisocial Media," as they serve mostly to divide people. Crafted by the worst sort of colonizers and appealing to baser instincts, social media are addictive and mind-numbing, tending to promote ignorance over enlightenment, serving as better sources of misinformation and disinformation than accurate and verifiable knowledge, making it easy and convenient to bully and harass. If we elect to make use of social media at all, we would do well to moderate and limit their use and to watch ourselves – jaksesteddi ! As indigenous people or aniyvwiya, we must *a/ways* and in every setting keep the Harmony Ethic in mind and in practice.

Watch the birds and all the animals. Connect with the trees and all the plants. Listen to the voices of the four winds. Lift your face to the Sun by day and gaze upon the stars at night. Sit quietly with the Fire. Visit with a friend. Ponder the words of an elder. Share a story with a child. These are the older social media.

Come January, it will be 23 years since the first Indian Fellowship was born. We have come a long way together. I am not leaving but rather stepping aside from the leadership roles of Mid American Indian Fellowships in order to give more full attention to my responsibilities as daksi gatiyo uku. More and more, I have come to understand the place of the uku is with the Sacred Fire. I am very pleased that there are those willing and able to take up and continue the leadership responsibilities of Mid American Indian Fellowships. Jan, Ron, Oshara, Nancy, all the Helpers, the Council Members and those who participate in fellowship meetings and the Gathering: It is all of you who make Mid American Indian Fellowships what it is and will continue to make it what it is meant to be. dodadagohvi.

- uku jisquoquo (Robert Francis)

Mid American Indian Fellowships

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