

PICEI CONNECTED

TOPEZ'S TRAVELS

**North Country
Horse Power**

**PICEI 2010
"Bridging the Gap"
D.C. TOUR**

ARTIST

Highlights

**A Tribute to
Tawatenniheh**

Vol. 1 Issue 9
2010-2011

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PICEI Connected

2010-2011

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Not all of the ideas included in this publication reflect those of PICEI.

CULTURES FEATURED

- Mohawk
- North Country Horse Power
- Senegalese
- South Africa

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**CHRYSETTA PATTERSON &
COURTLAN GREEN**



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UNITED BUT DISTINCT

From the Editor's Desk

PICEI Connected

Pamoja International Cultural Exchange, Inc. (PICEI)



Mildred Glenn, Editor

PICEI Valentine Special Fund Raiser Spaghetti Dinner to support PICEI Scholarship & Cultural Seminars was a big success. The fund raiser took place on February 11, 2011 at the "*Brass Horse Lounge*" in Hogansburg, NY. Also included was a Mohawk Auction, Theme Basket Raffles and live music. A good time was had by all.

PICEI Gathering - Ribbon Cutting of the Annex Office was held on August 26, 2011, at 600 Smith Road, Brasher Falls, NY. Besides the ribbon cutting for the new Annex, there was a Dedication to Tawatennihch (Jean Herne). Everyone enjoyed refreshments, movies, culture, raffles and music.

Our **10-day cruise on Royal Caribbean** to San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; Samana, Dominican Republic and Labadee, Haiti, which began on **October 27th – November 5th, 2011** was a happy gathering. This was a cultural extravaganza for everyone who was on board with us.

The annual "**Last Shall Be First 50/50 Raffle**" drawing was held on October 1, 2011, at 37 West Steakhouse Lounge.

PICEI Connected is continuing to honor the **North Country** in this year's publication. We will continue to show you the culture and the Amish Communities way of life.

A special article on our Washington, DC trip in 2010, called "**All Cultures are National Treasures**" will be highlighted in this year's PICEI Connected.

PICEI, a non-profit organization continues to be built with volunteers. There are no salaries or special awards handed out.

PICEI is available for seminars and workshops throughout the year. Schools and individuals should contact us at (718-774-9032) regarding the Scholarship/Award program.

Inside this small universe, we are all linked in one way or another.

Visit the PICEI website at www.picei.org
or write PICEI at its E-mail address:
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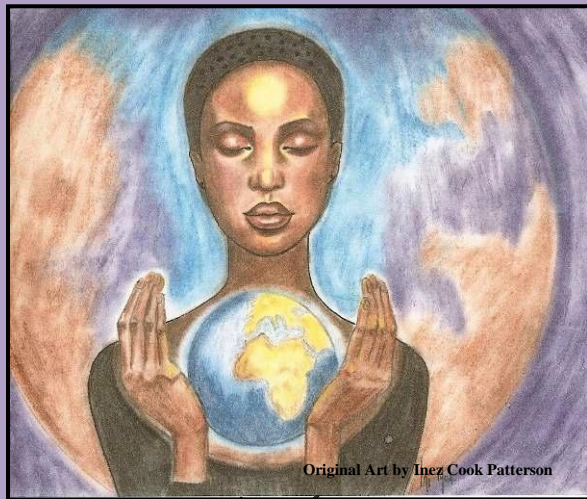
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Expressions From the Founder

Florence Patterson
Salimata (Mama Africa)



Original Art by Inez Cook Patterson

Often people ask what PICEI believes in. In general, we believe:

What you know...Where you go...

What you understand...Makes us who we are.

PICEI wants to give each young person a chance to choose who they want to be...

To help reduce the fear of others who may look different then ourselves...

We want to see people in their natural way of life and respect their culture...

We want to bring the world to us when we can...

But most of all be

“UNITED BUT DISTINCT”.



Ronathahonni Cultural Centre

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Phone: 613-932-9452
Fax: 613-932-0092

Box 273
Akwesasne, N.Y.
13655

Email: ronathahonni@bellnet.ca
Website: ronathahonni.com

CULTURAL SHARING

Royal Carribean Explorer of the Seas
October 27, 2011 - November 5, 2011



We sailed on the “Explorer of the Seas” to the Caribbean to beautiful weather, from Cape Liberty Port in Bayonne, N. J. PICEI members escaped the snow storm that the East Coast witnessed during our cultural cruise to: San Juan, Puerto; St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; Samana, Dominican Republic; and Labadee, Haiti, where sunshine awaited us.

1. Lorraine George
2. Genevieve Georges
3. Florence Ghoram Patterson
4. Marianne Loran
5. Bessie Mitchell
6. Chrysetta Patterson
7. Carl Patterson, Jr.
8. Betty Swamp
9. Michael Swamp
10. Loretta Thomas
11. Lisa Thomas Swamp
12. Keegan Thomas-Lazore
13. Keaton Thomas-Lazore
14. Kiannah Thomas-Lazore



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NORTH COUNTRY CULTURE NORTH COUNTRY HORSE POWER

An interview with Gaetan Yelle...
A man who knows how to pull his weight

13



Gaetan Yelle, for 43 years He has performed in professional tractor pulls throughout Northeastern United States and Canada. He is well known and feared by the competition in this region and anywhere else he so chooses to deploy his awesome arsenal of over the top hopped-up tractors.

There are about 25 competitions a year that you can catch him at, and as you can tell by taking a look around his living room and garage, he tries to win as many times as possible.

Estimated at 3,000.00, Hp by means of a dyno (Engine Performance Calculator), These show horses are equipped with modified DT46, engine and 5 speed Transmission.



The tractor weight is about 8400.00 lbs., plus added weights are often placed on the nose of the tractor to keep its front end down. The cost of one of these bad boys is \$135,000.00 dollars. With all that motorized muscl and trophy bling – bling, you can bet as the country song goes “She Thinks My Tractor’s Sexy”.

Although they may only top out at approximately 60 mph, the excitement of being there to watch them compete, to pull tons of dead weight is a must see event. Looking forward to seeing him win in the many May, June, August Tractor Pull Events of 2012. You can bet he and his wife Holly will be at next year’s Franklin County Fair in Malone N.Y. bringing home the Gold.



What's "Subaru" Mean Anyway?

Ans.: Subaru is the Japanese word for "unite," as well as the Greek term for a cluster of six stars, Pleiades (Part of the Taurus constellation).

The company we know as Subaru, is no latecomer to the automotive industry. In 1884, Chikuhei Nakajima son of a farmer attended a naval academy at the age of 19. Chikuhei's first aviation effort was developing aircraft for the Japanese navy. Chikuhei being an intelligent and enterprising young man, decided in 1917 to go out on his own and set up Aircraft Research Laboratory the root of what would eventually become the parent company of Subaru. *Excerpts*

from The End Wrench



The first success was the Rabbit motor scooter, which had a 135 cc two-horsepower engine and rolled on the surplus tail wheels of the fighter planes, since Japan's transportation situation was in a state of dire disarray due to the destruction and upheaval of war, this new means of getting around met with great interest.

Back on its feet in 1958, Fuji Heavy Industries (FHI) introduced the Subaru 360, a cute fun-to-drive four passage car powered by air-cooled two-cylinder two-stroke 22 horsepower rear-mounted engine.

The Subaru 1000 was the first Subaru to use the company's trademark drive system: a horizontally-opposed "boxer" engine and front-wheel drive (FWD).

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ARTISTS HIGHLIGHTS

Philosophical Artists of IOHAHI:IO

In the words of **Inez Cook Patterson**, Hairdresser Turned Artist



Inez Cook Patterson

I've enjoyed drawing all my life, but it wasn't until 2009 that I decided to go back to school to learn more about what I truly love.

IOHAHI:IO, Akwesasne Adult Education was offering an accredited course in Fine Art, so I signed up and to my delight, was accepted for a two year course of study.

I was beyond happy with all my classes which included; watercolor, oil and acrylic painting. They were all great, but acrylic has become my choice of choices.



I am also a portrait artist, but I have done landscapes and still life, and I do enjoy it all, but "my faces" are top priority at this time. I don't want to limit myself to just one

medium; I want to experience it all and move where spirit leads me. I have been given this gift, but without practice and dedication to my craft, it will not improve.

My wonderful art teacher, Sandra Taylor Hedges, said to our class that we all have the potential to be as "the Great Masters," it only takes practice and more practice.

To work at something you love is not work, it is exciting and stimulating to know that you are creating something that the Creator has instilled in you. Sandra gave us the "Rules for Painting and for Life..."

1. There are no Rules.
2. If it works, keep doing it.
3. If it's not working stop doing it.
4. Get a second opinion.
5. Knowledge doesn't guarantee result.
6. Creativity needs the company of creativity.
7. Challenge yourself and you will grow.
8. Creativity needs exercise daily.
9. If you think you know it all, sorry you don't.
10. Believe in your Dreams.

In my life I have worn many hats; home health giver, vintage clothes collector, hairdresser, make-up artist, photographer, homemaker and wife, daughter, sister, friend. Every one of these positions has given me such joy, but none has given me the fulfillment I get when I complete a painting. I have found my passion. It is not in another person (although the right partner can encourage you and be your muse), it is all within you. So live out your dreams...it is never too late. I am a testament to that.

Thank you PICEI magazine for your undying support to the arts. Naiwen Inez

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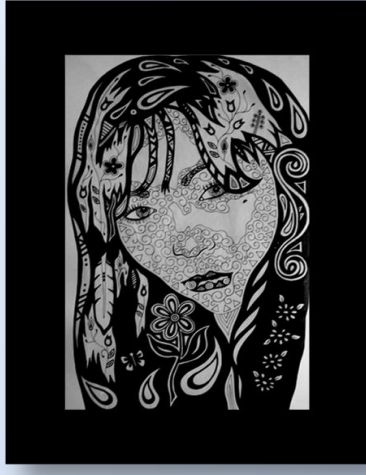
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ARTISTS HIGHLIGHTS

Philosophical Artists of IOHAHI:IO

Biography of Tammy King

Tammy Renee Catherine Kahentison "Bumblebee" King was born March 17, 1977 in Cornwall Ontario. She is a Mohawk Artist from the Akwesasne Mohawk Reservation. She is Wolf Clan and her Mohawk name Kahentison means "Long Grass waving in the Wind". Bumblebee a name given to Tammy as a child in which she now uses as her Artist name.



Tammy is drawn to the art of photography and capturing the beauty of Mother Earth. She takes photos of family and friends with the beautiful surroundings of Nature in any season. She also paints some of the photos she takes. Tammy's paintings come alive with vibrant color, poignant subject matter, and strong designs, giving them immediate visual impact.

King began making beautiful Native inspired quilts when she was 25 years old. Her work is unique and captures her Native Mohawk Culture and traditions. She also makes her own traditional Ribbon dresses decorated with her art designs and beadwork. Tammy began painting

when she was 26 years old. Her artwork is painted with vibrant colors and created with emotions that allow the viewer to connect and relate to the stories told through her paintbrush. Her paintings are often inspired by her vivid dreams and spiritual openness, which must be captured by her paint brush and then shared. Tammy's paintings and quilts celebrate her love for her Native Mohawk culture and bring to life the rich traditions and oral history of the First People.

*"I was born to walk this beautiful Earth as an Artist. The art speaks to my soul, like words whispered from the Angel up above. And if anything tried to separate me from my **heART**... I would not know who I am. I would not know what I am. I would not know why I exist.*

I feel in my heart that I was born to be an artist, everything that I have been through in my life from a child until now leads up to me finding my way to the paint brush. I believe that all of the struggles, hurt, love, and loss have been put in my path for a reason. I am now able to put these stages of life on canvas for the entire world to view. Everyone has their own story and now here is the story of Bumblebee. I never stopped chasing my dream of being a famous artist and quilt maker. My talent flows through my veins like life and love..."

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3-MAN QUARTET

ARTIST HIGHLIGHTS

Proud Punishment

by Seven Green



Seven Green...*this young teenager at 14 years of age, who is of Mohawk and African American heritage, shared this poem that reflects a serious tone of her mind and intelligence.*

She was recently accepted into the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in New York City. Her talents in the field of Drama allow her to be a person of deep thought. Seven is athletic as well and enjoys singing too.

**We were told to be proud
To fight and kill.
They call us the heroes
of our countries.
We need to eat
More than handfuls.
We must survive
A little longer,
Against the boom
The silence
The fall.
Bullets like raindrops
Dodge through the wind.
Autumn
We fall.
Is it possible for us
To make it
through this punishment?
Guns spit
Bullets that fly
And men go down.
Permanent scars
No safety no home no help.**

In America

by Karen M. Glenn



Karen Glenn *is one of our regular contributors to PICEI CONNECTED with her thought provocative poems. She is a working mother of a teenage daughter, Shelby and an Event Planner as well as a Poet.*

Karen places her thoughts and views of the world by putting pen to paper from her life experiences as a parent.

**A child asks his mother
for something to eat
The mom sighs and looks
down in defeat.**

**In her mind, does she
ask the same man.
Doing those things she
cannot stand.**

**To get some groceries
just a parcel or two
Living in America.**

**A child asks his father
Why do we have to move.
Dad has to explain
something called foreclosure.
Need some clothes for you
Why are we living in the car.**

**In America, the home of the brave
Land of the free
People are still hungry
People are still homeless...and**

**We the people with opportunity
We are still poor In America.**

"ALL CULTURES ARE NATIONAL TREASURES"

Article by Florence G. Patterson

PICEI has The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe to thank for the sponsoring of two of the events for the Mohawk youth and The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne for the transportation of the group to and from Akwesasne, as well as transportation during the groups stay in Washington, D.C. Congressman Owens provided the group with tickets to the Capital, Hall of Congress, where the group learned of the history of the men that sat in the halls of Congress, and the artistic make-up of the hall of statues. Most of the group found this part of their trip extremely interesting. PICEI wishes to thank Congressman Owens for his efforts to support the group as well.

However, as always in this life, there is drama every now and then and PICEI was not short of that within this particular project. As three of PICEI participants missed the segment of the trip to Congress. Those that strayed went around and around trying to reconnect with the group once they went their separate ways on different occasions.

Many of the participants on the cultural tour found the most exciting part was the Indian Museum, which housed



American Indian Museum, Washington, DC

several cultures within the native culture. PICEI recommends that when visiting Washington DC, the Native American Museum is an important one to see. The White House was under a type of Alert status during PICEI stay therefore, we were not able to visit.

The participants that traveled with PICEI wore traditional clothing when visiting the Capital.

Lorraine George and her grandson, Evan wore their beautiful ribbon shirts April White, her sister Veronica from Las Vegas and her daughter who had planned to Hoop Dance was unable to do so since many of the other dancers were not able to make the trip. Vivian Smoke and her grandnephew Ethan and grandniece Gabriel were among the group. Betty Swamp wore a completely gorgeous outfit and her three grand children, Kanrontawhon, Devon and Starlet, wore striking traditional clothing. Lorraine Holt and her granddaughter, Victoria C. Cang-Holt from Richmond, Virginia came by

railroad and joined the group in *Washington*. The project director, Carl Patterson, Jr. did an excellent job, along with



Florence Patterson and the driver (of course) in getting everyone safely there and back home. PICEI Marketing Director, Topez Patterson and her friend Roberto from Long Island joined the group for a day.

(Continued on page 15)

Akwesasne Museum

www.akwesasne-cultural-center.org

321 State Rte 37 Hogansburg,
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History and culture from a Mohawk point of view...

Thank You



Tid Bits of Culture

Cultural Information in Different Forms

Pamoja International Cultural Exchange Inc. proudly offers the chance to be exposed to exciting cultures through travel, workshop, and exhibits. From Canada to Bermuda to Africa, the world and its diverse cultures can be at your fingertips. We also put on multi-cultural events and festivals locally. Ask how you can travel and attend our cultural seminars for FREE with little effort from you.

At-Risk Youth

Our travel opportunities and workshops help at-risk youth understand and respect other cultures. Through travel mentorships and role models, they get a broader view of life and goals that can be reached. We also have a motivational speaker on staff who speaks about getting life started, courage, and culture diversity issues including clothing, language, being sensitive and respectful, and how they could be insulting someone and not even aware of it. Youth can also fund raise and get sponsors to raise money to help offset travel costs. [Source: www.picei.org]

South African Languages and Culture

There are **eleven official languages in South Africa**, namely English, Afrikaans, Ndebele, Sepedi, Xhosa, Venda, Tswana, Southern Sotho, Zulu, Swazi and Tsonga.

Zulu



IsiZulu or Zulu is one of the official languages of South Africa. 10 million people speak the language and most of these people live in South Africa. 24% of South Africans, Zulu is considered to be their home language and 50% of the South Africa's inhabitants understand the language. Zulu falls under the Nguni group and is one of the Bantu languages. Xhosa and Zulu are the only two languages mutually understandable. The Zulu nation came into existence around the 14th century. Although there are many Bantu migrants, back then Zulu language adopted many of the sounds that make up the language from the San and from the Khoi. The San and the Khoi were the first residents in South Africa. Evidence of this is the Zulu's clicking consonants used in their language.

ZULU PHRASES/WORDS	ENGLISH
Yebo	Yes
Cha	No
Ngiyabonga	I thank you
Ngiphuma e-(England)	I'm from (England)
Unjani? (plural: Ninjani?)	How are you?
Kuhle	Good, fine
Ngiya phila. Wena?	I am fine. And you?
Hamba Kahle	Goodbye (go well)
Sala Kahle	Goodbye (stay well)
Malini?	How much?

Xhosa



Approximately 18 percent of South Africa's population speaks the language, and when doing the mathematics, that makes it around 7.9 million people. Xhosa is marked by a number of tongue-clicking sounds. Those that speak the language are usually involved in an

ethnic group known as the amaXhosa, and to them this language is known as isiXhosa. An interesting fact is that the word "Xhosa" is derived from the Khoisan language, which means "angry men". A majority of the languages in South Africa which involve tongue-clicking originate from the Khoisan. Xhosa is known to fall under Bantu language, and is also a representative of South-western's Nguni family. With this fact, South Africa's known to be Xhosa's native land, and especially the Eastern Cape - where the language is spoken everywhere. The Zulu people of South Africa have their own name for the Xhosa people, and this

(continued on page 13)

Tid Bits of Culture

is KwaXhosa. When translated KwaXhosa simply means "land of Xhosa". Visiting the Western Cape and Gauteng one will also see many Xhosa people and hear them speak. Because Xhosa and Zulu are both classed as a Bantu language, if these two classes were to communicate with one another, often they will understand each other.

[Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/>]

XHOSA PHRASES/WORDS	ENGLISH
Ewe	Yes
Hayi	No
Enkosi	Thank you
Kunjani?	How are you?
Kulungile	Good, fine
Ndiphilile. Nawe?	I am fine. And you?
Hamba Kahle	Goodbye (go well)
Sala Kakuhle	Goodbye (stay well)
Yimalini	How much?

WOLOF (Senegalese) LANGUAGE



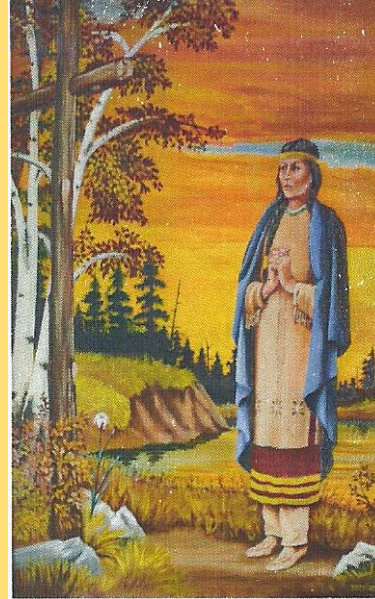
Senegal Vendor Woman

Wolof is the largest single national language of the Senegalese people used. The official language is French as a result of the colonizing by the French. Most families in the Dakar area speak Wolof at home but the children are required to study French once they enter school.

Some of the many different Senegalese national languages are Fula, Toucouler, Jola, Mandinka and Pulaar to mention a few. They are spoken in the particular region of the people of Senegal.

WOLOF PHRASES	ENGLISH
Anxkay, waaw, wey	Yes
Ban	No
Jauraama, jerejif	I Thank you
Aka?	How are you?
Wer,wer gu yaram	Good, fine
Wer, wer gu yaram?	I am fine. And you?
Taggoo	Goodbye (go well)
Taggoo wer	Goodbye (stay well)
Naata?	How much?

History Is Being Made In the Mohawk Community



History is being made in the Mohawk Community in Akwesasne, located in Upstate, New York and Canada. For the first time the Roman Catholic Church will canonize **Kateri Tekakwitha** a Native American, in the year of 2012. The community is awaiting the exact date from Rome by **Pope Benedict XVI**. Culturally the people of Akwesasne identify with the fact that there are many saints and

Kateri Tekakwitha

angels that walk among us daily. However, **Pamoja**

International Cultural Exchange, Inc. (PICEI), a not for profit cultural organization, wishes to acknowledge that many of those in the Akwesasne Community have worked extremely hard since 2003 to see this event come to fruition. All cultures have so much to be proud of... *Let's share that which we know...*

MOHAWK PHRASES	ENGLISH
hen (hun)	Yes
Í:iah... (e yah)	No
Niá:wen	Thank you
Oh niihtonhákie (o nee yo doon ha gay)	How are you?
Ioianerákie (yo ya nay la gay)...K'ní:se (c nee say)	Good, fine
Ioianerákie. yo ya nay la gay	I am fine. And you?
ó:nen (o nun)	Goodbye (go well)
Ó:nen. Skén:nen kénha'k. (o nun. sgun nun gun huk)	Goodbye (stay well)
To nikanó:ron ? (doe nee ga no loon)	How much?

BRIDGING THE GAP

Washington, D.C. Tour



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BETWEEN GENERATIONS & CULTURES

Washington, D.C. Tour



(continued from page 11)

Everyone enjoyed the international foods at the Native American Museum, although it was a bit expensive. However, the cost was provided by the St Regis Mohawk tribe. The Participants did hands-on craft with the Native Indigenous Argentine artists during the morning, and then attended IMAX 3D film.

The movie was superb and the African music added great excitement as it told the story about how the people preserving the fish in the sea in South Africa.

The trip down the Potomac River was nice but in no way they felt matches a cruise ship. Every one dined in the Mall Cultural Restaurant

when they first arrived in beautiful Alexandra Bay. After which the group enjoyed the magic shows. Some of the children had self-portraits done. The children played with the children band. The Elders took time to seat and watch the youth having fun until very late into the night.

Bon Appétit

ZUCCHINI BREAD

Submitted by Shard Ramharrack

Ingredients:

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup Canola oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups grated zucchini
- 2 tsp Vanilla extract
- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 1 tsp. Baking soda
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 1 tsp. Cinnamon powder
- 1/2 tsp. Baking powder
- 1/2 cup Chopped pecans

Cook at 325° F for 1 hour



Step 1

Combine 3 eggs, 2 tsp. of vanilla extract and 2 cups of sugar, mix for 6 minutes until pale and fluffy. Set aside.

Step 2

Combine all dry ingredients & sift. Next add step 1 into step 2 bowl.

Step 3 Incorporate grated zucchini into batter.

Step 4 Add 1cup of oil & nuts..mix until blended.

Pam spray or butter a loaf pan. Spread mix evenly. And bake for 1 hour...Cool before you slice & cut.

Serve with whip cream & enjoy.

BLACK BEANS

Submitted by Olga Calderon

Ingredients


- 1 lb. dried black beans
- 10 cups water
- 1 large green bell pepper, halved and seeded
- 2/3 cup olive oil
- 1 large onion diced
- 4 garlic cloves minced
- 1 large green bell pepper
- 4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1/4 tsp. oregano
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 2 tblsp. vinegar
- 2 tblsp. White cooking wine
- 2 tblsp. Olive oil



Wash the black beans and put them to soak in 10 cups of water. Cut bell pepper in half and remove seeds. Add two halves to beans and water. Soak beans overnight or until beans have swelled to half their size. When they have sufficiently swelled, place on the stove and cook on medium heat in the same water in which they soaked, covered (approximately 45 minutes). Then heat olive oil in fry pan and sauté the onion, garlic, and green pepper. When the beans have softened, add a cup of the beans to the fry pan with sautéed vegetables and mash well. Add mashed beans and onions to the larger bean pot. Add salt, pepper, oregano, bay leaf and sugar. Cover and allow beans to boil gently for another hour. Add vinegar and cooking wine and continue to gently simmer for another hour until the beans thicken. When ready to serve, add olive oil.

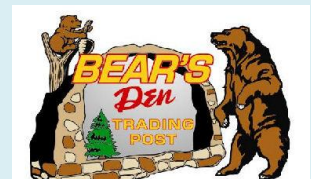


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THANK YOU



ECUADOR

by Topez Patterson



Quito, and Volcano Alley. Ecuador is also home to a portion of the Amazon Rainforest. There are many eco lodges in the rainforest that promote environmentally friendly and sustainable tourism.

When I began my search for a lodge, I was surprised by the vast array of prices. Some lodges were over a thousand dollars a night, and some were only fifty dollars a night. Knowing I couldn't afford \$4,000 for one person for a few days, I had to choose a more reasonably priced option. When I found the Yarina lodge website with a package for four days and three nights with availability during a holiday week, offering me a "last minute discount" costing only \$360 total, I was a little suspicious. The pictures on their website looked great, but would I end up sleeping in a tent and bathing in a river instead of in a nice hut with mosquito netting and indoor plumbing?

The trip to the lodge consisted of a 30 minute flight from Quito to Coca where we were dropped off at a shabby looking motel and given rubber rain boots. While we were waiting on the deck on that typically rainy afternoon I continued to worry that my choice based upon budget may not have been the best decision. I reminded myself that I had read great reviews about the lodge put my suitcase in the black garbage bag they provided to keep our things dry on the ride and hoped for the best.

Eventually, we boarded a motorized canoe for the hour-long journey on the Napo River to the lodge. The river looked hostile, fast moving and the thick dark color of the soil it was dragging with it. Along the banks of the river we saw faces of the Quechua people against the thick greenery. We watched them and they watched us. Eventually we turned into a narrow stream branching off of the river. Tree branches scraped the canvas canoe roof and we saw the Yarina

Lodge sign. This was the only way in and out of the lodge, the point of no return. By this time the rain had stopped and the sun was trying to peek out from the clouds.



I looked to the left of the boat and saw a fallen log blocking off an even smaller stream of water. Along the top of the log was a

highway of leaf-cutter ants feverishly carrying large pieces of bright green leaves back to their colony. The jungle was thick and I started thinking of all that is crawling within it. Just then we turned a bend and I saw a beautiful clearing. The sun illuminated a sprawling beautifully manicured lawn. At the top of a long set of wooden stairs, I could see the grass thatched pavilion roof providing shade for four beautifully colored hammocks which just seemed to call out inviting weary passengers in.



My Hut

The staff carried all of our bags to our cabins and welcomed us to the lodge. Each cabin had a grass roof, hammock on the porch, mosquito netting draped over the beds, and a full bathroom with hot water. I was thrilled and relieved. Maybe this Long Island girl could handle the Amazon after all. There was even electricity for charging cameras and phones but only from 6pm-10pm. I soon realized I didn't really need any more than that.

Continued on Page 18

(Continued from page 17)

We canoed down the streams watching monkeys race above our heads. We listened to the calls of the Oropendola (pendulum birds) who dip like a pendulum on a branch to make each strange video-game-effect-like sound. We hiked in the rain and swung on a vine across the jungle floor. We hiked at night to search for tree frogs, stick bugs, and more spiders than I ever would have liked to of found. In fact while we were eating dinner, one particularly large tarantula came down to the pavilion floor to see what was for dinner...luckily we were not on their menu.

Over the next few days we wore our galoshes and hiked through the trails day and night, always returning for some rest and a shared meal with all of the guests at the lodge. The communal tables were a bit surprising at first but allowed strangers to bond over new experiences and share conversations and travel tips. Some of the guests were taking daily Spanish lessons in the pavilion. Our guides Eduardo and Winter, led my boyfriend, his friend and me in a small group on two to three excursions each day to learn about the culture, wildlife, and ecosystems of the Napo River Basin.



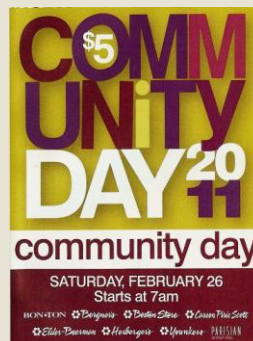
One of my favorite trips was at night. We boarded the canoes and went upstream just after dark. With our headlamps on, we could see bats crisscrossing the stream catching the pesky insects flying above. We then canoed around a small lake searching for an alligator type of reptile called a Cayman. On the surface of the still water green lightning bug larvae glowed in the moonlight. We sat as quietly as possible as our eyes scanned the scenery for the head (including the mouth and sharp teeth) of a Cayman. It was moving to see how timid they are and how it is quite possible for humans to share space with these creatures and others just by taking simple precautions.

On my trip to the Amazon, I went with open eyes and receptive ears. I saw the beauty of nature, the endurance of the native people, and the heart of the locals.

I also saw the encroachment of civilization on nature and traditional ways of life, as a new suspension bridge was being built into the rainforest and we could hear the oil companies' helicopters flying nearby every day. I left cautiously optimistic and more committed than ever to making better everyday decisions to live a more environmentally responsible life.



Thank You



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United But Distinct

Board Members Profile

Our Board Members have a wealth of Professional Experience in many fields such as Teaching, Marketing, Social Work, Spiritual Guidance, Business, Communication; Photography, Artistry, Mentoring, Technology, Cinema photography, Broadcasting; Authors, Stenography and Sports to mention just a few, and we have traveled extensively around the world allowing us to gain knowledge from every continent. Collectively the board members possess over 300 hundred years of expertise and we have lost count on the miles we have traveled

Benefits of Being a PICEI Member

All Star levels members receive:

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- One Free gift
- Authority to submit new ideas & suggestions to reach our goals.

Level Stars: 2, 3 & 4 (Additional benefits):

- All of the above, plus
- Free link on our Website
- 10% discount off of all products sold by PICEI
- Advance notice of events
- One free ticket when entering our Prize Drawings

Level 5 (Additional benefits):

- All of the above, plus
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- Two free tickets when entering our Prize Drawings
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IT IS TIME

Our Dream can be a Reality if we work together...

We Need:

- A *Cultural Center* in the North Country where all cultures can be represented by their culture focusing on the contributions they have made to this world. And, those that have life experiences that are willing to share can openly do so with others from different cultures, as well as to learn from same.
- A *place* where all can learn about themselves and others, as well as their heritage that is the very essence of their roots.

Opportunities:

- A *place* where students can learn about the different cultures early in life without having to travel to other parts of the world.
- A *place* where our youth and elderly can work. (Job creation)
- A *place* maintained by the countries participating to avoid taxes on the local community.
- This will be "A *place*" where we could teach and learn uninhibited by fear of reprisal.

How to get started:

- One of the ways is to *have inmates* help and give back to society with their good intentions by working with the community, by helping with site preparation, and assisting with landscaping, as well as painting and all around maintenance required to keep the cultural center in functional and respectful condition. And, we should give acknowledgement to them by listing their names among those that contribute.
- *Obtain in-kind* support from businesses in each community by requesting that they donate whatever they can to build the outside structures, and having the different participating counties supply interior and all items to be shown that would best tell their history.

This brief overview is to give just a peek at the bigger picture. Let Us Begin.....

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS
NOMINATION**

I wish to accept the nomination for membership status and look forward to serving in the following capacity:

- Active Board Member _____
(Resume Attached)
- Active supporting Member _____
- Non-active member _____

**LEVEL OF FINANCIAL
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**

- () 5 Stars-Life Time..... \$1,000.00
- () 4 Stars-Annual Donation \$150.00
- () 3 Stars-Annual Donation \$ 75.00
- () 2 Stars-Annual Donation \$ 50.00
- () 1 Star -Annual Donation \$ 25.00

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Pamoja International Cultural Exchange, Inc.

(PICEI)

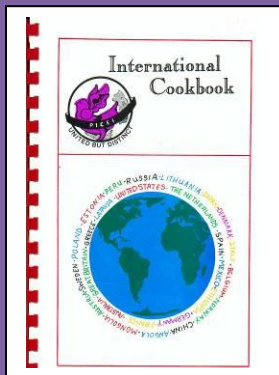
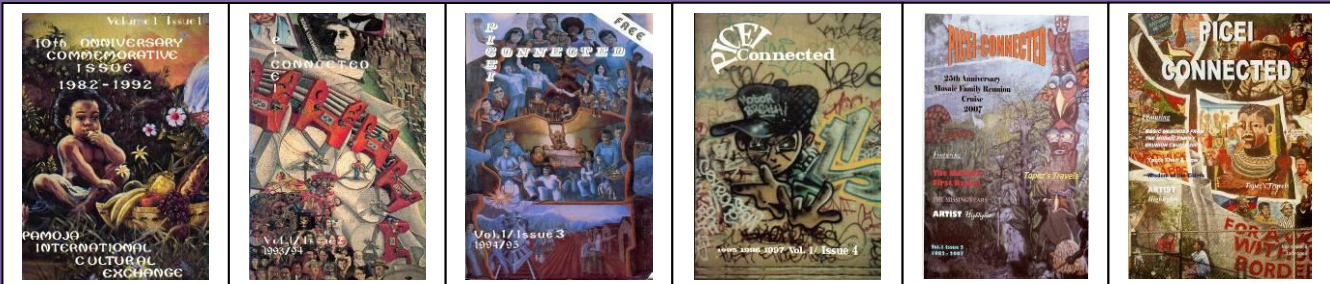


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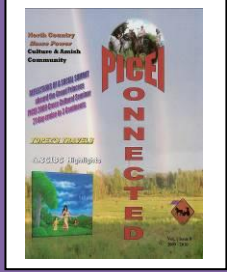
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Betty Swamp



Florence Patterson



Lorraine George

PICEI 50/50 WINNERS

Members & Supporters Help PICEI Continue

It was a blessing in disguise that PICEI found itself having to relocate the site of the “50/50 Last Shall Be First” annual fund raiser from the previous location, to **37 West Steakhouse & Lounge** in Hogansburg this year. The members appreciated the convenience of being able to have a fine lunch and excellent meals while working throughout the day. Most of all, they enjoyed the elegant atmosphere, fine service and delicious foods of the chef. It reminded PICEI’s loyal volunteer members of a New York five star restaurant, or of dining on a luxurious cruise. For some of the members and friends, it was important to eat fresh non greasy food. There was a nice selection of sea food, meat and poultry dishes to choose from. PICEI highly recommends 37 West Steakhouse as an excellent place to dine. So, mark your calendar to join us next year in October 2012.

PICEI raised a total of \$5,100.00 on its Annual “50/50 Last Shall Be First” raffle. The winners **Mike and Lisa Swamp** of Akwesasne for the 50/50 raffle received \$2,550.00. Hopefully on the 5th annual Last Shall Be First 50/50, PICEI will reach its goal of \$10,000.00. Other prizes were given that evening to the first number called and every tenth number thereafter. **Viola Bass** of Long Island won a CISCO flip video camera, donated by Chrysetta Patterson. Five other gifts were donated by Home Depot which included an outdoor hanging light, Instruction books, and BJ Wholesale Club of Massena donated two Free Memberships. Every ticket number was called so that those present were witness to every ticket that was sold was in the drawing. Each time a number was called those present were hoping it was not their number. The excitement peaked as each number was called out.

There was also a free ticket for the Lotto Tree, given to anyone when visiting the establishment throughout the day. The winner of the Lotto Tree was Julianne Barnes of Akwesasne.

Julianne Barnes, Betty Swamp, Florence Patterson and Lorraine George were the top sellers of the 50/50 raffle.



50/50 Raffle Winners for 2011



Lisa Swamp



Mike Swamp

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PROFILE OF TEWATENNIHEH - JEAN F. HERNE

A Tribute to Tawatenniheh-Jean F. Herne, October 24, 1933 – April 16, 2011

Written by one of her dearest friends: Florence Patterson

We want to share with you today that which you may or may not know about our beloved *Tawatenniheh (Jean F. Herne)*. Tawatenniheh served in the capacity of the **Mohawk Culture Director** since 1992. She became totally committed to the promotion of the Mohawk Culture for PICEI when PICEI presented The Festival of the Drums at Massena H. S. in 1994. From that time, forward Tawatenniheh worked on many projects that help to make her community aware of PICEI and what it stands for. In our small way of acknowledging Tawatenniheh, PICEI dedicated our new annex office building on the temporary site in Brasher Falls to her on Friday, August 26, 2011, and later will acknowledge her at the Cultural Center in Potsdam that will be built in the near future.

After 25 years of teaching, Tawatenniheh retired only to begin to work even harder promoting the Mohawk language with PICEI without salary, as our entire staff do. She was “always giving” as her Mohawk name means. She did her giving from her heart. Hundreds of people in the Mohawk community can attest to that to this very day.

In her travels around the world with PICEI, Tawatenniheh was a great ambassador for her culture. So many people she encountered have learned that the Mohawk Nation and other indigenous cultures have their own language. Unfortunately, our educational systems restrict much of which she wanted the children of the Mohawk Nation to know. She felt it was important that the children be proud of who they are. Tawatenniheh embraced PICEI because of its mission which is a belief in the truth and beauty of each culture on earth. The fact that we can be united, but distinct, resonated with her deeply. She loved that PICEI gave her an opportunity to teach around the world with autonomy and to serve as an ambassador for her nation.

She traveled on PICEI Cultural Seminar Cruises around the world to places such as Italy, Spain, France, Gibraltar, Morocco, Canary Islands, Barbados, Dominica and Brazil. She also made the journey on the Mosaic Family Reunion Cruise in 2007 to St. John and Halifax, Canada, and a trip by train to Washington D.C with the youth. She was able to share her knowledge with the elders too. We all found out how difficult the making of bookmarks from sweet grass can be, which Tawatenniheh demonstrated with such ease on the Three Continent Cultural Cruise in 2009.

Preparing so many projects with other members of PICEI for the youth in the after school programs which covered a span of five years, was another highlight of her life.

Tawatenniheh, taught native dance, culinary arts and, of course, language. Culinary Arts was one of her favorite things in her life. As a hotel owner, she would decorate cakes and prepare all kinds of foods; she would prepare several of the wildlife foods. She loved wild turkey and deer (venison). Her canning and pickling was always a part of her, which she taught her grandchildren, and we can see that in Herbi as she carries on her grandmother’s will. We will truly miss her sugar-free fruit and whipped cream cake that no one could ever tell it was sugar free. She liked doing things that made people happy.



Jean Herne, as many of the community members knew her, should now realize her desire to no longer have to suffer the use of a name not originally given her by her parents. She felt that no one, no country has the right to take away that which is given by the parents through the Creator. She often cried as she shared her story of her life as a little girl having to not speak her language, to not be native during her school hours then returning home to become native again. If she spoke her language the sisters would beat her hands for it.

On Monday, April 25, 2011, at the traditional Feast for Tawatenniheh, her family member, Sue shared with all of us the importance of the dash (-) in our lives that many of us call the journey. What we do with it, is up to us. Jean’s **dash** of life was one to be proud of by both family and friends.

Should we not realize that each of us has a journey here on earth to fulfill the dash (-) in our lives with an understanding of who we are? We believe that Jean would want us to.

Yes, we remember, Tawatenniheh, who worked with us, walked with us, talked with us, and of course the Jean that played Bingo with many of us.

And, Tawatenniheh will always be with us...

For anyone who would like to continue with Tawatenniheh’s (Jean Herne) legacy and journey with PICEI, please feel free to contact us for more information at 518 358 9942.

Tawatenniheh, we love you.



"A MOVING EXPERIENCE"

Just what it is, a joyful moving experience to view and experience Jane Dubray and "Gotta Dance studio" do their thing. Last June we had the proud pleasure to see the 175 students of Gotta Dance Studio perform their dance segments of "KID'S TV" and "GLEE".

There was a full house standing room only, the vibrant and joyful music emanating from the stage made you feel as if you were part of the production and made the audience also want to dance.

The tastefully selected classy Broadway professional costuming approved by Jane Dubray set the appropriate tone for each performance.

When having the opportunity to converse with Ms. Jane we found her unique wholesome philosophy and approach to teaching dance compelling and refreshing.

Gotta Dance Studio is truly a Family Affair. Ms. Jane mother of four and Grandmother of 7 have an extensive history and bio in dance, which we hope to get to highlight in future publications.

This entire family reaps of great talent and attributes to make a success of their family business. Each teacher has a college degree. The family all have experience and or some background in theater, Jane's two (2) sons Terry and Ryan are former Technical Director personal from New York City and Boston which provides the professional stage, music and set-design that is present at the recitals.

Jane Keeps a mind boggling schedule during the winter months in the North Country, this causes one to feel that her energy, caring, and morality are due to her faith. From Jane's conversation she has grown to love all of her dancers, but especially the (physically challenged NYSARC students). Her display of love toward them has brought an acute awareness and appreciation to the other dancers for them as well. The up and coming little dance stars & (NYSARC dance students) literally bring tears of joy to your eyes each time they perform. (A must see) The Recitals are scheduled each year in early June.

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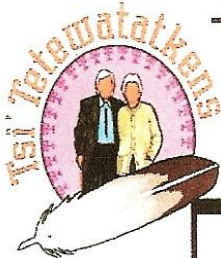
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MEMORIES

Broken Chain

We little knew that morning that God was going to call your name. In Life we loved you dearly; in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go home alone; for part of us went with you, the day God called you home. You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide; and through we cannot see you, you are always at our side. Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same; but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.



Christina Taylor Green
September 11, 2001-January 8, 2011

The spirit of Christina Taylor Green, age 9 soars around and among us in hope of Peace...Let us not disappoint her and all of us who know...They are all welcomed home...

Dennis F. Cook
November 17, 2011



Jean "Tewatennih" Herne
October 24, 1933 - April 16, 2011

Salli Benedict
January 5, 1954 to May 15, 2011

Dorothy Height
March 24, 1912-April 20, 2010

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- ◆ Bear Fox
- ◆ Mildred Glenn
- ◆ Lela Harris
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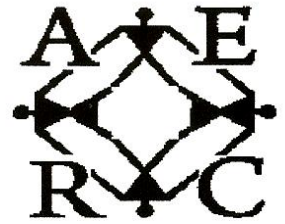
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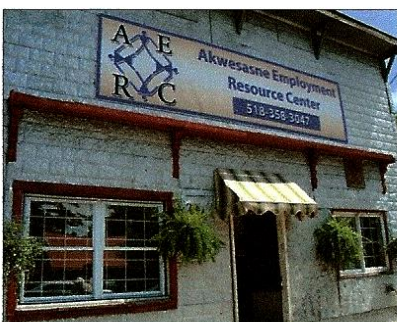
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