



# San Diego Cherokee Community Newsletter

Issue 12

[www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com](http://www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com)

May, 2009

## Upcoming Strawberry Festival & Spring Picnic

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual SDCC picnic will be held on May 31st at Lake Murray starting at 11:30 and going until ???. We will have direction signs to our site.

The Council has decided to provide the main entrée and the beverages for the event. We ask that our fellow Cherokee Community members bring a dish to share with the rest of our community.

### **If your last name begins with:**

**A-M bring a side dish**

**N-Z bring a desert**

Please bring your own blanket or chair to sit on as there is very limited to no seating at this venue depending on where we set up. Don't forget your sunscreen. We also need extra ice chests for the drinks.

We hope to have a marble game set up with a prize for the winner. We will also have a basket weaving project, if we can.

We are also looking for people who would like to demonstrate their Native American crafts for the community.

You will need to bring your own table to set up for your demo. Please contact the SDCC council at:

[sandiegocherokeecommunity@yahoo.com](mailto:sandiegocherokeecommunity@yahoo.com)

We need to know how much room we need to reserve at Lake Murray. See our website for the latest updates:

[www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com](http://www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com)

## Election Set

Election for the three Council positions will be held at the Spring Picnic, May 31st. Ballots will be mailed out about two week prior to that time. You can send the ballot back to the PO Box listed on the ballot or bring to the annual picnic.

Members running for the election are:

### **Shannon Ventuleth**

I would be happy to continue to serve on the Council of the San Diego Cherokee Community. This past year I have served on the council planning our meetings and events. Although I am not a registered member of the Cherokee Nation I feel it is as important for non-citizens to learn the language and culture of their Cherokee ancestors as it is for those who are citizens. We are one in spirit and history, whether we are registered citizens or not. The survival of

Cherokee traditions and preservation of the language is the responsibility of all descendants.

I am a Speech Pathologist and reside in Fallbrook with my husband. Our children are either in college or living on their own so I feel I have the time needed to volunteer for this position. In the past I have served on the boards/councils for National Charity League, SGEGA, PTA, Fallbrook Players and several professional organizations.

### **Patrick Bea**

I am currently on the committee as the membership chair. I have had experience in committees and organizations including president of a chapter, facilitator, recording secretary, and helped to organize two international conferences. I am a Cherokee descendant and currently working on my citizenship for the nation.

### **Cindy Swayze**

My name is Cindy Swayze and I am a registered member of the Cherokee Nation. I have been involved with the San Diego Cherokee since the beginning. I was elected last year for a 1 year position and would like to be considered for another term. I feel it is very important to learn, teach and preserve our culture for our future generations. I am currently working for the Escondido Humane Society as a Development Coordinator. I am on the PTA Board – where I am currently secretary and co leader for girl scouts. I am married and have two girls.

These Council positions will now be for 2 years.

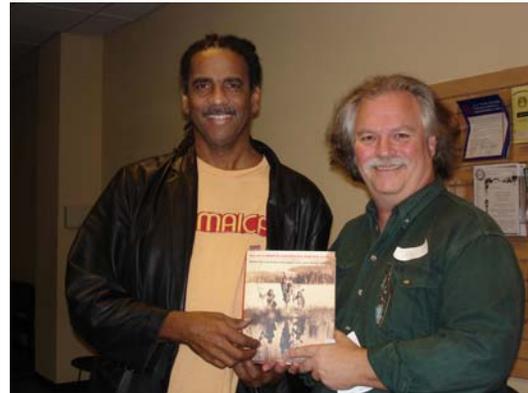
## **Renewal of Dues**

The SDCC council voted to reduce the annual dues for 1 year due to the current recession.

Single membership is now \$10 and family membership is \$15. Please see renewal form on the last page of this newsletter for renewal.

## Former Member Dies

Steve Spencer, a former member of the Cherokee Community in San Diego died in December of pulmonary fibrosis. He was 60.



Steve with Phil

Some of you may remember that Steve came to one of our first meetings and brought the history of his family to share with the group. He was very proud of his Cherokee Freedman heritage.

Steve worked hard on bringing a Brazilian Carnival to San Diego's downtown. The first one was in 1993. He worked for the CA Department of Fair Employment & Housing for nearly 30 years before retiring.

Steve was born October 2, 1948, in San Diego to Betty Davis and Barney Spencer. He graduated from St. Augustine High School in 1966 and attended San Diego State University.

## Mountain Theatre Undergoes Renovation

The renowned outdoor drama "Unto These Hills" which chronicles the history of the Cherokee Indians will open its 60<sup>th</sup> season in the newly

renovated Mountainside Theatre in Cherokee, N.C.

The \$1.8 million renovation to the 2,800 seat rustic and elegant open air theatre began in the winter and will create a more comfortable, safer and convenient experience for theatre goers.

Mountainside Theatre has entertained more than 6 million visitors since the drama opened in 1950.

The Cherokee Historical Association will also use the theatre to host more events, concerts and other performances.

Cherokee, N.C., presents some of the most significant and culturally authentic events in the U.S., rich in elaborate Native American ceremony, regalia, native song and dance, traditional arts and crafts, legends and historic traditions.

Source: The Examiner, Cherokee, N.C.

## Cherokees Reunite

Divided by their forced removal in 1838, a tragedy known as the Trail of Tears, members of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians and the Cherokee Nation reunited to commemorate and celebrate the Cherokee Nation at Red Clay State Park in Cleveland, TN, April 16-18, 2009.

The 3-day event began with a symposium of Native American scholars discussing the historical significance of the Trail of Tears and its impact on Cherokee society. Cultural demonstrations and performances were also featured.

The second day began with the symbolic Eternal Flame run in which tribal members ran from Cherokee, N.C. to Red Clay State Park. The Chiefs of each tribe carried torches to lead the runners into the park to commemorate the return of the Eternal Flame to the historic Red Clay Council Grounds.

Following the run, the leaders of the Eastern Band and the Cherokee Nation met in a Joint Council to discuss and pass resolutions to symbolize the reunification of the Cherokee Nation.

The Red Clay Reunion concluded with a cultural celebration and included Cherokee traditional dances, music, storytelling, a stickball game and arts and crafts demonstrations.

The historically significant Council Grounds at Red Clay was the seat of Cherokee government from 1832 through 1837.

It was at Red Clay that Chief John Ross learned the Cherokees were to be forced off their ancestral land and driven west in what would later be called The Trail of Tears. From this site a delegation was sent to Washington in an attempt to dispel the false treaty, and from where fire from the last great council flame would be preserved for future generations who settled in the west.

Source: The Examiner, Cherokee, N.C.

## CNI Acquires Firm

Cherokee Nation Industries acquired a Kellyville, OK, based business Red Wing Products, Inc.

Red Wing manufactures and assembles electronic airplane parts for the Department of Defense and the aerospace industry.

Brian Collins, CEO of CNI, says their aerospace and defense unit is growing and that growth called for expansion possibilities.

Red Wing will give CNI new capabilities with its machine shop, more production space and an already trained workforce. By acquiring Red Wing, CNI estimates a saving of approximately \$1 million on outsourced parts. The company will now be known as Cherokee Nation Red Wing.

Source: [www.newson6.com](http://www.newson6.com)

## *Casino Resort Nears Completion*

The Hard Rock Casino Tulsa is nearing its completion date of summer, 2009. Cherokee Casino will do a soft opening in June and on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the operation will hold a grand opening and celebrate the official name change to Hard Rock Casino and Hotel.

The Cherokee Casino is not being purchased by Hard Rock. This is merely a partnership to carry the Hard Rock name, décor and merchandise.

The casino's new gaming floor includes a smoke-free area, an upscale high-limit room with its own private bar and lounge, 100 proprietary games available only at Cherokee Casino, and the new gaming floor's focal point, the sleekly furnished Center Bar.

The Center Bar features a bar with a frozen bar top and serving taps and is more than 80 feet long.

Upon completion, the hotel and casino complex will include a Hard Rock store, an additional 19-story luxury hotel tower and increased rentable convention space. This will bring the total to more than 30,000 square feet. Toby Keith's "I Love This Bar & Grill" is expected to open up in the hotel and casino.

Included in the expansion is a top floor steak house, an 18<sup>th</sup> floor 300-person capacity convention room and a convention hall with accommodations for 1,000 people.

Source: GTR News.com

## *Tribe Gets \$42M in Stimulus Funds*

The Cherokee Nation is expected to receive about \$42.5 million as part of the \$787 billion federal stimulus plan.

CN Treasurer Callie Catcher said the funds would have a major impact on tribal citizens and families since the money would be funneled directly into CN programs.

The tribe's Roads Group will receive around \$12.1 million which will help repair and construct new roads in the 14-county jurisdictional area.

The Youth Employee Program is slated to get about \$900,000 which will fund an additional 200 jobs for the federal summer youth work program. The Health Group will receive \$6.7 million

to be used in the W.W. Hastings Hospital and tribal clinics.

Environmental Health is expected to receive \$10 million for water and sewage projects with the tribe's jurisdiction. The Native American Housing assistance & Self Determination Act Fund will be \$11.9 million.

The Executive and Finance Committee modified the tribe's fiscal year 2009 budget to include the stimulus funds.

Source: The Cherokee Phoenix, Jami Custer

## Trail of Tears Bill Passes US Senate

The Trail of Tears Documentation Act and the Green McAdoo National Historic Study Act were both included in the Public Lands Bill H.R. 146, which recently passed in the Senate.

The Trail of Tears Documentation Act calls for the inclusion of two primary westward trails – the Benge and Bell routes, as well as water routes thru the Tennessee and Arkansas Rivers and the so-called 'round up routes' from Tennessee, North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama where the Cherokee were sought out, gathered and subsequently forced on the long journey by foot, horseback, boat and wagon to the new "Indian Territory:.

The designation and interpretation of the additional sites and trails associated with the Cherokee Removal will enhance public understanding of American history.

The Green McAdoo National Historic Site Study Act would direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of designating the Green McAdoo School in Clinton, TN, which successfully integrated without federal intervention.

Both measures have been introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives.

Source: [www.chattanooga.com](http://www.chattanooga.com)

## Cherokee Moons

### January: Cold Moon Unolvtani

This time of the season is a time for personal and ritual observance, fasting and personal purification. During this season, families prepare for the coming of the new seasons, starting in Wind Moon Anuyi or March. Personal items and tools for planting are repaired and new ones made.

Stories about ancestors and the family are imparted to the younger ones by the elders. A mid-Winter Or Cold Moon Dance is usually held in the community.

### February: Bony Moon Kagali

Traditional time of personal-family feast for the ones who have departed this world. A family meal is prepared with place (s) set for the departed. This is also a time of fasting and ritual observance.

### March: Windy Moon Anuyi

"First New Moon" of the new seasons. Traditional start of the new cycle of planting seasons or Moons. New town council fires are made.

#### April: Flower Moon Kawoni

First plants of the season come out at this time. New births are customary within this time frame. The first new medicine and herb plants that taught mankind how to defend against sickness come out now. A dance customary of this season was the 'Knee Deep Dance' of the Spring or Water frog.

#### May: Planting Moon Anisguti

Families traditionally prepare the fields and sow them with stored seeds from last season. A dance traditionally done at this time is the 'Corn Dance'.

#### June: Green Corn Moon Tihaluhiyi

First signs of the corn in the tassel, and the emerging of the various plants of the fields. People traditionally begin preparations for the upcoming festivals of the ensuing growing season. People of the AniGadugi Society begin repairs needed on town houses, family homes and generally provide for the needy. The AniGadugi Society is a volunteer help group who see to the needs of the less fortunate, the elderly and the infirm of the villages.

#### July: Ripe Corn Moon Guyegwoni

First foods or the new planting and the roasting ears of corn are ready. Towns begin the cycle festivals. Dances and celebrations of thanks to the Earth Mother and the "Apportioner" Unethiana are given.

#### August: Fruit Moon Galoni

Foods of the trees and bushes are gathered at this time. The various "Paint

Clans begin to gather many of the herbs and medicines for which they were historically know. Green Corn festivals are commonly held at this time in the present day. The "Wild Potato" clan AniNudawegi, begin harvesting various foods growing along the streams, marshes, lakes and ponds.

#### September: Nut Moon Duliidsdi

The corn harvest referred to as "Ripe Corn Festival" was customarily held in the early part of this moon to acknowledge Selu the spirit of corn. Selu is thought of as First Woman. The festival respects Mother Earth as well for providing all foods during the growing season.

#### October: Harvest Moon Duninudi

Time of traditional "Harvest Festival" Nowatequa when the people give thanks to all the living things of the fields and earth that helped them live.

#### November: Trading Moon Nudadaequa

Traditionally a time of trading and barter among different towns and tribes for manufactured goods, produce and goods from hunting.

#### December: Snow Moon Usgiyi

The spirit being "snow Man" brings the cold and snow for the earth to cover the high places while the earth rests until the rebirth of the seasons in the Windy Moon Anuyi. Families traditionally were busy storing goods for the next cycle of seasons. Elders enjoyed teaching and retelling ancient stories of the people to the young.

# Annual Memberships Expired April 30!!

All memberships in the SDCC expired April 30. Renew yours today! Membership renewal rates are: \$15 for all family members in the household or \$10 for single memberships for **2009 ONLY**.

Mail the membership form below or at find it at [www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com](http://www.sandiegocherokeecommunity.com)

Mail form and check to: SDCC, P O Box 504453, San Diego, CA 92150-4453

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## San Diego Cherokee Community (SDCC) Membership Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    First                    Middle Initial                    Last

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
  Street Address & Apt. # or Post Office Box #

\_\_\_\_\_ City State Zip

TELEPHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to be listed in a SDCC membership directory? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Names of other household members over 18 at the same address to be added to the SDCC Roster of Members:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CHEROKEE AFFILIATION (Check One):

Cherokee Nation \_\_\_\_\_ Registration # \_\_\_\_\_

United Keetoowah Band \_\_\_\_\_ Registration # \_\_\_\_\_

Eastern Band of Cherokee \_\_\_\_\_ Registration # \_\_\_\_\_

Cherokee Descent, Unregistered \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Explain) \_\_\_\_\_