

Highlights

- Historic UCTP Declaration signed in New York
- Voice of Mother Earth Conference held at National Museum of the American Indian
- Indigenous Encounter held in Puerto Rico
- Taino Activist Gain Return of Ancient Artifacts in PR

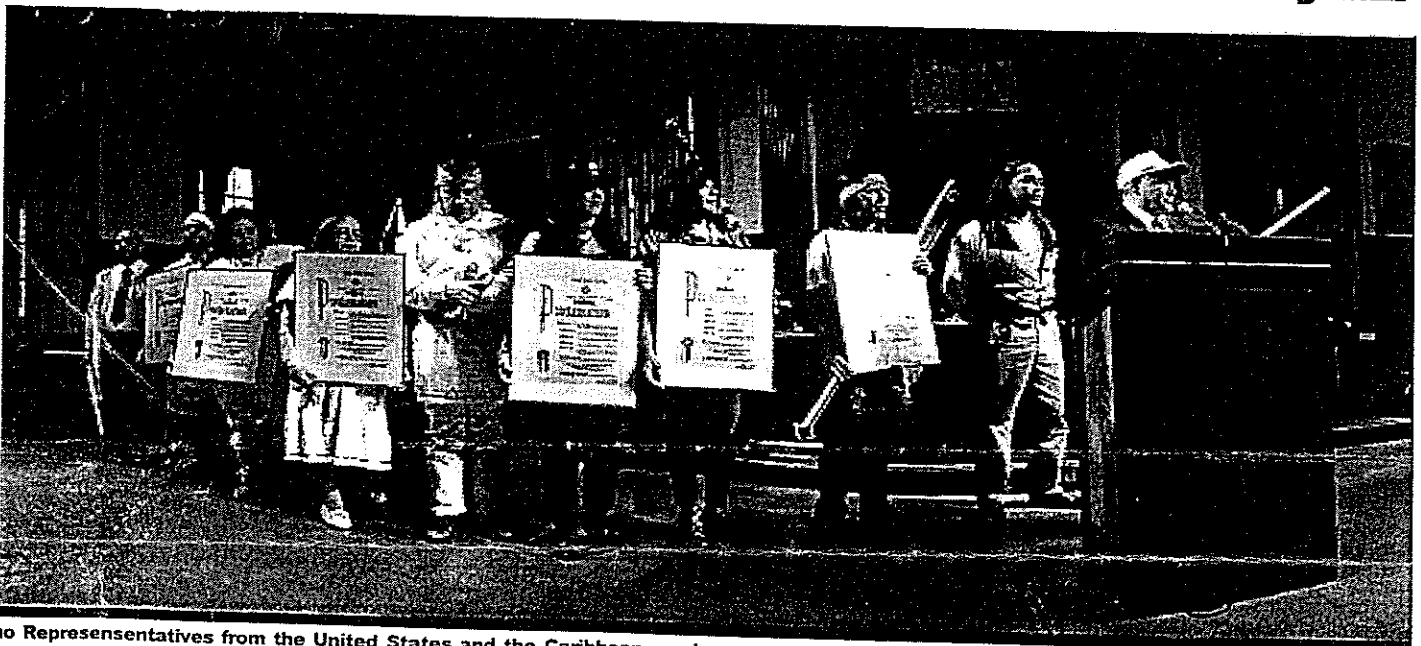
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La Voz del Pueblo Taino

*La Voz del Pueblo Taino (The Voice of the Taino People) is the official Newsletter of the United States Regional Chapter of the United Confederation of Taino People
Vol. 1 Issue 3, May 1998*

Taino Indian Leaders Sign Historic Declaration at New York's City Hall



Taino Representatives from the United States and the Caribbean receive an Official Proclamation from the Honorable Councilman, Jose Rivera designating March 27th 1998 as the United Confederation of Taino People Day in New York City. Pictured from left to Right: William Amaguaraguao Rios, Edgar Conuko Ceiba Rodriguez, Marie Nanamaguey Crooke-Gautier, Maria Anani Jimenez, Pedro Guanikeyu Torres, Elba Anaca Lugo, Vanessa Inarunkia Pastrana, Rafael Iuaonbo Aponte, Roberto Mucaro Borrero and Councilman Jose Rivera. (Photo: Holger Thoss)

A Collective Effort now Provides a Forum for a Unified Voice on Issues which Concern Taino Communities Within and Out of the Caribbean.

NEW YORK, NY . On March 27th 1998, Taino Indian Leaders representing Caribbean and North American Indigenous Taino organizations gathered for an

inauguration ceremony and the official signing of the Declaration of the United Confederation of the Taino People (UCTP). The event took place in the Council

Chambers at New York's City Hall. This was made possible through the cooperation of the Honorable City Councilman, Jose Rivera. (continued pg. 2)

At the commencement, UCTP Spokesman and Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Roberto Mucaro Borrero, called for a moment of silence dedicated to the struggles of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Tabanuco, the sacred Taino incense filled the City Council Chambers with an ancient mist. In his opening remarks, Mr. Borrero explained that with the establishment of the Confederation, Tainos, the descendants of the first "Native Americans" who greeted Christopher Columbus in 1492, can now present a unified voice to address the many issues which concern contemporary Taino People. Some of the issues include the correction of past misconceptions about the Taino, the repatriation of Taino ancestral remains, religious intolerance, cultural exploitation, and the promotion of new dialogue between Taino People and the international, national and local communities.

Mr. Borrero highlighted a few precedent setting events which have occurred within the Taino Community over the last 10 years such as the inclusion of Taino People in the decision making process, as consultants in museum exhibits and film documentaries, the reestablishment of communications between inter-island Taino groups, and Taino representation at the United Nations and other diplomatic and academic forums.

In a dynamic presentation, the honorable Councilman Jose Rivera acknowledged the historical significance of this event "500 years after the arrival of Columbus and 100 years after the United States invasion of Puerto Rico." In

recognizing the groups and individuals responsible for the establishment of the UCTP, Councilman Rivera presented an official Proclamation, designating the 27th of March as the *United Confederation of Taino People Day* in New York City. A copy of the Proclamation was given to representatives of each group present.

Following the introductions and statements by representatives of UCTP member organizations, the group proceed to sign the Declaration of the United Confederation of the Taino People. The Declaration, in its preamble begins with "We, the Taino People" and contains eight articles whose provisions seek to protect, defend and preserve Taino cultural heritage and Spiritual Tradition, while establishing basic guidelines for organizational structure, process and accountability.

The organizations now forming part of the UCTP include; Jatibonicu Tribal Council, Presencia Taina, Maisiti Yucayeke Taino, Taino Inter-Tribal Council, Kanei Spiritual Circle, Baramaya, Taino Ancestral Legacy Keepers, Cacibajagua; from Boriken: Consejo General de Tainos Borincanos, Caney Quinto Mundo; from Quiskeya: Fundacion Social Luz Cosmica Fraternalista Taina.

Acknowledgments of special guest included Ms. Esmeralda Brown, Chairperson of the NGO Committee on the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. Also showing support for the UCTP were representatives of local Native American groups like the Northeastern Native American Association, Long Island Native

American Task Force and the Native American Correctional Indian Society. Other organizations represented in attendance were the Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources, the Shiva Center, the Tribal Link Foundation, Biaraku, and the Rajkumari Cultural Center.

The program closed with the participants singing a Taino ceremonial song dedicated to Attabeira (Mother Earth) and a reception featuring traditional Taino foods followed.

The Voice of Mother Earth Gathering and Conference

NEW YORK - The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) was host to an historic gathering and conference of Native Peoples on March 28th, 1998. The conference entitled "Voice of Mother Earth," featured Indigenous Elders and Community Leaders from North and South America and the Caribbean to discuss the role of Native Women within their perspective communities.

This event, held in observance of Women's History Month, was presented by UCTP member organization, Presencia Taina and the Long Island Native American Task Force, in association with the NMAI. Directors Vanessa Inarunikia (PT) and Aurelia Lucia Henriquez (LNATF) organized and co-moderated the presentations and activities. Conference speakers included Harriet and Lance Gumbs (Shinecock), Lorraine Canoe (Mohawk), Sunshine Eagle (Quechua), Marguerite Smith (Shinecock), Maria Manati Robles (Taino), Melvin Betsellie (Navajo), Roberto Mucaro Borrero (Taino)

and Elba Anaca Lugo (Taino). Ms. Lugo, who is the President of the General Council of Tainos Borincanos was in New York not only to participate in this conference but to represent the Council at the historic UCTP Signatory Ceremony at City Hall.

Ms Aurelia Lucia Henriquez, Director of the



Long Island Native American Task Force and Ms. Vanessa Inarunkia, Director of Presencia Taina, at the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution in New York.

The program also included powerful musical presentations by the Young Blood Singers and the Drum Circle Singers. Sylvia Guariche-Boa Benitez (Taino), Lizzy Sarobey (Taino) and Barbara Naniche Marengo (Taino) of Cacibajagua accompanied Roberto Mucaro Borrero in a song dedicated to Attabéira, the sacred Taino Earth and Water Mother. Sandra Roldan also gave a moving version of her song dedicated to Indigenous Women, "India Nativa."

Presentations covered topics such as the matriarchal organization of Iroquois society, maintaining a balance between traditional and contemporary life, and the feminine energy which permeates every aspect of the Taino universe. Shinecock Elder, Harriet Gumbs spoke of her youth and the changes that she has seen occur on the reservation for her people. Melvin

Betsellie (Navajo) spoke of need for women and men to work together on a spiritual level to protect not only their heritage but the environment.

The day long event was enthusiastically received by both natives and non-natives, who filled the conference room to capacity.

The positive interaction from the audience reflected the desire for this type of dialogue. "It is interesting to note that a majority of questions were directed toward the Taino representatives, displaying a genuine public interest in the Caribbean Indigenous Peoples Movement.

The program which opened with a prayer by Melvin Betsellie and Maria Manati Robles, closed in the same manner. The conference was felt by the participants and the audience alike, to be an overall success and all looked forward to gathering again next year.

Indigenous Gathering of the Americas held in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO - A conference entitled "Indigenous Encounter of the Americas" was held March 16-20, 1998 in San Juan, Puerto Rico and was organized by the Center for Indigenous Studies of the Americas (CISA) and the University of Puerto Rico. This conference, according to its press releases, sought to bring together Indigenous representatives from throughout the Americas to address cultural issues, topics like intellectual property rights, human rights, natural habitat destruction, diversity and natural medicine.

Activities scheduled throughout the event included tours, panel presentations, performances, and spiritual ceremonies.

Although a few Taino people were extended last minute invitations to the conference, these invitations unfortunately proved only to be a form of tokenism. In an article which appeared in the San Juan Star three days before the event, Cheile Zarate Vargas, public relations coordinator of the CISA declared, "...in Puerto Rico, there are not indigenous people any longer." Mr. Ramon Nenadich, CISA Director, supported Ms. Vargas' statement, continuously relating this same position to the visiting Indigenous delegates.

On hand to witness the event, UCTP spokesperson, Roberto Mucaro Borrero noted "the fact that Taino participation throughout this conference was so isolated and obviously manipulated by the organizers, is unfortunately representative of the discrimination, oppression and intolerance still perpetuated against contemporary Taino descendants in Puerto Rico and throughout the Caribbean."

Local Taino representatives, like Naniki Reyes Ocasio were especially concerned that native people could come from other lands and perform spiritual ceremonies without consulting with the island's Indigenous residents.

Despite the local concerns, and displaying the commitment of the Taino community to the solidarity of Indigenous Peoples, positive dialogue and interaction did occur between the visiting Indigenous delegates and the representatives of the General Council of Tainos Borincanos. (cont. pg. 4)

As lessons can be learned from every situation, this conference revealed not only the importance of Indigenous Peoples being directly involved in the organization of all activities which concern them but the urgent need for a new dialogue to begin between the native people of Puerto Rico and the present academic establishment.

Carib Chief Hillary Fredricks, from the Island of Dominica, meets with Boriken Tainos, Elba Anaca Lugo and Roberto Mucaro Borrero in Utuado, Puerto Rico



Taino Activist gain Return of Ancient Artifacts in PR.

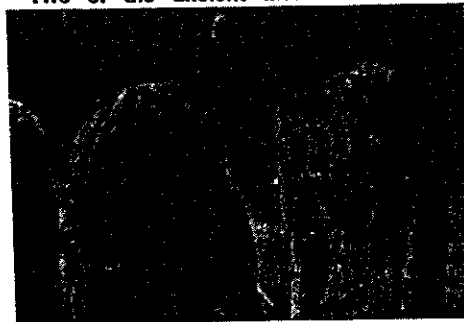
ADUJUNTAS, PUERTO RICO - In the mountainous interior of the island of Boriken (Puerto Rico) there stands a beautiful tribute to the hard work of an individual and a community who's vision of repatriation has come to pass. In Samuel Maracuto Nunez's 'front yard,' an ancient Taino *Batey* or ceremonial plaza has been restored and can now be visited by the general public. Mr. Nunez, a member of the General Council of Tainos Borincanos, along with other concerned community residents, led the successful struggle to gain the return of the ancient monolithic stones that had once lined this plaza which was used by his ancestors so long ago.

The *Batey* was first discovered in 1978 and because of mining activities in the area, the stones were taken to the Catholic University of Puerto Rico. Twenty years after their removal, the return of the stones was made possible by a collaborative effort of the Department of Natural Resources and Casa Pueblo, a community based environmental group which has been struggling the last 15 years against mining activities in the area. Under the guidance of the archeologist, Pedro Alvarado, the stones have actually been replaced in the same location where they stood so proudly in ancient times.

In a private ceremony, members of the General Council of Tainos Borincanos gathered on the sacred grounds to honor the return of the stones and the restoration of the plaza. In an emotional presentation, Council Member, Pablo Haguay Rosario, stated to the children present that this was their *Batey* and it was up to them to care for and protect it from now on.

Future plans for the area, include a proposed initiative by the University of Puerto Rico which is to include an environmental center, reforestation, and a publication about the archeological site.

Two of the ancient monolithic stones



which line the sacred ceremonial *Batey* in the mountainous interior of Puerto Rico.

BOOK REVIEW

by Melaino J. Gonzalez

TAINO: PRE-COLUMBIAN ART AND CULTURE FROM THE CARIBBEAN

El Museo del Barrio\ The Monacelli Press\ ISBN # 1-885254-82-2 \ \$35.00

This lavishly illustrated book is comprised of a series of essays written by some of the most highly respected scholars working in the field of Taino studies. The book concentrates on personal artistic expression to illustrate various aspects of our ancestral life ways. Beginning with an overview of the general aspects of Pre-Columbian Caribbean history, it proceeds smoothly into a detailed study, through art, of our People.

Each essay focuses intently on its particular subject matter and expands greatly on previously known material. While reading the book, I sensed what seemed to me to be an increased sensitivity towards our People and the Spirituality which permeated every aspect of our life ways. To me, every essay seems to be written with respect, not only towards the medicine objects which are depicted throughout the book, but also to our ancestors and to us, their living descendents.

Throughout the book, newly recognized *truths* about the way our ancestors conceptualized our universe, through their art, is included and detailed. For the artist, sharp, clear photographs and detailed line drawings are an excellent resource to further their own work. Historically, the text provides a thorough, in-depth study that should be considered one of the most accurate to date.

In my opinion, those who seek some insight into the Spirituality of the works created by our Grandmothers and Grandfathers, this volume can be considered a revelation because it would appear that the scholars actually took the time to ask some of us the right questions and they listened! Of course there are some flaws. The jacket liner of the book speaks of our [Taino] disappearance, the use of the word *Zemi* instead of *Cemi*, and statements concerning our sacred Cohoba Ceremony using phrases like "hallucinogenic drug trances" - make it clear that there is still some educating to be accomplished in regards to the academic world.

This book has something for everyone; historians, artist, the casual reader, and the self-professed know-it-all alike. It is concise and an easy read, that it is not an archeological or anthropological treatise in any sense of the word. Taken as a whole, the Taino community should be proud that at last a more accurate portrayal of our ancestors and their life way finally made it to print. Throwing away the comment in the jacket liner, the authors of the essays do not mention even once the words extermination or extinction. Indeed Professor Jose Juan Arrom states: "Elsewhere I have shown that the Tainos were not exterminated. There were survivors of the great decimation...and after contact these survivors transmitted not only their genes, but also the principal achievements of their culture." I recommend this book to all.

Melanio Gonzalez Xeti Aon Coyabey, is an artist and historian, and the Co-Director of UCTP member organization CACIBAJAGUA. He currently resides in Meridan, CT. with his wife and children..

Symposium: Rethinking Taino - The Cultural Politics of the Use of their Legacy and Imagery

NEW YORK - On February 28th 1998, a symposium entitled "Rethinking Taino: The Cultural Politics of the Use of their Legacy and Imagery" took place at El Museo del Barrio. In conjunction with the exhibition: Taino Pre-Columbian Art and Culture from the Caribbean, this panel sought to explore the historical role of the Taino as a symbol of national identity and its continued use as an important political and cultural symbol for the contemporary Caribbean.

Panelist included Dr. Arlene Davila, Syracuse University, Dr. Jorge Duany, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Dr. Miriam Jimenez, Independent Scholar and Dr. Peter Roberts, University of the West Indies at Cave Hill. Dr. Davila, who was the session chair, opened the presentations with her paper entitled "Local/Diasporic Tainos: Towards a Cultural Politics of Memory, Reality, and Imagery". Dr. Davila's paper, which was by far the best researched, gave an overview of the use of Taino imagery and symbolism among Puerto Ricans within and out of the Island. She also noted that historically, this symbolism has only been promoted in the context of a "lost heritage" - intent on creating the myth of the harmonious merging of three races in Puerto Rico. Dr. Davila was also acknowledged by a Taino in the audience for being the only panel speaker to actually contact and interview Taino People for her paper.

While the academic credentials of the other presenters were impressive, the subject matter explored in their papers seemed to follow the same tired theories and stereotypes that contemporary Taino activist have been working so hard to change. These papers included catchy titles like: "Making Indians Out of Blacks - The revitalization of Taino Identity in Contemporary Puerto Rico," "The Indians are Coming," and "What's in a name, an Indian Name?". These presentations seemed to transmit a hostile, anti-Taino sentiment which was sensed by quite a number of people in the audience.

Although this symposium was probably one of the more emotionally charged that had been presented at El Museo del Barrio, the panel did succeed in highlighting the gap between the perspectives of reality of the so-called "Taino" scholars, Taino descendants and the general public.

Taino organizations with representatives in attendance included: Consejo General de Tainos Borincanos, Presencia Taina, Maisiti Yucayeke Taino, and Cacibajagua. The event was recorded on video by War Party Productions.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A UCTP Home Page website is currently under construction but you can preview it at :

<http://www.indians.org/welker/UCTP-US/>

The UCTP would like to thank Mr. Glenn Welker and the American Indian Heritage Foundation for their support of the Taino People and the technical assistance with this site.

The UCTP also has a new Email address which is:

UCTP1493@aol.com

VIDEO REVIEW

by Pedro Guanikeyu Torres

TAINO GUANIN'S STORY

A Video: Story and Illustrations
by Edwin Fontanez

Music by Jose Gonzalez \ Color VHS \
20 minutes | available as a companion to
the video - TAINO: THE ACTIVITY BOOK.

I begin this video review with a quote by the author Mr. Edwin Fontanez: "A beautiful, heartfelt tale of a boy who witnessed an event that would change his world forever! Take a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the native people of Puerto Rico, the Tainos. Through the adventures of Guanin and his parrot Tahite, you'll discover the magic of this tropical paradise as it was before the Encounter."

While viewing this enjoyable, elementary school level video on our Taino cultural heritage, one first gets the impression that, she or he is dealing with a new and refreshing view of Taino people. Yet one finds at the end of this video the same foolish and unfounded nonsense of a Spanish colonial Taino extinction story.

This "book on video" fails to deal with the truth and common reality that the Taino People of the Antilles have never been extinct as an ethnic group or a race. The video's ending statement simply leaves the viewing audience, teachers and students alike, in a state of shock and total dismay.

The companion book "Taino: The Activity Book," that is provided with the video has a word list or glossary of Taino terms that needs a more serious research effort. I have found some incorrect vocabulary words and spelling errors within the "Taino Glossary."

Overall, this is good video but it is lacking in the insight relevant to an indigenous reality of the Taino people of today. My candid suggestion would be to have the author correct the errors or have this video removed from all school shelves and all libraries as it perpetuates a very biased perspective. Can our Taino children or the general public, afford yet another misleading teaching regarding our past and contemporary Taino heritage and history? I have personally contacted the author, Mr. Edwin Fontanez via telephone and have humbly requested that he make a retraction to the ending statement concerning the extinction of our People. To this date and to my knowledge, he has not contacted any Taino organization with regard to this matter.

Pedro Guanikeyu Torres is an historian and elder of the Jatibonico Tribal Council. This review appears courtesy of the Taino National Library & Museum Project of the Taino Inter-Tribal Council (TITC). TITC is a UCIP member organization.

Taino Survival on Video? Panel Discussion in New York

On Saturday, April 7th 1998, a panel discussion entitled "Taino Survival? On Video" was held at El Museo del Barrio in New York City. Presenters included; Mr. Taino Almestica and Mr. Gypsy Running Cloud, Mr. Jorge Estevez and Dr. Jose Barreiro. Ms. Fatima Bercht, El Museo's Curator, was the panel moderator. The panelist presented fifteen minute portions of their videos. They also discussed how they felt their choice of visual medium contributes toward the understanding of Taino survival.

After introductions, the first presenter was Dr. Jose Barreiro, who co-produced *Taino Indigenous Survival in Cuba*. Dr. Barreiro's video highlighted Taino cultural survival in *Guajiro* (rural) folk of the Oriente (eastern) Province of Cuba. The main focus was the existence of an extended family of contemporary Taino people who are working to revitalize their ancestral culture in the region. The family head, Francisco "Panchito" Ramirez was interviewed and his clan displayed dances and songs. When asked why he made the video, Barreiro responded, "video is a way to record reality,....because despite the extinction story, the people of this region have been well documented over the last hundred years."

Mr. Jorge Estevez, producer of *De Donde Soy Yo*, expressed a similar concern about recording reality and the tradition of the *campo* (rural life). The video, dedicated to and featuring his mother and grandmother, gave a perspective of Taino cultural survival from the Dominican Republic. Ms. Luz Patria Estevez displayed the traditional way to prepare *yuca*, and she gave an overview of Taino oral traditions, and vocabulary words still used from pre-Columbian times. Mr. Estevez, encouraged all to record their family traditions.

Mr. Taino Almestica and Mr. Gypsy Running Cloud, the co-producers of *An Indigenous Bootleg Network*, presented excerpts from three programs focusing on different aspects of contemporary Taino expression in the United States and Puerto Rico. Their video featured an interview with Taino artist, Melanio Gonzalez, and

his choice of adapting the Navajo medium of sand painting to express Taino art. The second clip focused on Taino Poets like Ms. Magda Martas who gave a moving version of her work. The final clip featured a sojourn to the island of Boriken which ended highlighting the Taino inspired art work of Miguel Guzman. The producers noted the importance of keeping tradition and they reminded the audience that in Puerto Rico the term "Indian" is still generally seen as derogatory.

Although the presentations were informative, public attendance was extremely poor in comparison to past Taino related events held at El Museo. This was most likely due to the lack of advertisement of this program - unfortunate as this was apparently the last component of the Taino Exhibition.

Taino organizations with representatives in attendance included: UCTP member organizations; Consejo General de Tainos Borincanos, Cacibajagua, Presencia Taina, and Baramaya. Representatives of the Nacion Taina organization were also present. The exhibition *Taino: Pre-Columbian Art and Culture from the Caribbean* which has run since September 1997, has now closed.

ART REVIEW

Honoring the Memory of Itiba Cahubaba

Kenkeleba Gallery 214 East 2nd St.
(212) 674.3939

April 18th 1998, saw the closing of a major New York sculpture exhibit, by Jamaican Artist, Michael Auld. This exhibit which Mr. Auld dedicated to his Yamaye Taino (Jamaican) Grandmother, Verena Squire Campell, sought to set the record straight in its use of

Indigenous American imagery, legends, philosophy and aesthetics, in the portrayal of history from the Taino and Carib point of view.

While viewing this exhibit, one could not help but to be transported back in time, to the most elaborate expressions that were offered by the Indigenous Caribbean Civilizations. Mr. Auld's provocative work, combining hard and soft natural elements and modern technology, presents a tantalizing, truly Caribbean sculptural aesthetic.

Mr. Auld has dedicated over 15 years to the investigation of his roots and culture and it shows. This exhibition, which includes powerful installation with his wife, Native American Artist, Rose Powhatan, is expected to soon arrive in Boston, Massachusetts. Don't miss it.

Delegation

America Indian Community House
Gallery/Museum
708 Broadway, NY, NY (212) 598.0100
April 17th through June 28th 1998

This exhibit, featuring the work of Tyler Medicine Horse (Crow) and Susan Stewart-Medicine Horse (Blackfeet/Crow), is a can't miss, creative and dynamic installation that will appeal to your senses. Utilizing natural objects in a comfortable posture, these pieces formulate the existential spiritual language of this delegation. The balance between colors, textures and sizes harmonizes the solemn silence this work commands. The ancestral homage profiling neighboring Indigenous Nations offers a candid perception, stylizing a benefit to the American dream.

La Voz Del Pueblo Taino

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LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR
THE UNITED CONFEDERATION
OF TAINO PEOPLE

Readers Write:

It pleases my heart, mind and soul to know that I am now able to learn from great people and it is an honor to correspond with each and everyone of you. I feel that at last I have the chance to give my life depth with the purposes I've always dreamt of. Thanks for being there for our people.

Edward Lebron, Rome, NY

I am fascinated almost fanatically about the emergence of [the Confederation]. I am anxious to know more regarding our movement. At last I know who I am. I am not a European or an African. But I have a place equal to them.

Jose Antonio Ramos, Jamaica, NY

Thank you for the newsletters ...they were very informative! ...I can hardly wait to receive the next newsletter...may YaYa Bless, Guide, Heal, Protect and Sustain you all, now and always!

Joanna S. Avilez, Reading, Pa

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The First Taino and Native American Veterans Health Fair: *Date:* May 16, 1998 **Location:* Bronx VA Medical Center, 130 West Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10468, Room 3D-22, 3rd Floor. **Time:* 10:00 am **Participants* will be able to enroll in the Veterans Affairs Health Care System and learn about their benefits. Free Hypertension & Blood Sugar Screenings (Diabetes) will be provided. Special Guest Speaker will be Vanessa Inarunikia Pastrana, Director of Persencia Taina and a Nursing Professional, her topic of discussion will be the "High Incidence of Diabetes in Indigenous Peoples." Please bring a photo copy of your discharge papers (Form DD-214). For information call (718) 579-1614

In the Spirit of Unity, Areito/Pow-Wow: **Date:* August 22, 23, 1998 **Location:* Sec. 4&3 Orchard Beach, MD. Sponsored and organized by the Native American Indian Correctional Society, Baramaya and the North Eastern Native American Association **Activities:* Native American Dance, Music, Arts and Crafts, Food Vendors, Parking \$6.00 **For more information* (917) 895.2633 (917) 649.7226 (917) 946.3658

The National Puerto Rican Day Parade: *Date:* Sunday, June 14 **Location:* 5th Avenue, Manhattan, NY. A contingent of UCTP representatives will march to represent and honor Taino Culture and Heritage from Boriken and the Caribbean. For more information or if you would like to participate, please contact Roger Atahuibancex Hernández at (212)534.6004

Salude de Las Americas Festival: *Date:* Saturday June 13, 1998 **Location:* 630 Jackson Av. Bronx, NY **The UCTP will have an information table and give cultural presentation. For more information call* (718) 402.2800 Ext. 323

Activities at NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN-Smithsonian Institute: **Date:* May 16-17 1998 **Location:* Orientation Room, NMAI, Bowling Green, NY **Subject:* Machiste Quintana (Taino) will tell stories about Taino heritage **Date:* July 31, Aug. 2, 3 **Location:* Talking Circle, NMAI, Bowling Green, NY **Subject:* Melanio J. Gonzalez will give a presentation of his Taino Art work

18th Annual Paumanauke Pow Wow: *Date:* August 8, 9, 1998 **Location:* Tanner Park, Copaigue LI **Sponsored by the Babylon Citizens Council and Town of Babylon. *Drummers, Dancers, Crafts *UCTP information will be made availble /Presencia Taina presentation.*

3rd Annual Long Island Native American Task Force Pow Wow: *Date:* August 15, 16, 1998 **Location:* Main St. School, Setuaket LI, **Drummers, Dancers, Crafts * UCTP information will be made available *Contact:* (516) 667.6712

**Our Universe: The new moon takes place May 25 and the full moon appears June 9, 1998. Caraya, the moon has a name which is Maroya.*

Poem Submission: **Two Roads** by Edward Lebron (Taino)

As I Traveled Distant Lands, I Saw Many Forms Before Me, The Mark Of The Sun Was Always There, I Slowly Hid My Fears, Shall I Lead Them Into Righteousness, Will it be Another Life That They Seek, Onward I will Struggle To See If I Am Worthy

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