



LENAPEHOKING
REESTABLISHMENT
PROJECT
NEWSLETTER
February 2024



A LETTER TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Regarding your financial donations being utilized beyond youth and Indigenous Arts

FINISH READING ON PG. 2



What's an Indigenous thriven Newsletter without giving our readers an experience? With that being said, I would like to introduce you to "N.D.N Timing". Very similar to what's known as "CPT"

February concluded almost two weeks ago, and this issue is fashionably late.

Please excuse us, as we begin to get things back on track.



ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

This month's Artist Spotlight focuses on a Co-Founder of Lenapehoking Reestablishment Project, and citizen of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribe, Lia "Watching Sparrow" Gould...

FINISH READING ON PG. 4

NANTICOKE LENNI-LENAPE

Information on one of the three state recognized tribes based out of New Jersey, and the home tribe of the founders of Lenapehoking Reestablishment Project

FINISH READING ON PG. 7





CEREMONIES

Letter To Our Supporters

A short letter of thanks to all of you who have consistently supported the success of LRP, as well as your contributions to Nanticoke Nations, Lenape Nations, and Indigenous Peoples of these lands as a whole. It is very much appreciated. With that being said, we would like to just take a moment to emphasize one more primary focus of Lenapehoking Reestablishment Project, aside from Indigenous Youths and Indigenous Arts.

That focus is the revitalization and upkeep of Ceremonies.

There aren't too many monetary needs when it comes to conducting our ceremonies. Often, most of what we need is provided by the Creator, the land, and the people. However, there are some instances where financial assistance comes in handy. Perhaps we are in need of specific materials; materials in which are scarce in our homelands, so we are in need of outsourcing and relocation of those materials. Perhaps we are in need of professional assistance in clearing land. Or maybe, due to the economy, families that often provide for our post-ceremony feasts are fallen on hard times; during a time where (proudly) attendance at our ceremonies are gradually increasing.



Lenapehoking Reestablishment Project sets a small percentage of donations and contracts aside for these potential needs. However, unlike most workshops and events that your donations contribute to, in most cases, *you will never see your contributions to Ceremonial purposes publicized!*



Though I am a strong believer in keeping our supporters up-to-date, current, and aware in the spirit of full transparency, most of our Ceremonies are sacred to us. There are some Ceremonies that have been sleeping for a long time, that have just been recently brought back. These are things that we don't talk about. These are things we don't teach to the public.

Fortunately, I also have confidence that you, as our supporters, understand this concept completely. Lenape people are historically private people. Most of this is a direct result of the traumas we have faced on our own homelands; for example, up until 1978, less than half a century ago, it was illegal for our people to practice our traditions. It was punishable for us to pray in our way; to sing our songs and dance our dances; to speak our tongue.

We did it anyway...

And now we are at a time where we have support from the outside world. We have people who are volunteering to give our nations the microphone to take back our narrative and share our stories and our ways, from our perspectives. I have personally watched the transition from our youth fighting with teachers in their classrooms who would dispute our existence, to teachers who will completely rewrite their curriculum to accurately represent Indigenous People of these lands. There has been a greater willingness to unlearn what has been previously taught in the text books, and learn the real stories of Nanticoke and Lenape people. It took some time, but that is the direction we're headed. We are progressing. And for that, we thank you.

We thought that this would be a great opportunity to clarify this, as most of our publications don't touch on the rich culture and spirituality that make us who we are. As we move forward, this will not change. What can be shared, will be shared. What cannot be shared, will be protected. That is our responsibility as Nanticoke & Lenape people.

I personally thank you all for understanding this.

Wanishi!



“Behind Every Strong Male Leader Is An Even Stronger Woman”



Artist Spotlight – February 2024

Introducing Lia “Watching Sparrow” Gould, One of LRP’s Co-Founders



Lia “Watching Sparrow” Gould is the youngest daughter of former Chief Mark “Quiet Hawk” Gould, who has been reigning Chief for about 35 years of the last 40+ years of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribe’s official reformation as an entity in the eyes of the Government. Though she has sisters, they were already fully grown adults by the time she was born, so she was raised as an only child. So, in her youth, she often shadowed her father during his political lectures, delegations, and public outreach efforts. This included learning how to properly communicate between our nation and others.

Just as a child, Lia was tasked with many responsibilities that many her age had never even thought of. Some of these tasks included being aware of the public eye in appropriate settings,





such as when she had the opportunity to dance along side the Princess of Sweden. At a very young age, she was also ordained by the Tribal Spiritual Leader as a Jingle Dress Dancer. This dance style is what's known to Indigenous People as a healing dance. Since her youth, Lia knew that she would be destined to be a healer.

And so she did, as she had become a nurse, and aspires to some day go beyond that. Within her career, she advocates for the LGBTQ+ & Two-Spirited community as a case manager of an Inclusive Care department, focusing on assisting this community with gender affirmation journeys and providing a voice for them when they do not know what routes to take. Within her community, she continues to focus on what is most important to her; the well-being of her people and her culture. She walks the line between

ceremonial/traditional medicines and modern/Western medicines. She understands the importance of trust when it comes to the care of our elders; a community who has been wronged in the past, and is often hesitant in trusting medical professionals that they do not know. She combats that by advocating and remaining a resource for our people who need clarification or assistance understanding what their primary care providers are suggesting.



Aside from being an amazing mother of 4, children who are all heavily involved within their community and their culture, Lia also takes pride in focusing primarily on the Indigenous Youth of her community. She spends a lot of her time coordinating events and compiling resources for all the children of the tribe, and does her part by creating opportunities for the youth to come back to these lands and be around their people.



Her passion makes her a superhero....

Lia can be followed on the website at this link

- Spotlight Page: <https://www.lrproject.org/featured/artist-spotlight-lia-watching-sparrow-gould/>

Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Strawberry Moon

43rd Annual Pow-Wow

Sat. June 8th & Sun. June 9th, 2024

Salem County Fairgrounds 735 Harding Hwy Woodstown, NJ 08098

Bring a Lawn Chair

Head Staff

Master of Ceremonies

Keith Colston

Arena Director

Will Mosley

Head Man

Ascension Harjo

Head Lady

Sailee Sandy

Junior Head Man

Mathyias Ellis

Junior Head Lady

Maehawiaki Ridgeway

Host Drum

Stoney Creek Singers

Head Judge

Elyse Sparks

Saturday June 8th

Gates Open @10am

Gate Admission \$10 a Car

Grand Entry @12pm

Evening Social Dance

Sponsored by

Red Blanket Singers

Sunday, June 9th

Church Service @ 9:30am

Gates Open @ 10am

Gate Admission \$10 a Car

Grand Entry @ 1pm

Car Show 10am-3pm

Dance Contests

Adult Categories

1st-\$500 2nd- \$300 3rd-\$200

Teen Categories

1st-\$250 2nd- \$150 3rd-\$75

Boys & Girls Categories

1st-\$75 2nd- \$50 3rd-\$30

Drum Contest

1st Place- \$2,000

2nd Place- \$1,500

3rd Place- \$1,000

Contact Us @ (856) 455-6910

or by email

powwow@nlltribe.com

Funding has been made available in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Dept. of State through the Salem County Cultural Heritage Commission/ and Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders



The Nanticoke Leni-Lenape

We would like to take this opportunity to pay homage to the home tribe of the LRP Founders; The Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribe based out of South Jersey.

The Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribe is a tribe comprised of families both from the Nanticoke, based out of DE and parts of MD, and the Lenape, based out of Lenapehoking

(All of NJ, parts of DE, PA, and NY). They are one out of three State Recognized tribes in New Jersey, alongside the Powhatan Renape and the Ramapough Lenape.

Most of the children we serve at LRP are citizens or adoptees of this tribe. One day, we hope to be more inclusive to the other nations, but it all started here with the good that the tribe has done and is continuing to do.



The tribe has recently undergone a shift, as there had been a successful passing of the baton and responsibility of our Tribal Leader from former Chief Mark “Quiet Hawk” Gould to reigning Chief Urie “Fox Sparrow” Ridgeway within the last year and a half. We are proud of both leaders for their past and continuing contributions to the betterment of our people.

Lenapehoking Reestablishment Project is committed to funding our youth, arts, and ceremonials where applicable. However, there are so many other fronts and efforts that the Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribe continues to work towards. There are a number of committees that have their individual focuses that could use support as well. These committees include focuses such as (not limited to)...

- Cultural Retention: Tasked with retaining and revitalizing common use of our traditional ways
- Ways & Means: General fundraising for the tribe’s needs
- Membership Committee: Processing citizen applications and tribal identification



- Pow-Wow Committee: Tasked with putting together our annual Pow-Wow, open to the public (flyer above for the 2024 Pow-Wow)
- Elder Committee: Orchestrating events for seniors, such as weekly luncheons and educational trips

The people who spearhead these committees are all volunteer based, looking to simply do good for their community, as it's been for decades, and often go overlooked. Their community thanks them, and so do we.

Additional information and contact for the tribe should be found on their website:

<https://www.nlltribalnation.org/>

If anybody would like to donate directly to the efforts of the tribe that are outside of LRP's focuses, please utilize the Paypal Donation tab here:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=GW29TKAHXDKPY (or follow the DONATE tab from the NLLTribalNation.org website, or send a check to Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape to the tribe's headquarters, Turtle Trading Post @ 18 E Commerce St, Bridgeton, NJ, 08302.

As always, many thanks to all of you for your support

