

Wikun Village News.®

Shinnecock Nation Cultural Center and Museum

Summer 2013



“Shinnecock”—People of the Stony Shores



Cover Photos

Above: Ahna Cuffee (left) with Rachel Valdez-Castillo (right) sewing in the Wikun Village

Photo By Matthew Ballard
(matt@350nm.com)

Below: Shinnecock Bay

Photo by Tohanash Tarrant

Inside Cover Photo

David Martine in the Wikun Village dressed in 18th century Shinnecock attire.

Photo By Eileen Dugan

Published By:

The Shinnecock Nation
Cultural Center

and

Museum

*"Promoting awareness,
Understanding and an
Appreciation of Shinnecock
History and Culture."*

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*The Shinnecock Nation Cultural
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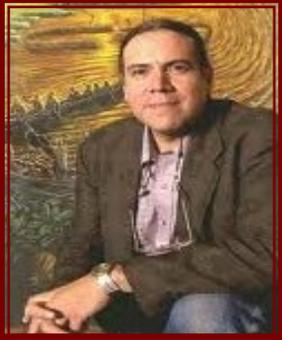


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Director's Corner



David Bunn Martine

We recently had a public lecture at the Museum, “Preserved on the Mighty Water; The Indian Mariners Project”, given by Dr. Jason Mancini. It was a great event and was well attended. We

will be doing more lectures in the coming months. I would like to thank Dr. Mancini for his information and for all those who participated. With the aid of modern technology and good research, a lot can be learned about our history and ancestry.

I recorded my Grandmother, Alice Bunn Martinez, in the early 80's speaking about her recollections of her relatives who were whalers. Below is an excerpt from the recording:

“There was no method to bring back people on ship-board who died - so they had to bury them at sea wherever they were. I had one Great-uncle who was buried on the island of St. Helena where Napoleon was exiled. His name was William Cuffee he was my Grandmother's brother. Another Great-uncle, Charles Bunn was buried in Greenland.

I don't know how my Grandfather met my Grandmother. There was Scotch blood in the family presumably from Dundee, Scotland where there was a large whaling port. David Bunn, my Grandfather, had a captain's license but he never sailed as captain. He was first-mate. He had to have a captain's license so that if something

happened to the captain he would be qualified to take over. He spent many years during the [latter part of the 19th century whaling. After petroleum had been discovered, whale oil wasn't as much in demand as it had been.] It was so hard to get out and back again. He decided to come home and farm. He said his children were growing up around him. The last was still small. He wanted his children to be near him.

Many times in heavy storms the Montauk Lighthouse and Ponquogue Lighthouse looked almost identical. Many time boats would mistakenly come ashore between Westhampton and Montauk. There were over 400 wrecks.

On the trips they made in the Arctic Circle, they got whale and seals if they had any ability on the 2 ½ year voyage out and back. They got whale to try them out in big vats to fill the barrels with oil. They would take the whalebone Ivory and they would carve them into ornaments.

My grandfather made several things: we had an ivory hand he carved in 1865 the year my father, Charles Bunn, was born as the oldest son. He knew that when he arrived home he would see his baby for the first time. It had a gold ring on the finger and was very realistically carved as the head of an ebony cane which he had gotten somewhere in the South Pacific. He brought that back to my grandmother. He also had a sword with shark's teeth but I never saw that. My father just told us about it.”

I recommend to Shinnecock people to record the elders stories. They help us learn about our culture and are irreplaceable. We will be conducting an oral history program at the Museum in the coming months as well.

-David Martine, Director/Curator

WIKUN VILLAGE



NOW OPEN!

We are proud to announce, the Wikun Village is now officially open! We'd like to thank our Board, volunteers and all those who also gave generously to make this Village reality. The Grand Opening took place this Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-27, 2013. Festivities included, story telling, children's workshops, live dance performances by the Kingfisher Dance Troupe and Native food sale. The Museum hosted a Community Dinner to honor our Tribal leadership and all that helped bring the Village to life. It was a fun filled weekend and the perfect kick off for the summer!



The Kingfisher Dance Troupe (above) perform at the Grand Opening of the Wikun Village. Members include: Danielle Hill, Jonathan Perry, Leah Hopkins and James Hakenson (left to right). (All photos by Matthew Ballard.)



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Note from the Editor:

The opening of the Wikun Village has really happened! In a somewhat surreal state we passed this Memorial Day Weekend. Watching years of planning go by in a matter of hours. The series of events started with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Preview Week and ended with the Grand Opening. The Wikun (Wee-Gun) Village is now open and fully operational.

Congratulations to Diette Kellis, our 2013 Membership Drive winner! With membership at it's highest it has been in many years, there are many reasons to celebrate.

To keep the momentum going, we are continually adding to our offerings. This month, we have added a uniquely Native/ holistic and cozy camping experience. This getaway is perfect for all those eco-tourists that visit the Hamptons. When it boils down to it, visitors and locals alike can enjoy the many seasons of nature "Out East" and so this is perfect for those seeking a new and awesomely organic adventure.



Museum Staff

David Bunn Martine, *Director/Curator*

Andrea Godoy, *Assistant Director*

Matauqus Tarrant, *Site Manager/Lead Trainee*

Tohanash Tarrant, *Office Manager/ Administrative Assistant/Editor*

June Marshall, *Office Assistant*

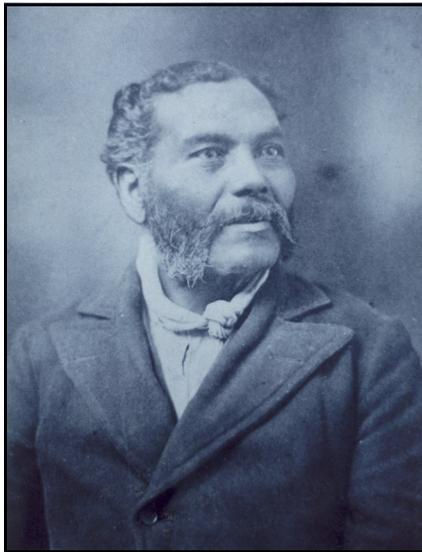
Delores Long, *Gift Shop Assistant*

Edward Terry, *Gift Shop Assistant*

Ray Clendenin, *Maintenance*

Indian Mariners Project comes to Shinnecock

On Thursday June 6, 2013 Dr. Mancini, a senior researcher for the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, gave a lecture on his latest project which has taken him around the world retracing the steps of North Eastern Native whalers. Mancini shared his findings including information regarding Shinnecock men and other Long Island Native Peoples. The following is an excerpt taken from his blog.



Warren Bunn Shinnecock Whaler.

The Indian Mariners Project explores the history of and ongoing relationship between Native people and the sea. A principal goal of the project is to create and share with public, school, and academic audiences a series of digital maps revealing the dynamic social networks and global traveling histories of American Indian mariners during the 19th century. This project research is grounded in a rich and accessible archival record relating to the active commercial Yankee whale fishery and Indian crewmembers, including: ship's logbooks; crew lists and other federal customs records; tribal-held archival materials; as well as descendants' family stories, images, diaries, and objects.

(Continued on Page 8)

Warrior Visions

By Tohanash Tarrant

Just over a year past since the tragic car accident that took the lives of two young Shinnecock men, Jason “Tek” King and Duane “DL” Lee White Jr., Natahne (Nah-Taw-Nee) Dennis has reached out to the Shinnecock Museum to honor the life of Mr. King, who was her late boyfriend of eight years. “There’s more to him than him riding around in his drop top Chevy being a cool guy.” Natahne, also a member of the Shinnecock Nation, knew Jason as a man of many talents. His passion for cars and natural leadership abilities were merely the visible sides of him that many knew. Natahne says Jason had gone through five cars and numerous paint jobs, which she jokingly says was the spur of disagreements. But it was the other facets of his life that reached deeper and was what Natahne was drawn to and felt that people should know.

Growing up on the Shinnecock Reservation, Natahne had always known Jason as a friend of her older brother Naike and their cousins. As the little sister, she would tag along as they played at her Grandma’s or other houses around the ‘Rez’. She admits, she never took serious interest in him growing up. After dating for several months, on Halloween they made their relationship official. Ever since that time, Natahne grew to love his depth and sincerity. “You’d be surprised what you find out about a person”, Natahne said, expressing her surprise at finding out about his talents. “You can’t judge a book by its cover”.

Jason expressed his creativity in many ways. “His brain was always going”, Natahne recalls that Jason would jump out of bed to write ideas in his notepad that would come to him in the middle of the night. Through his paintings,



Jason King (July 1, 1978-April 24, 2012) Venice Beach, California.
(Photo by Natahne Dennis.)

“He would feel good to have his work displayed in his own home. He was all about Shinnecock.”

clothing lines, written works and photography, King expressed his love for his culture and the natural beauty around him. Over the years he has produced several clothing lines; 80’s Baby, Spit, and Evitan Couture. 80s Baby is influenced by the styles of the 80’s and Hip Hop of its era. Spit included graffiti style painted shoes and shirts. His most recent clothing line, Etivan (Native) Couture and paintings “Hoka Hey Series”, pays tribute to the American Indian Movement and Native Peoples’ history.

“He would feel good to have his work displayed in his own home. He was all about Shinnecock,” Dennis remembers, laughing softly.

Included in the exhibit of Jason’s art at the Shinnecock Nation Cultural Center and Museum, August 1 – October 1, 2013, will be work of a younger Shinnecock artist contributed through the newly formed Shinnecock Foundation of Arts. “[Jason] would have definitely been involved with the Shinnecock Foundation of Arts”, Natahne says. King was always very hands on and playful with kids, earning him nick names like “Uncle Pickles” or

Exhibition Opening August 1st

“Uncle Cookies”, for reasons Natahne couldn’t exactly explain.

In 2010, King channeled his love for young people by co-founding the Young Men of Shinnecock (YMS). The YMS tribal program provides positive outlets for young Shinnecock men between the ages of 16 and 21 (and up) that wish to contribute to their community by organizing trips, clean up days and community service activities such as assisting elders and volunteering at the Shinnecock Museum. For

Jason, mentoring came naturally. “He was someone that a lot of the youths and a lot

of the adults in his circle looked up to.” By turning his own life around, he was able to share his experiences and be that person that people would come to ask for a ride to school, or in some cases, a ride down to their parole officers. Natahne says that Mothers would even call on him to talk with their sons when they were going through hard times.

On November 22nd, just seven months after Jason began his journey into the spirit world, Natahne gave birth to their baby girl, Jaycen Madi King. Now seven months old, baby Jaycen is already showing traits she no doubt inherited from her dad. With a bright smile and strong spirit Jaycen is a born jokester. Unable to cry without laughing in between, Natahne says, “Jaycen makes me feel his spirit in her personality.”

When asked about how she will tell Jaycen about her father, Natahne pauses then recalls a day where she was feeling really down about her situation and one of Jason’s boys from YMS came up to her and asked to see baby Jaycen. “That just made my day”, he said, looking back at Natahne. Natahne says with a sense of security, “Baby Jaycen will have all those people who’ll be able to tell her the affect Jason had on them.”



Jason King wearing his Hoka Hey series T-Shirt with photo of Kiowa warrior Bobby Onco at the Wounded Knee Occupation of 1973 on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota. (Photo by Natahne Dennis.)

For a young man of 33 years, Jason exhibited a great number of talents and abilities and promise for the future of the Shinnecock Nation. By recognizing these attributes and sharing them through an exhibit hosted by the Shinnecock Museum, Natahne hopes to convey a vision of Jason “Tek” King that is reflective of him as a whole.

Warrior Visions Exhibition

On view at the Shinnecock Museum

August 1, 2013—October 1, 2013

Opening Reception:

Saturday August 3, 2013, 6:30 p.m.—7:45 p.m.

For info on products & updates, visit:

[Facebook.com/EvitanCouture](https://www.facebook.com/EvitanCouture)

Indian Mariners Project comes to Shinnecock *(Continued from page 5)*

The digital maps will document some of the complex sociocultural changes that took place among New England's Indian community in the wake of European colonization. Through these maps, new patterns of mobility and social interaction at sea contribute to a new understanding of the diverse histories and culture of New England's indigenous population. By examining the maritime adaptations of social networks as a response to colonialism and land dispossession during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, I can demonstrate how these Indian travelers (as part of the new maritime-based fraternities/communities) connected to and expanded the indigenous



Dr. Jason Mancini (center) with Shinnecock Museum staff. (Photo By Matthew Ballard.) To learn more visit: www.IndianMarinersProject.com

social sphere. My preliminary work opens up new opportunities to examine, often in great detail, the nature and extent of Indians' global presence through their activities at sea including their social interactions/relations, political motivations/ideologies, and mobility/travel patterns.

[On his trip to Shinnecock]:

"I shared my findings from Hawai'i and from the records of the Customs District of New London where many Shinnecock and neighboring Montauk whalers appear. I will leave with images of Shinnecock whalers, images of objects associated with their maritime labor, documents, stories, and – most importantly – many new friends."

News in Brief by T Tarrant



12th Annual Strawberry Harvest Festival—This year at our annual Strawberry Festival, visitors enjoyed local organic strawberry short cake and dance performances and storytelling in the Wikun Village. We recently moved a wigwam from the front lawn into the Village adding to a beautiful backdrop.

4th of July Parade in Southampton—The Shinnecock Nation in collaboration with the Shinnecock Nation Cultural Center and Museum put together it's first 4th of July float in over a decade. With Wikun Village ingenuity, the 25 foot flat bed donated by Riverhead Building Supply, was transformed into a 1600s wigwam and shade arbor



where elders sat comfortably as they waved to the droves of on lookers. Fifty or so dancers followed behind the float and drummers as they sang and danced the entire length of the route. With temperatures well over 85 degrees, a second place prize in "best float" was well earned.



Shinnecock Dancers on Main Street Southampton.



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Donor Recognition for the Shinnecock Museum's *Journey Back* Capital Campaign

By Andrea Godoy

Donor Recognition opportunities encourage, acknowledge and appreciate the individuals, families, foundations, businesses and corporations that participate in raising the \$1.5 million it will take to ensure that the doors of the Museum and the Wikun Village remain open today and into the future. Donor recognition and naming opportunities help keep the story alive and inspire vision that will guide the future of the Shinnecock Nation Cultural Center and Museum.

Donor recognition includes:

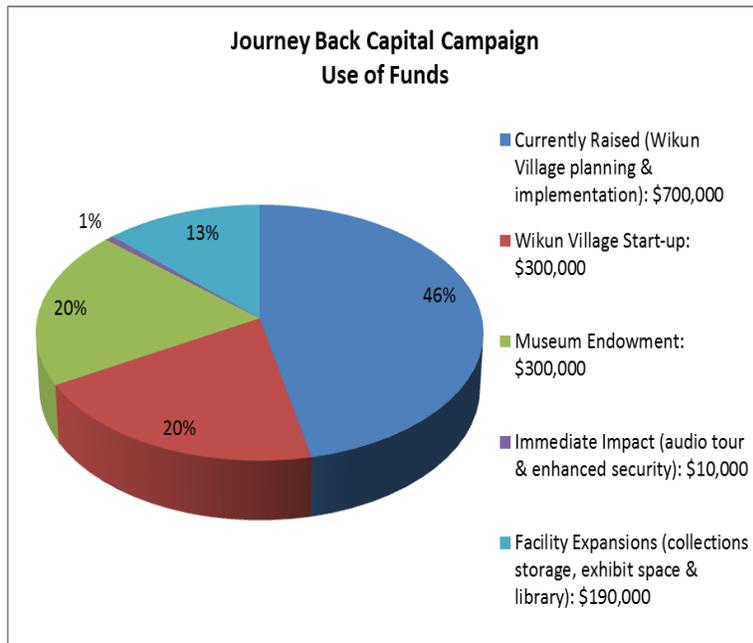
NAMING OPPORTUNITIES—for gifts at and over \$100,000

PERMANENT RECOGNITION—for gifts from \$10,000-\$99,999

DONOR WALL—for donors at and over \$5,000

HONOR ROLL AND CAMPAIGN PUBLICATIONS—all donors

To learn more contact Andrea Godoy Assistant Director at, 631. 887.9619 or andrea_shinnecockmuseum@live.com.



Upcoming Events

Warrior Visions Reception

Saturday August 3rd, 6PM-7:45PM

Shinnecock Museum

Warrior Visions Exhibition Opening reception.

Clambake Fundraiser

Saturday August 10th, 5PM-9PM

Shinnecock Museum

The Wikun Village Staff are hosting a clambake dinner to help fund their trip to the Aquinnah Wampanoag Powwow September 10th –11th.

Museum Open House

Saturday August 17th, 11AM-5PM

Shinnecock Museum

Come visit the Shinnecock Museum with free entry into the Museum and Wikun Village. Enjoy a complimentary tour at 2PM and viewing of the Warrior Visions Exhibition.



[New York City Native American Week](#)

Tuesday August 6th—Monday August 12th

Celebrate Native American heritage by attending film showings, panel discussions, gallery openings, festivals and more! This week is

sponsored by The American Indian Community House, Nativeone Institutional Trading, The Red Hawk Native American Arts Council and Indian Country Today Media Network. For more info visit: www.aich.org

[67th Annual Shinnecock Powwow](#)

Friday, August 30th –Monday, September 2nd.

Shinnecock Nation Powwow Grounds

The only powwow in the Hamptons, this powwow boasts over 100 tribes represented in the dance arena, 100 Native arts and food vendors and over \$50,000 in prize money. Dancers and singers compete over the four-day weekend performing traditional and contemporary style dances from all across the country.

For more info call 631.283.6143



JOIN TODAY!

Annual Membership Benefits

“Connect to 10,000 years of history by becoming a member of our Museum. Membership is open to the public and allows you to directly support the vision of preservation, education and the promotion of Shinnecock and Eastern Woodland Native Peoples culture - past and present.”

Basic Membership Levels:

Individual (\$45)

- One (1) personalized membership card
- Unlimited free general admission to the Museum and Wikun Village
- 10% Discount on all Gift Shop purchases
- Discounts on Museum programming
- 1 Year subscription of the *Wikun News* quarterly newsletter
- Member preferred registration for Museum events and programs

Family (\$75)

- The benefits of an Individual Membership
- A second personalized membership card (*All secondary members must reside at the same address as the primary membership holder.*)
- Free general admission for children under 18 (immediate family members)

Supporting Members Levels:

Donor (\$100)

- Two (2) Combo Tickets
- Special Invitations to Museum Benefits

Patron (\$250)

- All the benefits of the Donor Level
- Two (2) Additional Combo Tickets
- Two (2) Guest Passes

Sustaining Members Levels:

Contributor (\$500)

- All the benefits of the Patron
- A total of four (4) Guest passes
- Your name (or business name) listed in all Museum publications
- A Family Level Membership donated on your behalf to an East End family in need.

Benefactor (\$1000)

- All of the benefits of the Patron
- Total of six (6) Guest Passes
- A total of eight (8) Combo Tickets
- Three (3) year membership with automatic benefits renewal
- 25% Discount on Museum space rentals for special events (subject to fees and availability)

Director's Circle (\$5,000 and up)

(All but \$150 is tax-deductible)

- All the perks of a sustaining member
- An exclusive invitation for you and a guest to join the Director/Curator and a member of the Executive Board of Directors for dinner.
- A private Director-led tour of the Museum facility.
- Inclusion in our Donor Recognition Program and engraved name plate on our Donor Wall on the main floor of the Museum.

Thank You for Your Support!

“Our members are vital to the continued growth of this organization and will help to support the Museum's effort to meet the needs our diverse community for years to come.”

– David Martine, Director/Curator



Shinnecock Nation Cultural Center and Museum, Inc.

PO Box 5059, Southampton, NY 11969, Phone: (631) 287-4923 / Fax: (631) 287-7153

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

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PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

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- Family (2 adults & children)...\$75

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- Patron.....\$250

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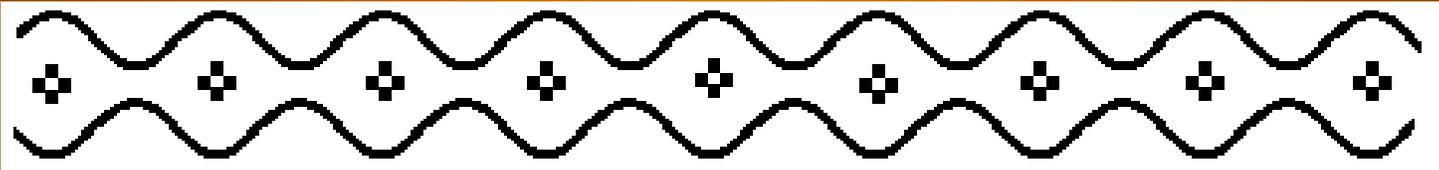
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