

**The Fifth Council Gathering
International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers
Black Hills, South Dakota
June 12-22, 2007**

Dear Relatives, Friends and Supporters of the Grandmothers' Council,

We have just returned from South Dakota planning the next grandmothers gathering in June, 2007, with Grandmother Beatrice and Rita and their families in the Black Hills. Each time the Grandmothers come together they focus their prayer with an intention for world peace and unity. In Dharmasala, Grandmother Tsering asked us to focus our prayer on softening the Chinese peoples heart so that the Dalai Lama would be allowed to go home before he died. She felt that this would be the only way for the Tibetan people to return to their homeland. Grandmothers Beatrice and Rita would like us to focus our prayer on the idea that **"We are again one people."** They have invited all to participate and attend the Sundance, which will be held in the last days. Many of you have expressed an interest in attending. We have just arranged some of the accommodations that should meet your needs.

Proposed schedule:

The grandmothers are continually trying to find a form where they can have the private time they need to develop their council and deepen their own relations with each other. In the two years the grandmothers have been meeting, they have only been together around 40 days. Much of that time is spent with the public. They love being with you. It has also been challenging for them to create a form that allows them this time with you that they so enjoy, and also time to develop the ground under the council that will hold their form firmly. They appreciate your dedication to the prayer for world peace that is in motion and your patience with this process as it continues to evolve. The grandmothers have created the agenda this time by scheduling a private council session before you arrive. This will ground the gathering before opening the doors to the public and lighting the sacred fire for world peace. The fire they start at the Council will be carried to the Sundance grounds and it will light the fire that will burn for the Sundance for the next 5 days.

The agenda below defines the days you will need to plan for. A more complete agenda will be sent to you after you register.

June, 2007

12th - Participants arrive at their hotel

13th, 14th, 15th --Public Grandmother Council

We will also be honoring many tribal elders during this Public Council time and we are making plans for a fundraising benefit performance.

Sundance Time:

16th - Sundance preparations

We will be visiting some of the sacred grounds held holy by the Lakota peoples.

The evening of the 16th, the Grandmothers will open a prayer at a "Death to Meth" concert to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse for the young people.

17th - Tree Day

18th, 19th, 20th, 21st Sundance

Closing

22nd - Participants leave for home

To Register:

Rebecca Rodriguez rebeccarodriguez333@yahoo.com
2158 Triple Peak Drive Canyon Lake, Texas USA 78133
(830) 964-5078

*Please send in the enclosed registration form by **April 15th**
Space is limited-- please register early to get the accommodations of your choice*

Airline Arrangements:

For your **airline arrangements**, we will be using the same travel agent as before. She has really been helpful in arranging flights that are economical. You will be flying into Rapid City, South Dakota.

Alison Hawthorne
Over The Rainbow Travel www.overtherainbowtravel.net
CST#1012185-40
(415) 552-8321 (415) 431-3167 - fax

Shuttle or Rental Car Arrangements:

You can arrange for a transport by shuttle from Rapid City Airport to your hotel in Hot Springs by contacting Kevin at 605-381-7201. It will cost you \$25 each way with a 3-person minimum on your van. You can also arrange for rental cars at the airport. Please indicate on your registration form which way you'll be traveling to Hot Springs and the day you will arrive.

Costs:

Public Council Days (June 13,14,15)

Lunch and dinner:

Your meals will be served at the Civic Center where the Council will be meeting. A \$20 a day fee will be collected through registration to cover these costs. \$60 total per person

Tuition: \$250 per person

Total cost to register for the event through our registrar Rebecca is \$310.

Make checks payable to the Center for Sacred Studies

Room with breakfast & snacks (arriving June12, 13, 14, 15)

Best Western Sundowner Inn
737 S. 6th Street
Hot Springs, SD 57747
(605) 745 7378

For Reservations Call 1-877-664-7378

non-smoking double @ \$44.50 per person (2 queen size beds)

non-smoking double @ \$44.50 per person (1 king size bed)

non-smoking triple @ \$31.34 per person (2 queen size beds)

smoking double @ \$44.50 per person (2 queen size beds)

We have arranged group rates at the hotel. You will need to contact them directly to make your individual arrangements. Please let them know you are with the Center for Sacred Studies, The International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers. Since there are several events in Hot Springs in June, we could only arrange for a certain number of rooms. **Please register as soon as possible to assure your room.**

Sundance Time:

The Sundance is traditionally offered through a donation basis only. Everyone comes to help serve the Sundancers and support them through their prayers, cleaning facilities, cooking, washing dishes, and whatever else may be needed by those sponsoring the event. Please indicate on your registration form how you would like to support. If you would like to make a donation towards the Sundance you can arrange that through Rebecca when you register.

Meals during this time are prepared in a central outdoor kitchen site on the Sundance grounds. The eating area is located near the camping space. You will be able to eat there on June 16,17,18,19,20, and 21. There are also some good restaurants in this beautiful little town of Hot Springs. The native peoples of this land consider this holy land. There are natural hot springs in the area. We are gathering information on the local spas and will provide that for you at a later date.

Please let us know if you would like to stay at the ceremonial grounds in the camping area during Sundance time. Indicate this on your registration form. If you are camping, you will need to bring your own tent and camping gear. If you prefer to stay in the hotel, you will need to change your accommodations to another hotel that is a bit closer to the ceremonial grounds. Rooms with breakfast during Sundance are at the Holiday Inn Express. Rooms can only be acquired here June 16th-22nd. There are a limited number available. Rooms are approximately \$50 for a double occupancy. Please contact: Holiday Inn Express

Email: gm.hsosd@wm.hiexpress

Phone: 605 745 4411

Address: 1401 Highway 18, Hot Springs, So. Dakota

Adopt-a-Grandmother:

A grandmother fundraising challenge inspired in Mexico, is our Adopt-A-Grandmother program. A number of people have chosen specific grandmothers and pledged to donate the price of their airline tickets to South Dakota. In the past, some have donated for the grandmothers' travel companions as well. If you would like to participate in this way, you can contact our office at 209 532-9048 or email us at info@grandmotherscouncil.com We invite you to consider this way of contributing to their cause. As a demonstration of unity and collaboration for world peace, we are calling on everyone to come forward and hold this sacred basket together. Adopt-a-Grandmother Funds need to be received by April 30th in order to make timely arrangements. If you have other ideas or know individuals who would want to help, please contact us.

We are looking forward to this next step in the Grandmothers March for World Peace!! We will be coming to stand with the Sacred Pipe and pray for a world of unity!! Join us!

Thank you for all of your prayers, inspiration and support. See you in the Black Hills!
For the next seven generations and beyond,

Jyoti & Ann
Center for Sacred Studies
PO Box 745
Sonora, CA 95370
209 532-9048