Redbird News December 2019

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Supporting Redbird through Amazon Smile

This is a great way to support Redbird year-round at no cost to you. Amazon donates based on your purchases. (If the link does not open directly, you can copy and paste into your browser). https://smile.amazon.com/ch/77-0374732

2019 24th Annual Blanket Drive and Mini Powwow

December 7, 11 AM-3 PM at the Simi Valley Town Center Mall (upstairs in the mall center behind the giant Christmas tree)

We would love to see you there but if you can't make it, you can donate two ways; help us with shipping expenses with a monetary donation:

http://paypal.me/RedbirdsVision

Or, check out our charity shopping list for reasonably priced blankets (warm socks are also a great idea)

https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/13E9DEAXYSY6R/ref=smi_se_spo_icl_lst_tgt

December Events Calendar

12-7-19 11 AM - 3 PM

Redbird's 24th Annual Blanket, Toy and School Supplies Drive and Mini-Powwow (see included flier)

https://www.facebook.com/events/657108678131295/

12-14-19 7 AM - 5 PM

Highway 2 Motorcycle Track Day, Horse Thief Mile, Willow Springs International Raceway - Registration Open, \$125.00 includes photos and mentoring/instruction if desired (see included flier) https://www.facebook.com/events/1362196933932365/

12-31-19 11 AM - 2 PM at Chilao School So Cal Norton Club's Annual Run For The Roses Motorcycle Ride, beginning at Lucky Baldwin's in Pasadena somewhere around 8:30 or 9 AM and riding up Angeles Crest Highway for a hot lunch at Chilao School. We could use a couple of volunteers for this event. (There is presently no Facebook event link that I am aware of).

2020 Events

4-4-20 10 AM - 5 PM
Talking Trees II/Deer and Coyote - 2020
Open House at Chilao School
https://www.facebook.com/events/
124340171593615/
July 17-19, 2020
Children of Many Colors Native
American Powwow at Moorpark College
Our 20th Powwow!
https://www.facebook.com/events/
1212119482319065/

Songs and Stories from Native America

Supervisor Janice Hahn provided Los Angeles County Libraries with a stipend for educational programs, through which Redbird was invited to present Songs and Stories from Native America at a number of libraries throughout the county during November, which is Native American Month. Kat High, Tina, Joe, and Honor Calderon, Caitlyn and Kaelene Ashmore and Juan Castillo assisted with these presentations, providing a variety of viewpoints, music, stories and ideas which, depending on the audience, were mixed with the historical and current realities of the indigenous experience. We are very grateful to be able to bring this kind of programming to the public and very much hope to visit more locations in the coming year. Librarians - we are Los Angeles County approved adult and children presenters and the best way to reach us is by email at redbirds vision@hotmail.com

Chilao Fire Safe Update

The actual application of the fire retardant paint on the Chilao School teacher's residence was never intended to be a DIY project. But scheduling issues with the painter, complicated by a decision late in the program to box in the eaves pushed the painting portion of the program well into November... and it is still not complete.

All of the exposed vertical walls and wide eaves have the fire retardant paint and top coat applied. And thank

goodness. We got a light snow within 24 hours of getting the top coat on with a loaned sprayer and volunteer labor. The facia boards, narrow eaves (14' tall), and porch and patio are not yet painted in this two-part fire retardant paint. It's impossible to detect which is what by looking, however, because everything is white...including the forest, which got three feet of snow over Thanksgiving. Boxing in the eaves cost an additional \$1,500.00. But, it appears there is enough paint remaining, or very nearly enough, to address the school next. As in next year. We're all pretty much tired of painting this year, and the job is only just over half done. The house needs to be restored to it's former chaparral green color with pine brown trim. When the weather is ready to let us paint again.

Forest Recovery Project

For a decade the Forest Recovery Project has been a source of lovely images and the message that fire is an integral part of the long term life-deathlife cycle of nature. In 2017 we realized there needed to be a focal shift to include the human element - land management post-fire was my personal area of interest but fire safety is the issue that affects a much broader population. In 2019 I was able to photograph and experience a prescribed burn; significant not only because I got to take photos, but because I need to understand, not in theory but face to face, how fire behaves. In June 2019 I got to witness an environmental disaster. Where previous years' fuel reduction efforts had taken place, invasive plant species - Spanish Broom, namely - had taken over.

There's an element of seriousness to this that's hard to overstate. While I absolutely support the reintroduction of fire for the health of the landscape, no habitat modification can be introduced into areas where aggressive invasives are poised to take over. The invasive plant species MUST be eradicated first. How we are going to manage things like cheat grass, I do not know, but broom can be dealt with. It is neither easy nor without controversy; glyphosate-based herbicides are the most economical and effective way to deal with Spanish Broom. Manual removal is best, but challenging, and will need to be continually repeated. The super bloom of 2019 clearly illustrated how serious the Spanish Broom issue is in the Angeles. Now, the task of insuring that the Forest Service does not ignore the problem and continue with vegetation treatments that will only make the infestation worse.

The Forest Recovery Project will continually be modified to address the needs of the human population.

Marketing the effort is challenging. The information is valuable, the images are beautiful, and the need to understand your personal risk as it relates to fire should be something that concerns people, but fire safety is not an easy thing to engage people about. It has definitely been and continues to be a wonderful way to re-learn our

connectedness to and our role as a connected part of the natural world.

New Website

It's a work in progress, and the address remains the same, but Redbird's completely new and re-imagined website is up. Several pages are still missing, and the site designer is...well, not a website designer. The good news is, the platform is Weebly, which is very user friendly, easy to change and update, and (once I figure out how to do it) easy to integrate with social media, shopping features and lots of other cool things. Pretty soon we'll switch from a free site to a paid site, which will remove Weebly advertising. Check it out! www.RedbirdsVision.org

2020 - Choosing What to Embrace

A theme that has come up and repeated itself over and over again in 2019 is connectedness. Relationship. At Songs and Stories in Hermosa Beach it was presented to me in a way I had not previously considered by a Jewish couple. They explained that people who are able to do harm to others can do so because they do not have a sense of connectedness. I already knew that on some level but our conversation gave me an expanded understanding of the depth of the issue. Connectedness - or rather the lack of it, is a societal epidemic that knows no cultural boundaries. It is the by-product of our modern world, our individualistic,

competitive, consumer-based, capitalistic and completely disjointed from nature and each other way of life. But you can't address it from outside and you can't address it by screaming at a society. It is personal. Cellular. And I don't mean your phone. I mean the cells in your body. Separation is an individual plight. It is the lack of connectedness, first and foremost, to yourself. To other living things. To nature. To spirit, in whatever way you experience it. It's not an intellectual concept; it is the reality of most of us for at least part of our lives and if we are lucky, we have some means to transcend it. If we are not so fortunate...if we never see or feel or imagine our connectedness, this is a dark and lonely world where what we do does not matter. And the only way to address it is one person at a time.

I felt so overwhelmed. And at the same time this thing had been emerging for a while. The thought of art, the power of art and focusing that power on a single concept, a single idea. Mitakuye Oyasin - the Lakota words that describe our connectedness...We Are All Related or All My Relations.

Probably every indigenous culture has some way to express this concept, or perhaps no words for it because it is at the base of existence, so integral to life that it defies definition...it just is...but these are the words I know, the words many people know, sometimes used to the point of being cliche', the way Mni Wiconi (water is life) was being thrown

around for a while. (Water is life...just go ahead and try to live without it). So in 2020, we're going to be doing one more Highway 2 - the journey and the destination show - and then we will let that one sleep for a little bit while we launch Mitakuye Oyasin. It will be more than an art show. It will be a presentation series. it will be an attempt to touch people in a way that will awaken a sense of connectedness, no matter the color of their skin, their tribe, their ideologies or lack of them.

Another issue that has been coming increasingly into public attention is MMIW - missing and murdered indigenous women. How blissfully ignorant I was of this issue until 2018. Still, my understanding is just the bits and pieces learned from others. It's a frightening picture that only makes sense once you understand the complexities of it. I would like to find someone willing to write a page for our website, devoted to the issue, explaining how this can happen, why it happens, why it is so hard to address, and what we can do to end human trafficking and murder. The first thing we need to do is be aware that it is happening. From that awareness can arise action. From that awareness, solutions can emerge.

Corina

Redbird P.O. Box 702 Simi Valley, CA 93062



Redbird's 24th Annual

Blanket, Toy and School Supplies Drive and Mini-Powwow

Benefitting the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota

In Partnership with Walking Shield and Dr. David Lee

Storytellers bring your stories
Storytellers bring your songs
Bird Singers bring your some
All Drums welcome
Dancers bring your regalia

December 7, 2019
11 AM to 3 PM
Simi Valley Town Center Mall
Community Room, Simi Valley
(Ventura County, CA)

Family Friendly Everyone Welcome

Native American singing, dancing, drumming, storytelling, crafts

We are seeking New, lightweight, washable, warm blankets and new, soft (stuffed) toys which will be shipped by Redbird to Pine Ridge. We also very much need financial donations to cover the cost of shipping. New boxed and "hard" toys and school supplies will be distributed to communities in need by Walking Shield.

Directions:

Simi Valley Town Center Mall 1555 Simi Town Center Way Simi Valley, CA 93065 Just north of the 118 freeway between Erringer Road and First Street

For More Information:

Redbird is a 501(c)(3) Native American and environmental non profit association, founded in Simi Valley in 1994. All donations are tax deductible.

www.RedbirdsVision.org

Highway 2 Motorcycle Track Day on Horse Thief Mile



Saturday, December 14, 2019 Willow Springs International Raceway \$125.00 via PayPal



includes photos
First time track riders welcome
Experienced riders available to
lead/follow/mentor
Suspension support by West Coast GP Moto



PayPal Email (and for more information...)

redbirds vision@hotmail.com

Join Peter Esquivel, Tanner Alan Giao, Felipe Manzanilla, Turin Atol and a bunch of locals for a fun day at Willow Springs on Horse Thief Mile, a track designed to emulate canyon riding with twists, turns and elevation changes. Look for our event on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/1362196933932365/









Thanksgiving 2019











