



# The Ingrid Washinawatok El-Issa Flying Eagle Woman Fund

for Peace, Justice, and Sovereignty

VOLUME II, Issue 1



Greetings from the Staff and Directors of the Flying Eagle Woman Fund. We hope that this year will be a fruitful and productive one for you and your family. For us, the past 12 months have been a year of many achievements for the Flying Eagle Woman Fund.

Most recently the Fund helped to support indigenous leaders gathering at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from May 12th through the 23rd for the second meeting of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was established in July 2000, during the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples. This historic recognition of the importance of indigenous aspirations by the UN was the culmination of years of work by Ingrid Washinawatok El-Issa, who was the co-chair of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples when she passed away in 1999.

The Permanent Forum is an advisory body to the UN with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. The Permanent Forum provides expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Economic and Social Council, as well as to programs, funds, and agencies of the UN. In addition, it's mandate is to raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities related to



*Noelli Pocatererra, Arawak leader and Deputy Vice President of the Venezuelan National Assembly, and Jose Barreiro, Flying Eagle Woman Board member, at the reception at the American Indian Community House on May 19, 2003.*



*Seated, from left, Ali El-Issa, Connie Faracena Secaira (Minister Counsellor for the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the UN), John Livingstone, and Maekiw El-Issa at a reception honoring Ingrid at the American Indian Community House.*

indigenous issues within the UN system and prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues.

Approximately 800 indigenous delegates, government officials, and members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all over the world attended the Permanent Forum this year. As with the first meeting of the Permanent Forum held in New York last year, the Flying Eagle Woman Fund aided indigenous delegates by helping with local transportation, housing, and food for the participants.

The theme for the second session was "Indigenous Children and Youth." In light of this, the Flying Eagle Woman Fund helped organize an indigenous youth panel at the conference, and provided transportation and other support for indigenous youth to attend the Permanent Forum. The Fund also sponsored a Media Panel at the Forum, and helped bring an exhibit of Creek artist Dana Tiger that was shown at the UN during the Forum.

On May 19, 2003, a reception was held at the American Indian Community House for the indigenous delegates to the Permanent Forum. The reception, in honor of Ingrid, featured a poetry reading by John Trudell and a performance by the Danza Azteca.

## Grants and Donations

In May of 2003, the Flying Eagle Woman Fund received a grant of land in Tomkins County, New York from the Cedar Fund. The Flying Eagle Woman Fund plans to use the land in the future for a retreat center and youth camp.

In July of 2002, the Flying Eagle Woman Fund accepted an award in memory of Ingrid Washinawatok El-Issa from White Bison Inc., an organization that advocates for sobriety among indigenous people. The award was given to the Fund at the White Bison Hoop Journey III in Oklahoma. In September, American Indians for Opportunity also gave an award to the Fund, also in memory of Ingrid.

The past 12 months have been a busy one for the Flying Eagle Woman Fund, which provided a number of grants for different organizations. The Fund for the Four Directions (FFD) has become a program of the Flying Eagle Woman Fund. With a strong emphasis on language restoration and intergenerational collaboration, the FFD's focus has been the revitalization of North American cultures and ways of life. The FFD fosters the empowerment of indigenous communities in North America to implement solutions that are consistent with indigenous ways and concepts; promote and uphold the

cultural and spiritual survival of indigenous peoples; and support the cultural integrity of indigenous communities.

Among those receiving grants from the Fund was the Traditional Circle of Elders and Youth for support for their 25th gathering, held in Montana in the Summer of 2002. The Fund also provided a grant for the Indigenous Legacy of the Caribbean for school supplies, medical supplies, and to aid the repatriation and burial of the remains of Taino people in the Spring of 2002.

The Flying Eagle Woman Fund helped with funding for the American Indians For Development (AID) Indigenous Ambassadors program in Washington, D.C. in December and made a donation to the North Star Fund's annual Frederick Douglas Award Ceremony. The Fund also made a donation to Shared Interest.

The Flying Eagle Woman Fund continued to support outstanding Native young people in their efforts to achieve their dreams. With the help of new scholarship aid from the Flying Eagle Woman Fund, Navajo pilot Teresa Lynch was able to continue attending the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. When she graduates from Embry Riddle, she will become the first Navajo woman commercial airline pilot. The fund also provided a scholarship for Crystal Henry, a Mohawk college student.



*Flying Eagle Woman Fund founder and Board member Ali El-Issa with Dr. Ferdinand Anders (above left) in the Netherlands. Ali and Dr. Anders, an Austrian specialist in Mesoamerican pictorial manuscripts attended the conference, "Past and Present in the Americas, Towards a Postcolonial Perspective," held at Leiden University April 23-25, 2003.*

**[www.flyingeaglewomanfund.org](http://www.flyingeaglewomanfund.org)**

***The website is here!***

Under the management of Tapwe Production Projects for the Flying Eagle Woman Fund, this temporary site will be a source of special announcements, news items, fund raising event notices and schedules regarding the Fund.

Be a part of the Flying Eagle Woman Fund's first

### **ONLINE AUCTION**

supporting the creation of the Ingrid Washinawatok El-Issa Library & Research Center.

For something more than just a website...click on **[www.flyingeaglewomanfund.org](http://www.flyingeaglewomanfund.org)**



*Ali El-Issa and Hassan Idbalkassm, attorney and representative of the Berber people of Morocco, at the opening of the exhibit of indigenous art at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The exhibit featured the work of Creek artist Dana Tiger and included a painting honoring Ingrid Washinawatok El-Issa.*

### **The Ingrid Washinawatok El-Issa Library and Research Center**

For the new archive being developed at the Flying Eagle Woman Fund, the Fund has received the personal documents of noted American Indian Movement (AIM) member Nilak Butler. Butler, a renowned human rights and environmental activist, died on December 26, 2002, at the age of 49 after a two and a half year battle with ovarian cancer. She was present at the infamous shootout on the Pine Ridge Reservation on June 26, 1975, where an Indian man and two FBI agents were killed. Subsequently AIM member Leonard Peltier was charged and convicted of abetting the deaths of the FBI agents. Butler campaigned for Peltier's release on the grounds that he had received an unfair trial, and Peltier's case has become a symbol of American injustice against Indian people.

Butler was the founding member of many organizations including the Indigenous Women's Network and the Indigenous Environmental Network. She became a specialist in nuclear issues and Native peoples and worked as the Nuclear Free Native Lands Campaigner for Greenpeace. Her collection, more than 34 boxes, is an important and valuable legacy for American Indians.

The Flying Eagle Woman Fund also received the documents of Cherokee activist Troy Lang, who passed away in December, 2001. Lang was also a member of AIM and its successor, the International Indian Treaty Council. He produced and hosted a radio show in New

York City on indigenous issues during the 1990s. A photographer and film-maker, his collection of thousands of slides and prints are an important addition to the Flying Eagle Woman Fund's archives.

These collections are an important first step in reaching one of the Flying Eagle Woman Fund's most important goals, the creation of an archive and research center that will document what is still one of the least well-documented of the American civil movements -- the national and international struggles of American Indians during the 20th Century. We intend this new research center to eventually house the finest collection of mate-



*Maekiw El-Issa speaks at the opening of an exhibit of artwork at the Permanent Forum of the United Nations.*



*Ali El-Issa, Flying Eagle Woman board member Rigoberta Menchu Tum, and Maekiw El-Issa at the Flying Eagle Woman Fund's offices in New York City.*

rials on the 20th Century Indian struggle for sovereignty, international recognition, and cultural survival. These materials would be made easily available to scholars and indigenous peoples and would become an important aid in the work to maintain the cultural, social, environmental, and political integrity of indigenous communities worldwide.

It is a history that will soon be lost without a systematic effort to collect it. The Ingrid Washinawatok Library and Research Center can help provide that voice, which will be so vital to the emerging Indian struggles of the 21st Century, and increasingly, to the entire human race. The Fund is currently working with the Solidarity Foundation to house and begin to restore the collection. A site has been chosen and is expected to be ready by late Summer 2003.

### **The Flying Eagle Woman Fund**

The Flying Eagle Woman Fund's primary mission is to strengthen the sovereignty of indigenous peoples by building communities that are self-reliant, while at the same time maintaining and reinforcing their traditional cultures and ways of life. The Fund aids indigenous communities by providing scholarships for indigenous women, acting as a resource for those communities, supporting development, educational, and cultural projects, and hosting educational conferences, meetings, and other

networking for indigenous peoples.

The Flying Eagle Woman Fund would like to thank The Kurz Family Fund and the Vanguard Foundation for their generous support over the past year. We would also like to thank the Center for Hawaiian Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa, the Friends of Bill Deblasio, Claudia Horowitz, Jaqueline Schoenhaus, Gail Anderson, Claire Greensfelder, L. Lawrence Stetler, Majorie Fine, Katherine Sall, Flora Coloa, Dorian Brooks, Malcom Kottler, Barbara Trees, Mary Howells Bruderlein, Claude Bruderlein, Michael Hirschorn, Dr. Andree N. McLaughlin, L.K. Kame Eleihiwa, Kathryn LaBonte, and Lawrence Ahenekew for their contributions to the Fund.

In addition, the Fund would like to thank Larry Heilweil and Burton Goldstein & Co., Brenda Neal, Roz Dotson, Steve Cowley and Solomon Smith Barney for their work on behalf of the Fund.

*Contributions to the Fund are tax deductible*

### **The Ingrid Washinawatok El-Issa Flying Eagle Woman Fund**

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