

Alpha Institute Annual Meeting – February 10, 2009

Address from The President – Andrea Lord

Theme: Transition - facing the future with hope and courage.

Hello to everybody both actual and virtual.

As predicted last year we have experienced many changes throughout 2008 from national to Alpha.

America faced some of its fear last year by electing a minority as president of the United States amidst a great and disturbing economic, violent and unpredictable background.

To think outside the box, to not react, to look for a fresh approach in an uncertain situation allows a creative maturity to develop which assists transition and change with grace.

This is a good application for individuals, communities and companies to apply to their own specific situations in dealing with blocks and fears.

Change is part of growth and consequently survival.

Taking the first step is relatively easy but walking that path of positive change on a daily basis takes courage and perseverance.

I like to think that Alpha has always embraced this approach that by being part of the journey of seeing all mankind sitting in the circle as helped create this national change and offers hope for the future.

So 2009 finds us looking ahead open to a new direction but also keeping the successful and basic tenants that make up Alpha.

We have dropped the web maintenance part of the website sector but still provide some web hosting to indigenous, other non-profits and grass-root organizations, becoming more of a club of social change.

Some of the native sites have since become autonomous. Managing and hosting their own web sites this was always a vision of Alpha to give them independent power not relying on someone else for connection.

The same applies to Caring for the Caregiver. Having helped seed the program into communities and see it become part and parcel of regular medical and institutional programs we have now turned our attention towards a more general program for women.

So we continue to introduce circling in the community, holding four women circles a year, touching on subjects that concern most women in this society. These circles are growing and being received very favorably by women in the outer community. Hopefully putting women back in touch with their power to nurture and create their own, their families or communities' destinies.

On the green theme or our environmentally aware approach we have branched out into experimenting with solar energy, building and designing a solar system that now partially powers Alpha's office. We still recycle when it is appropriate. And still have our ezine, and web pages that offer a fresh approach on a myriad of subjects with always a twist of being.

And we are still being, being here and going there, keeping our eye on the future ready to seed the next thing without losing our connection to what serves our spirit.

Blessings & Peace

Web Site Support - Alexandria Lord

Note: Due to the retirement of the Web Master and Graphic Designer, Alexandria Lord, effective at the end of 2008, all the web sites have been notified that they are responsible for their own changes and upgrades, though we do maintain our free hosting on the Alpha servers. It was always our intention to turn over these duties to the native groups so that that they could control their own sites and as necessary learn the more technical end of the process. The following will be the last review of our work with these sites.

The Seventh Generation Fund

is an Indigenous non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and maintaining the uniqueness of Native peoples throughout the Americas.

<http://www.7genfund.org/>

Note: They have moved to a different internet provider.

The Seventh Generation Fund continues to provide assistance to Indian development offering comprehensive support to Native Community Projects though out North and South Americas and Hawaii. They also sponsor workshops and conferences during the year.

Seventh Generation Fund provides a variety of services at their the Homefires Burning gatherings; affiliate training workshops, onsite visits, consultations, regional training forums, youth camps and training sessions related to specific projects or issues. Their Program areas are: Arts and Cultural , Environmental Health and Justice , Human Rights, Intergenerational Leadership Initiative , Sacred Earth Sustainable Communities , Women's Leadership, Arts and Cultural Expression , Environmental Health and Justice , Human Rights, Intergenerational Leadership Initiative , Sacred Earth , Sustainable Communities

Denver Indian Center

Native Workforce program is working to get more job training programs for vets, higher education for Native Youths, in the field of health care, scholarships, and focusing on acquiring skills in growing occupations and industries.

They still post a board of community activities and they have started a Family Emergency Response Program for the elders as well as a scam alerts through AARP, and information for service personal

<http://www.denverindiancenter.org/>

Note: They have moved to a different internet provider.

<http://www.aarpelderwatch.org/public/alerts.html>

(Site Design by [North Island Software](#))

NAMES Native American Multi-cultural Educational Education School

Alpha provided some updates to their web site.

<http://names.indigenousnative.org/>

Midwest Treaty Network

MTN has had little activity this year, but they utilized YouTube to put up videos of conflict, interviews, preservation of language, tribal council conflict, sacred lodges and more...

YouTube Videos by Skabewis on Lac du Flambeau conflicts, May-June 2008

<http://treaty.indigenousnative.org/videos.html>

Western Shoshone Defense Project

WSDP uses email to send out alerts and notices and they also have a Newsletter you can subscribe to as well as a "News Resources" area that can be used to find other news services.

Barrick, the world's largest gold mining company, headquartered in Toronto, Canada, plans to construct and operate the mine, known as the Cortez Hills Expansion Project. The Project area is located entirely within the territory of the Western Shoshone Nation, recognized in the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley. The Mine would blast and excavate a new massive open pit on Mount Tenabo over 900 acres in size, with a depth of over 2,000 feet. It would include several new waste disposal and processing facilities (including a cyanide heap-leaching facility), consisting of approximately 1,577 million tons of waste rock, 53 million tons of tailings material, and 112 million tons of spent heap leach material. The Mine would include an extensive groundwater pumping system to dewater Mount Tenabo (in order to keep the open pit and mine workings dry during mining) and associated water pipelines that will transport the pumped water away from Mount Tenabo. In total, the mine would permanently destroy approximately 6,800 acres land on and around Mount Tenabo, over 90% of which is classified as federal "public" land.

Indigenous Environmental Network

<http://www.ienearth.org/>

Programs & Initiatives

"A network of Indigenous Peoples empowering Indigenous Nations and communities towards sustainable livelihoods, demanding environmental justice and maintaining the Sacred Fire of our traditions."

Areas of concern:

Native Energy Justice

Energy Climate Justice

Canadian Indigenous Tar Sands – CITSC

REDOIL: "Alaskan Native Grassroots Network

Tribal Campus Climate Challenge

Carbon Trading, Carbon Offsets and RED/Ds

(Carbon Trading - The process of buying and selling carbon credits. Large companies or organizations are assigned a quota of carbon that they are allowed to emit. If a company's emissions are less than its quota then it can sell credits if emissions are more then it will need to buy carbon credits.)

Tonatierra uses email to send out alerts and notices

<http://www.tonatierra.org/>

The time has come to act with the collective political strength of a unified voice at the continental level as Indigenous Peoples to demand of President Obama a commitment to Recognize, Respect, and Implement the **Right of Self Determination of the Nations of the Indigenous Peoples** of Abya Yala, "Continent of Life" such as is transcribed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 13, 2007.

Recycling – Computers – William McGuire

Took part in two recycling events in Denver in 2008.

The first was for Earth Day (4/20/08) put on by Executive Recycling and held at the Museum of Science and Technology. At this event we contributed several computers, monitors and a case of old two button mice.

The other event was put on by “Listen Up” on 10/30/08 and took place at their Evans location – 5295 E. Evans, Denver. We contributed PC computers, printers, monitors and old Unix equipment.

This is the first year that AI did not accept any new equipment for recycling. (One exception is a laptop we were given the previous December but picked up in January.)

This is also the first year in quite some time that we did not donate any computers to other organizations. The indications are that this field has changed substantially. The organizations that are mainly involved in recycling seem to be crushing the equipment and doing very little transferring to people.

We continue as an information resource and advise people on places to go for recycling and have facilitated the transfers. (In one case we wiped a hard disk for someone concerned about personal information being transferred.)

The economy seems to be playing a part in this area as well as all the others – many people only want to donate very old junk or broken or old monitors, the rest being sold on places like Craigslist. Also organizations that previously channeled our recycled computers to their clients appear to be not using this resource. The computer field in general is changing too, with a large swing towards laptops and away from desktop models. On a software level Microsoft is being challenged by Linux such as Ubuntu and free office software like Open Office. Cost can only continue to be a major issue.

General Recycling

Batteries: Best Buy has a drop off container in the front of their store where small batteries (AA, C, D etc) can be deposited for recycling.

Printer Cartridges: Though many office supply houses (Office Depot/Office Max) take old cartridges and even give a small credit (\$3) another option is to reuse the cartridge by refilling. We tried one company (www.tonerrefilkits.com) for refilling of laser cartridges (HP LaserJet 1100). They sell the ink powder, provide specific procedures for particular models and tools for the process. The cost is substantially less and our experience over the past month is that it appears to be working quite well. If someone wants to check out the tool we can loan it out. It is a circular bit on the end of a soldering iron device for punching a hole in the cartridge.

Fountain of Light – www.fountainoflight.net

Continues to provide a point of view for changing times while remembering what got us here.

Solar Project



We recently completed the report on the solar build that is out side the office (the annex) and that started last summer. The quick description is that four solar panels are powering the two main computers in the office. This is an off the grid system, complete with Kyocera 135 Watt (17.7 V / 7.63 A at rated output) panels, Outback battery controller and inverter, 4 L-16 batteries and assorted other equipment. This was a lengthy process to accomplish depending on local labor (us) and local hardware (Home Depot) and local design (DB).

If there are any questions we suggest you come by and look at the system first and then discuss it with DB (Arthur). The report (FINAL REPORT: SKY RANCH 540 WATT PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM) will be posted along with these meeting notes on the Alpha Institute web site at www.alphai.org.

WOMEN's CIRCLES 2008

Facilitated by Andrea Lord and Rachel Lord

Three women's circles were presented to the public. These are ongoing quarterly events. (One was cancelled.) The purpose is to reach out to the community, create a safe space to speak freely and to present an alternative spiritual approach to women's issues. Average attendance was about 6 women at each circle. They were held at Isis Books and Gifts and at the Old Hampden Holistic Center, both in Englewood, Colorado.

Response was highly favorable. There is beginning to be a core group who attend more than once. Many women are expressing a need for this type of opportunity, to come together in confidence, celebration and ceremony.

The following topics were given:

CIRCLING: PROTECTION -Using Elemental Forces to Create Safe Boundaries

CIRCLING: USING WOMEN'S POWER FOR TRANSFORMATION & GROWTH-Acknowledging the Goddess Within

CIRCLING: TRANSITIONING-From Maiden to Mother to Matriarch to Wise Woman

WOMEN's CIRCLE NEWSLETTER

awomenscircle@yahoo.com

The Women's Circle also publishes a monthly on-line newsletter on various topics of interest.

2008 Topics were as follows:

January: Chakra Series-6th Third Eye

February: Chakra Series-7th Crown

March: Chakra Series-Connecting all the Chakras

April: Spring Cleansing

May: The 5 Elements Series-Water Part I

June: The 5 Elements Series-Water Part II

July: The 5 Elements Series-Wood

August: The 5 Elements Series- Fire

September: The 5 Elements Series-Earth

October: The 5 Elements Series-Metal

November: The 5 Element Series- Related to Personality/Astrology

December: Winter Solstice

Comments/Questions/Discussion:

Special Thanks to our sys-op (LC) who has created and maintained a dependable system for this entire operation, and to RichB. for his ongoing technical help.

Note: This year Alpha opened up the corporate yearly meeting attendance and discussion to email. The preliminary meeting notes were sent out via email (2/8/09) to everyone listed as attendees with a response needed to billmc@scicom.alphacdc.com if any issues wanted to be discussed or included before the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7 PM, 2/10/09 by the Secretary at 2570 Sky Ranch Road, Aurora, CO 80011.

The meeting notes were discussed and approved unanimously.

7:30 PM (approximately) Meeting called to close by Secretary/Treasurer

This is a true and accurate rendering of the official yearly meeting of Alpha Institute held February 10, 2009 in accordance with the corporation by-laws.

Signed:

William E. McGuire
Secretary Treasurer
Alpha Institute