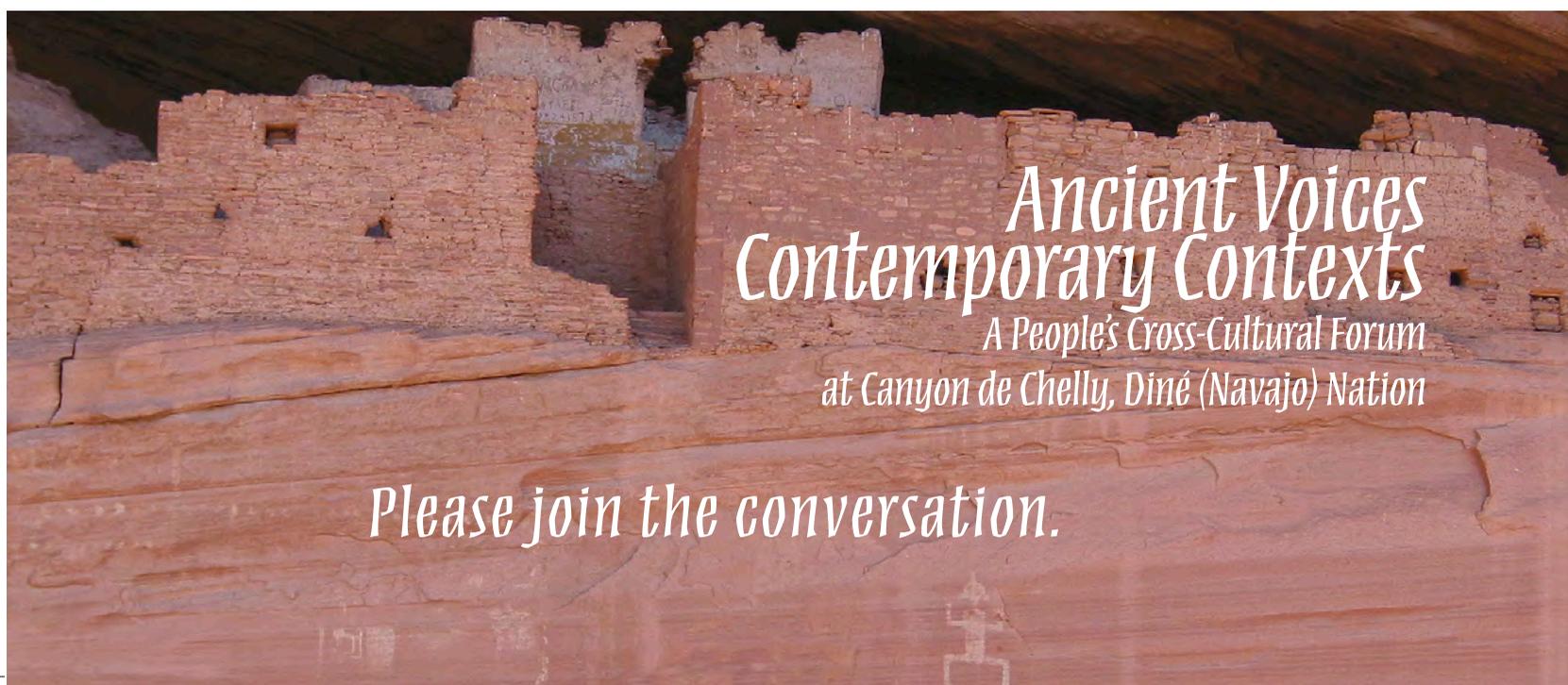


February 19-21, 2010
Ancient Voices - Contemporary Contexts Forum
Women's Ways of Knowing
Canyon de Chelly, Diné Nation, Arizona



The American Indian Institute & Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth

Bozeman, Montana 59771-1388
P.O. Box 1388
American Indian Institute 



*Ancient Voices
Contemporary Contexts*
A People's Cross-Cultural Forum
at Canyon de Chelly, Diné (Navajo) Nation

Please join the conversation.

Understanding Our Responsibilities

The spiritual voice of the Elders, with its holistic view of environmental and social responsibility, offers a way back to understanding our responsibilities to Earth, each other, and the generations yet to come.

As the bringers of life, women carry deep wisdom of balance between all of life. By exploring these ways of seeing and being, it is our hope that Forum participants can help the Elders apply a new consciousness to environmental and social issues that loom before us today.

An Unprecedented Gathering

Seldom have so many traditional grassroots spiritual leaders of Indigenous nations of North America come together to share their cultural and spiritual wisdom with non-Native people. Contemporary social and environmental problems are in desperate need of alternative approaches. The traditional Native perspective offers new ground from which to address these issues.

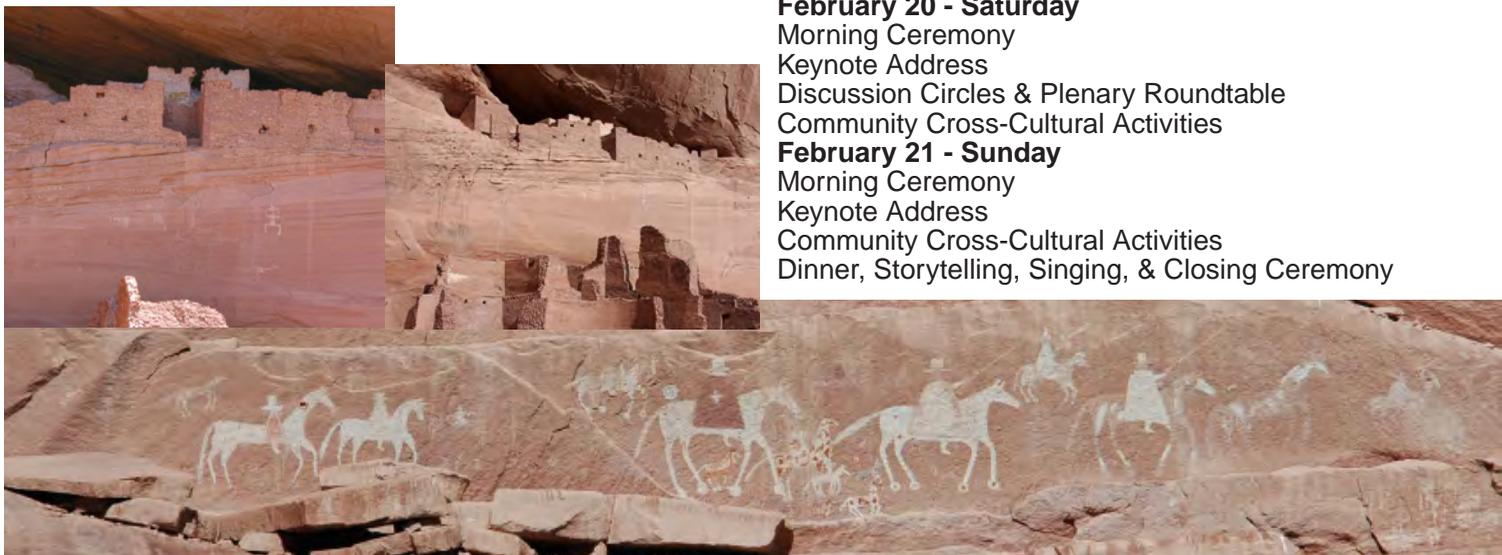
The voice of Elders is an ancient voice with deep spiritual roots.

Participants at the Ancient Voices Forum will have an opportunity to share in the perspective of traditional Native American leaders and together will:

- Explore our common concerns about the human condition in modern times.
- Seek ways of living within the natural capacities of the earth.
- Recognize what the future holds for our children, and explore alternatives.

The ancient indigenous voice is relevant to today's world, and may hold keys to our common survival. This three day Forum offers participants a unique opportunity to sit with the most revered traditional voices from Indian country – to hear first-hand their perspectives and concerns, and to explore these ideas in close dialogue.

The Elders will begin each day in ceremony of thanksgiving. A keynote address will follow, laying the foundation for discussions in small group sessions, each led by one or more traditional leaders. These sessions provide the opportunity for close exploration and discussion of traditional indigenous wisdom and its modern relevance and implications. Afternoons will be devoted to small group activities out in the physical indigenous environment and in the community.



Wilma Mankiller, Will Act as Weaver of People & Ideas



Wilma Mankiller, Cherokee was the first woman Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation; in that capacity she represented the second largest tribe in the United States.

Keynote Speakers

Louise McDonald, Tewakerahkwa, A condoled Bear Clan Mother from the Kaniekehaka (Mohawk Nation) at Akwesasne. A long time advocate for the preservation of the Kaniekehaka language. Her recent work centers around women's wellness and the restoration of puberty rites for youth within her community. She has travelled to the United Nations advocating the rights of indigenous women and children.



Sarah James, a Neetsaii Gwich'in, lives in Arctic Village, Alaska. She has traveled the world, speaking about indigenous rights, human rights, and environmental issues. Through all her commitments, Sarah has won several awards and is globally recognized.

Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper, Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation, is a clear, persistent, and respected voice for the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy), and for Indigenous peoples throughout the world.



General Forum Schedule

February 19 - Friday

Forum Registration
Opening Ceremony & Plenary Welcome & Keynote Address
Discussion Circles
Community Cross-Cultural Activities

February 20 - Saturday

Morning Ceremony
Keynote Address
Discussion Circles & Plenary Roundtable
Community Cross-Cultural Activities

February 21 - Sunday

Morning Ceremony
Keynote Address
Community Cross-Cultural Activities
Dinner, Storytelling, Singing, & Closing Ceremony