Hibulb’s First Annual Film Festival

The first ever Tulalip Hibulb Cultural Center Film Festival was held on April 13 and 14, 2013. The theme for this year’s festival was “Our Land, Our Relations”. Wanting to bring part of our culture to life on screen in the inspired setting of the Hibulb Cultural Center, we requested films with strong voices of old cultures and connections to land and families, especially in anticipation of Earth Day. We’re very happy we received wonderful films, locally, nationally, and internationally.

A couple films had strong links to the community, such as Daniel Jones’ animation film celebrating the Lushootseed language, and Lita Sheldon’s documentary film about the remarkable Tulalip leader William Shelton and the history of his story pole. Other welcome additions were Dallas Pinkham’s film spotlighting the unique intertribal basketball camp in Washington that involves sharing ancestral values, and Dawn Karima Pettigrew’s two films with poignant montages of the historic Cherokee ‘trail of tears’ and current images of a resilient people.

This set of films was also broadly reflective of the diversity and splendor of voices of ‘Our Relations’, films celebrating early cultural connections, such as R. Pandiaraj’s film from India about the earthen clay pot as a close companion to the human being, and the film by Carol Geertsema and Carolyn Schmekel from Twisp, Washington, about two sisters who are the last of the descendants of the original people in the area and what they learned from their elders and now eloquently share with younger people. We viewed films honoring connections to land, such as Ellen Mueller’s statement on fracking and Clyde James Aragon’s delightful photo film on the annual acequia cleaning event bringing community together; and films recognizing our human commonality, such as Tomer Wrechson’s film from Israel about a young lady’s coming of age lesson, and Michael Ballif’s zombie film, a riveting account of finding harmony amidst a horrifying epidemic.

We were very honored with the people who came to help make this year’s film festival a success. Tessa Campbell (The Life Cycle of William Shelton’s Artifacts) was exceptional as the emcee. Derek Jones (A Season in the Rain) began the festival with a creative workshop on Storytelling and Creative Writing, offering tips from such films as Finding Nemo and Pirates of the Caribbean, and having participants condense their story ideas to one sentence. After the films, Aaron Jones (History Is Unwritten) splendidly facilitated a discussion panel with four of the film winners, Daniel Jones (Numberlution), Carolyn Schmekel (Methow Sisters), Dallas Pinkham (Clearsky Basketball Camp 2010) and JD Mowrer (William Shelton and the Sklaletut Pole). The panel’s creative energy made an enjoyable finish to the first day of the festival, as we listened to the wide range of experience and expertise that shaped our rich and diverse festival.

We are grateful to the judges Michelle Myles, Language Teacher, Tulalip Lushootseed Department; Mike Sarich, Associate Producer, Tulalip Communications Department; and our own Karen Shoaf-Mitchell, HCC Docent and Instructor, Northwest Indian College. We thank all the participants. We look forward to this annual event next year when we will be prepared to receive more films with expanded award categories, including a family history category.

Submitted by Lena Jones
Interpretive Sign at Stevens Pass

A newly completed tribal interpretive site can now be accessed by visitors to the Stevens Pass Ski Resort, where they can learn how the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest was a traditional summer home and trade route, and how treaty rights enable the Tulalip people to hunt and gather in the mountain areas.

Through the use of large panels, located at the ski lodge complex, a timeline of Tulalip history is displayed. Each of the four panels boasts a different time period in Tulalip history. Along with the panels is a large cedar carving, done by tribal member Jason Gobin, which features two mountain goats and a sun above them.

The interpretive site is a condition of the master development plan proposed by the Resort. To operate within the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, they are required to renew a special use permit, and detail how ski area operations will affect the environment of the forest. In 2007, Tulalip Tribes signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Washington State Forest Service, which refers to Tulalip Tribes treaty rights to the area. By the end of 2012, the site was available for public viewing. “This is something the Tribes has to do for a long time, to educate their public about treaty rights. What happens is every time the Tribes want to do something that is a cultural use; there is a huge push back by the public. There is no understanding that there are existing rights, property rights that the Tribes have on these lands,” explained Libby Nelson, Tulalip Tribes Natural Resources Environmental Policy Analyst.

In 2010, mitigation was finalized and Stevens Pass Ski Resort began discussions with Tulalip Tribes on a collaborative effort to inform visitors of the reserved rights that the Tribes have to the area. By the end of 2012, the site was available for public viewing. “This is something the Tribes had been asking the forest service to do for a long time, to educate their public about treaty rights. What happens is every time the Tribes want to do something that is a cultural use; there is a huge push back by the public. There is no understanding that there are existing rights, property rights that the Tribes have on these lands. “This was one opportunity that needed to happen, to start getting information out there to the public so that they understand that tribal people have lived on those lands for 10,000 years and managed them. And that even though they were relocated to the Tulalip Reservation, they still retained and reserved the rights to hunt, fish and gather in these areas,” explained Nelson.

Gathering historical information and designing a look for the interpretive site was designated to the Hibulb Cultural Center & Nature Preserve to reflect a look that would be easily recognized as Tulalip. “It was very challenging. We wanted to include so many things. We decided on a timeline starting with the history and how the pass was used. There were trails in the pass that were used for trading between east and west tribes, and it was a big berry and hunting area in addition to a temporary summer residence,” said Tessa Campbell, Assistant Curator for Cultural Resources at the Hibulb Cultural Center.

Through the procession of panels, historical information was chosen to show how the impact of settlers, disease, and relocation affected the Tribes. The panels also exhibit events that happened during treaty times and how the pass is currently used by the Tribes, including partnerships the Tribes have with federal agencies to sustain resources and rights.

“People are up there and have no idea the historical usage of the area. I really hope that when people are in the area, they reflect on and remember that they weren’t the first people here, and this land has a very historical significance,” said Campbell. The Tribal Interpretive Site is open to the public to visit as part of the Ski Lodge Complex, and is located near the Pacific Crest Lodge on the west wall by the main entry walkway. A dedication ceremony is planned for the site in the latter part of spring.

Submitted by Brandi Montrueil

Treaty Times

These were tough times for our people. Oftentimes tribal to maintain sustaining viable ways by gathering, fishing, and hunting, but we were restricted by federal and local laws. It was very difficult for our ancestors to fish and hunt. As a result, we were forced to include the Native American Tribal Honor Guard in our traditional way of life. It was only through the Treaty of Point Elliott that the tribes were able to navigate our traditional ways. It is our sacred duty to honor and remember those who have passed on.

Submitted by Brandi Montrueil
The Marysville Globe stated, in its June 9, 1905 issue, that it seemed as if the whole reservation must have come to town. The reason for this influx of people was the series of baseball games that was played at the Marysville baseball park between the Tulalip Indians and the Lummi Indians. The Globe reported that neither team had lost a game that season. The Lummi team was composed of “big fellows.” They were, as the Globe asserted, “the strongest Indian teams in this part of the country.”

Tulalip’s players were, as listed (and spelled) in the Globe:

- Peter Sam, catcher
- George Wykes, right field
- James Scott, left field
- Andrew Fryburg, center field
- Arthur Hatch, 2nd base
- Sigh Hatch, 1st base
- Ezra Hatch, 3rd base
- Emil Williams, pitcher
- Ed. Percival, short stop

A series of three games had been advertised, to be played Saturday and Sunday, June 3 & 4, 1905; admission was $.25, “as usual.”

The weather didn’t cooperate; the Saturday game was canceled due to heavy rain. But the teams did play a double-header on Sunday.

The first game, played in the morning, was won by Tulalip by a score of 13 to 12. The second game, played that afternoon, was won by the Lummis by a score of 6 to 5. The scores indicate how evenly matched the two teams were.

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Another game was played at Lummi on July 5th. The Globe reported that the Tulalips won by a score of 11 to 6, and they had won a cash prize of $50 as well. There was no indication of where the cash prize had come.

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**Artists Spotlight: Melissa Peterson**

Melissa Peterson is a Makah tribal member that is a proficient basket weaver, drum maker, author, and storyteller. She is self-taught with influence from her late aunt, Helen Peterson, of Neah Bay. Melissa hopes that her art represents that cultural arts are living. Her ultimate goal as an artist is “to become a master at all I do.” Melissa has received acknowledgements from Folklife, the Smithsonian Fellowship, and Potlatch Fund. She has work on display at the Makah Museum and at her own business in Neah Bay.

The Hibulb Gift Shop currently has prints, drums, and the book Raven Crow and the Hair Seal for sale.

*Submitted by Mary Jane Topash*
FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2013

STORYTELLING
May 5, 2013
Sunday, 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Hibulb Longhouse Room
Kelly Moses - sduuk’qidəb

CULTURE SERIES
May 11, 2013
Saturday, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Hibulb Classroom 2
Mary Williams
Demonstrating: Beading

May 18, 2013
Saturday, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Hibulb Classroom 2
Elizabeth Comenote
Demonstrating: Knitted Hats and Headbands

LECTURE SERIES
May 30, 2013
Thursday, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Hibulb Classroom 2
Maureen McCaslin, MSW
To Discuss: BABES - Beginning Awareness Basic Education Studies Program, an alcohol and other drug use prevention program for children.
Maureen will discuss the philosophy and teaching guide of the BABES program, designed to enable children to develop a desire for healthful living and give them the desire to better understand how to protect themselves from alcohol and other drug use situations.
You can go to our website for more events at www.hibulbculturalcenter.org

★ First Thursday of every month, open until 8:00 pm and free admission to everyone.
★ Every Wednesday free guided tours from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

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