



Andi Cloud

Andi is a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation. Her waksik (wonk-sheek) name is Nizuwinga (nee-zhu-wing-ah), it means 'Rain Woman'. She was named by her Coka (cho-ka), Eugene Thundercloud. She is a member of the Thunder Clan. Andi is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse earning both her Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees. In 2021, Andi became the first Indigenous Storyteller-in-Residence for the Madison Public Library. Andi was appointed by Governor Evers to the Council of Library and Network Development in July 2022. Her term ends July 1, 2025. Currently, Andi works for the Oneida Nation Early Head Start program.





Barbara Wisneski

Barbara J Wisneski an Oneida elder of the Turtle Clan was born and raised in Green Bay, WI. She currently resides in Appleton WI. Wisneski worked for the Appleton School District from 1996-2001 as a Coordinator for the Indian Education Program. In 1999, Wisneski started up the non-profit organization called First Nations Outreach, Inc. One of the organization's goals is to provide baby baskets to low income Native American newborn infants. Wisneski likes working in a variety of art mediums. Her subject matter is people, especially women and children. She also enjoys sharing her culture through storytelling, singing and dancing.





Brian Jackson

Brian Jackson Chi Ayaabe (Big Buck), MS, Ed.D. Tribal Affiliations: Lac Du Flambeau Ojibwe Tribal member and Family in Bad River and Lac Vieux Desert. Dr. Jackson joined the MCW January 16, 2023, as assistant professor with a background serving Indian Country over 26 years of experience working with an emphasis on American Indian Studies/ Lifeways and Community Based Participatory Research. He is part of the Great Lakes Native American Research Center for Health (GLNARCH) Community Scientific Advisory Committee serving the Bemidji Area. He has worked extensively with Native American students in student development programs through storytelling and cultural teachings combining academic research and Indigenous ways of being. Furthermore, Dr. Jackson is trained as a Family Circles AODA Prevention Program facilitator, providing instruction in Ojibwe language, traditional cultural practices, history, and culture of Native people preserving and restoring pride in the identity of Anishinaabe. With an introspective approach on identity in which family members examine their own behaviors, the curriculum enables individuals to better understand how the process of realizing positive healthy lifestyles within the family begins with self esteem building, coping skills building through Indian culture, values and lifestyles.





Joey Awonohpay

Pōsōh Pakāhcekaew eneq aekāēyen (hello my name is Pakāhcekaew “Striker”) My English name is Joey Awonohopay and I am of the Bear Clan people. With much respect and love for my grandmother I also pay tribute to Turtle clan. I come from the Awonohopay, Thunder and Pyawasit families of Zoar and am an enrolled Menominee tribal member and also part prairie band Potawatomi from Kansas. I reside at Saqnawehnaen “a place where the river forks” in my ancestral homeland. I am the father of two sons and a daughter with many grandchildren, and also walk in life with my partner of 32 years. I currently sit as one of 9 Tribal elected Leaders on Menominee Tribal Legislature. My great grandfather “Awān-Opēw” (he who sits in the fog/in the clouds) was the last official orator for the Menominee people, my grandfather “Nēpenānahkwat” (Summer Cloud/Chief Summer Cloud by many) was the last recognized chief of the traditional Menominee settlements and ceremonial leader, and I also am taking my place as a ceremonial leader and speaker. My current position with my tribe besides being a Legislator is Director of Menominee Language & Culture.

Māēhnow Pemātesenon (Live well)

“Pakāhcekaew”, Joey Awonohopay





Larry Madden

Born in Door County, Wisconsin, Madden heard tales from his mother about being Indian — more specifically, being a Stockbridge Indian and how they were the people of the water that was never still. Spending time watching Green Bay and Lake Michigan's constant movement, he realized early he was birthed in the right spot. Logging, subsistence farming, and shipbuilding were his father's contributions and cherry, apple, and potato picking were annual adventures with his mother and other Indian women, some relatives, some friends. They were poor folks financially but never at the dinner table, where stories and laughter were the fare along with meat and potatoes.

Evenings were filled with Great Lake adventures, logging camp tales and boarding school exploits. This was a time just before television would own and hold everyone's attention. Madden, grateful for being born into this ole' timey family, has early memories astride the back of a workhorse collecting maple sap and spending winter days in swamps with the men cutting and skidding cedar for fencepost sales. After graduating from Sevastopol High School in Door County, Madden entered the workforce. With technical school assistance he entered the world of shipbuilding. As a welder and later a pipefitter, these trades would allow Madden to travel, visiting many Indian Nations in the process.

Pursuing research answers to Mohican language questions led him to the College of Menominee Nation, where an Indian-based learning environment allowed some hidden talents to blossom. Two time winner of the prestigious Coca-Cola Scholarship for tribal college students one of 36 each year, also privileged to represent CMN and Mohican Nation as Representative Student Speaker at National American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) convention in Rapid City S.D. Madden finds himself as a foundation brick in a new Mohican Language Academy and in the joy of writing. Working in the past for and with the Oneida Arts Board, writing cultural critiques on books, movies, and theatrical events has allowed Madden to experience and expose a poetry venue that resides inside him. Madden strives to balance his RED ROAD journey in a modern world.





Shelli Dekker

My name is Shelli Dekker. I am a retired childcare director, born and raised in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. I have been married to William Dekker since January of 1990. We have one daughter, Kathy.

I am a member of the Brothertown Indian Nation (BIN). We are currently not a federally recognized tribe, however, we are in the process of changing that. (For more information go to brothertownindians.org). The Brothertown came together in the 1700s, under the leadership of Samson Occom, as a means of continuing their common culture and identity. The Tribe descends from Christian Indians of the Mohegan, Pequot (western), Pequot (eastern), Niantic, Narraganset, Montaukett, and Tunxis tribes from seven separate Indian villages in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Long Island, coming together in Brothertown (Eeyamquittoowauconnuck). We were moved to Wisconsin and settled along the east side of Lake Winnebago. Our BIN Community Center is located in Fond du Lac, offering a museum, gift shop, Bingo and our annual Homecoming.

My father, Dick Welch, was a BIN elder and storyteller. He traveled all over Wisconsin sharing Native American culture to anyone who would listen, from preschools to nursing homes and everyone in between. When he passed away in November of 2019, his passion for sharing our stories and culture was passed on to me. I've begun learning more about our tribe's history and current involvement in the community such as the water walk, BIN Homecoming and InterTribal Lake Winnebago Mayom-Manoomin-Wild rice Revitalization project.

His presentations are the root of mine. All ages can enjoy the sharing of information about caring for Mother Earth, displays of some of my father's Native American artifacts and regalia, music and dancing, medicines and of course, stories.

