

# DAKOTA TIWAHE

Witehi Wi –Hard Moon

January 2013

Volume 2, Issue 1



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**Our Mission:  
To preserve  
Dakota as a  
living language,  
and through it,  
transmit Dakota  
lifeways to  
future  
generations.**

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## Woosida-Compassion

by Yvonne Leith, Elder Advisor

Mitakuyepi, cante wasteya, nape ciyuzapi ye. Kungsi sampa hemacan. Wanna waniyetu wikcemna sakowin sam yamni waun. My relatives, I greet you with a good heart and a handshake. I am a great grandmother. I am now 73 winters.

Ehanna, many years ago, I searched, searched and finally found my spirit back to our old ways. I searched out the wisdom and knowledge of elders, medicine men and women, who had much wisdom and experience in our indigenous lifeways, Dakota wicohan. These elders taught that the foundation of our Dakota spiritual lifeways was the concept of **Woosida**, compassion. They taught us to treat everyone as a **wotakuye**, relative, and as such we were to be compassionate with one another, to be a good relative. Everything you do is done in a good way—from using the language in a respectful, kind way, to your actions – to not make anyone feel bad.

When we establish that kinship and relative way, we use the relative terms that embody that respect and

responsibility of being a good relative. We use **Ina and Ate** for mother and father; **kungsi and unkanna**, for grandma and grandpa; **tunwin and deksi** for aunt and uncle; **icepansi and tahansi** for female and male cousin; **tibdo and cunwe** for older brother and sister; **cunski and cinksi** for daughter and son. There are many other terms to describe kinship. Last but not least, **wakanheza**, children, they too are sacred. Just saying the names to one another, brings you the feeling of family, that closeness and love. We had our sacred **hunka** ceremony, making of relatives.

We will talk again about the other values we have, such as generosity, courage, perseverance and so much more. Our elders taught us many things, a framework on how to live a good life – It takes work and one which we must do daily in our acknowledgements to **Wakan Tanka, Tunkasida**, Great Spirit, Grandfather.

Yvonne Leith, Mazaokiyewin  
Elder Advisor  
February 2013



## Waniyetu-Winter

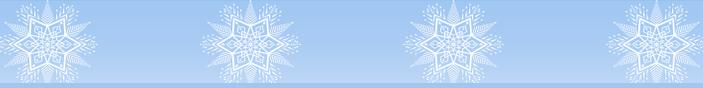
Dakota Wicohan Language Season: Storytelling



We are still in the Winter season at Dakota Wicohan. Each season has a specific focus area for Dakota language at our **Tiwahe Gatherings**.

The winter season will focus on “Storytelling”.

In March, the Spring season, the focus area will be Arts & Crafts.



# TIWAHE

**Tiwahe Gathering** is every Wednesday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Dakota Wicohan. We share a meal, a Dakota Language lesson and plenty of laughter! Starting in January, Tiwahe Language will be focused on learning our Dakota introductions. EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

On January 9, 2013 Mary Louise Defender Wilson, from Standing Rock, SD came and shared some storytelling. Friends from Upper Sioux Community came and joined us.



Mary Louise Defender Wilson, sharing storytelling at our Tiwahe Gathering.



Left to Right: Shakeena Pazi, Dawn Chase, Mary Louise Defender Wilson, Carrie Schommer, Charlise Chase-Pendleton, Karisa Chase, and Sophia Blue

# KOSKA PROGRAM

Hau-tso, Hau Mitakuyapi, Koska is thriving and going well. For the duration of January, we will continue having Koska Society night every Monday. All Nations Drum night will be on Wednesday nights with Darwin Strong facilitating. I look forward to working around the school teams practice schedules so that we can maintain flexibility when scheduling so we can have more Koska participating. As we move in to the new year, Dakota Wicohan and the Koska Program have a lot of language, cultural, and healthy events planned. From now until the Summer months.

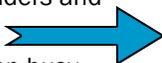
If you have any questions or want your father, uncle, grandfather, son, grandson, nephew or any volunteers to be involved with the Koska Program, contact me at Dakota Wicohan. Our Koska Program provides a positive cultural nurturing environment.

Jozee Campos  
Koska Coordinator  
(507) 697-6272 work  
(405) 589-3172  
koskalead@gmail.com



# WIKOSKA PROGRAM

Han Mitakuyepi, Some of the Wikoska participated in the Dakota 38 Memorial Ride by volunteering to serve food to riders and actually ride with other friends and relatives. The Wikoska program participants have also been busy beading tobacco pouches during December and January.



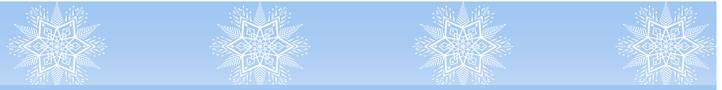
This pouch was beaded by Banashi Beckett



Wikoska meet every Wednesday at the Redwood Valley School Board Room from 3:30 p.m.— 5:00p.m.

Pidamayayapi,  
Grace Goldtooth-Campos  
Wikoska Program Coordinator





# WELCOME NEW STAFF!



Hañ Mitákuyepi,

Çánte wáštēya nápe çiyúzapi ye. Daḡota íá Šná Šná Wiŋ emákiyapi ye. Wašiču íá Vanessa Goodthunder emákiyapi ye.

Damákota k'a sína híde híde ga hemáca. Čásayapi ed imáçaęe. Čásayapi hémataŋhaŋ. Eagan, MN ed wáti.

Wániyetu aké ma sahiḡoęan. Mníšota Wóuŋspe Wákatuya ed wabdawa.

Daḡota íápi kiŋ uŋšpémic'ičye. Wáŋna Daḡota Wičoŋaŋ ed htáwani. Šuŋktaŋka nína wáštewadake. Hénana.

Pídamayayapi.

Hello all my relatives,

I shake your hand with a good heart. My

Daḡota name is Šná Šná Wiŋ (Jingling Woman). My English name is Vanessa Goodthunder. I am Daḡota and Dine (Navajo). I was born and am from where they paint the trees red (the Lower Sioux Community). I live in Eagan, Mn and study at the University of Minnesota -Twin Cities. American Indian Studies-Dakota Language Track and History are the two subjects I am double majoring in. I recently have been hired at Daḡota Wičoŋaŋ as a Daḡota Language Apprentice. Working at Daḡota Wičoŋaŋ to help revitalize the Daḡota language as well as the Daḡota way of life is an honor and will help towards my aspiration to become a licensed teacher.

This past year was my seventh year participating in the Daḡota 38 + 2 Wókik-suye Memorial horse ride. Personally for myself, I have grown up and cher-

ished the many life lessons that I have learned while on this ride. Compassion, Respect, Patience, Trust, and Forgiveness are among the lessons this ride has taught me. Having that Šuŋktaŋka with their healing abilites lead me to Mankato is a privilege that I don't take for granted.

This is just a little bit about me and I am ecstatic to start teaching the language while I learn it. Since I am from the area, it a true pleasure to work with the people of my community. I intend to work hard to keep teaching the Daḡota language as well as the Daḡota way of life and encourage others to teach one another everything you know even if it is just one word or one lesson.

Vanessa Goodthunder  
Dakota Language Teacher Apprentice

Hau Mitakuyapi,

My name is Ryan Dixon and I a new DTA. I am an enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. I live on the Lower Sioux reservation with my wife and three daughters. This is the type of work that I have always wanted to do. My children are very interested in learning the language and it has inspired me to learn the Dakota language. Our language is vital to who we are and I am really looking forward to teaching the wakanyeza in a good way.

Ryan Dixon

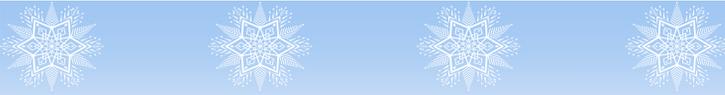
Dakota Language Teacher Apprentice

## DAKOTA 38 MEMORIAL RIDE 2012

Dakota Wichohan staff and youth sponsored a meal for the riders in the Dakota 38 Memorial Ride.



Dakota Tiwahe



# AMERICORPS/PROMISE FELLOW

Han Mitakuyapi,  
This month we are attending the Concordia Language Camp from January 25-27 for ages 13-16. If you are interested in attending, please call me for more information or instructions on how to obtain a permission form. This form needs to be filled out by a parent and returned to the Dakota Wicohan

office. Youth may also turn in the form to the Redwood Valley High School office, we can pick them up from there.

There will be **no tutoring** on Thursday's. I am currently working on some service learning projects for the near future. I'm excited, we have so many great events coming up for Dakota Wicohan's youth and family.

I hope everyone had a pleasant holiday! Happy New Year!!

Shakeena Pazi  
AmeriCorps Promise Fellow  
(507) 697-6272

## TO DONATE:

If you would like to donate to Dakota Wicohan Programs you can fill in and mail the cut out below. Or you can scan the QR code and donate via Razoo to Dakota Wicohan and the Dakota 38 Sunktanka riders.



Donations are accepted through Pay Pal, QR code scan or by email.  
Pay Pal email address: dakotawicohan@gmail.com or scan the QR code to donate online.





**Dakota Wicohan**  
**Donation Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you would like to receive our newsletter via email.

## CONTACT US:

280 N. Centennial Drive  
P.O. Box 2  
Morton, Minnesota 56270  
(507) 697-6272  
(507) 697-6240 FAX



[www.dakotawicohan.com](http://www.dakotawicohan.com)

Like us on Facebook!



## 4H FRUIT SALE!



Dakota Wicohan is taking part in the 4H fruit sale again this year! If you are interested in placing an order, please call **(507) 697-6272**. You may also make a purchase and donate your fruit to an elder or the local food shelf! Not only is there delicious fresh fruit, but there are also tasty pizzas, wholesome soups, and ready made cookie dough! We appreciate your enthusiastic effort in helping raise funds for the Sunktanka Program at Dakota Wicohan!

*Pidamaya!*

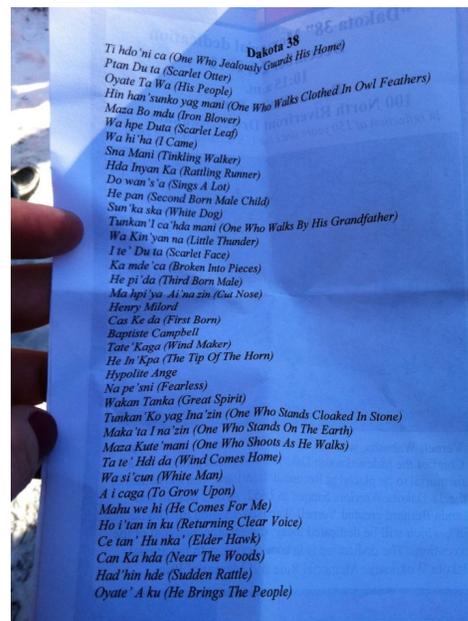
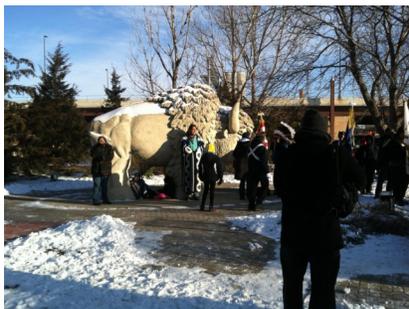


# DAKOTA 38 MEMORIAL RIDE



*“The Dakota 38 ride is a Memorial Ride, for the 38 Dakota men that were hung in Mankato, and for the two more hung after they got captured in Canada by U.S. bounty hunters. Being a part of the Ride was very spiritual, and it taught me many life lessons that our 4 legged brothers teach us. It is a time of healing and forgiveness. The Ride demonstrates that we, as Native people can and will forgive the whites for what they did to our ancestors.”*

-Perry Phillips, Dakota Wicohan Youth



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Congratulations!



Dakota Wicohan received a grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation to fund the next three to five years of strategic planning!

### TWO OPEN POSITIONS:

**Arts Coordinator:** Two-year, 0.25 FTE salaried or consulting position that organizes and leads DW new Dakota community arts project

**Dakota Language Teacher Apprentice:** Apprentices work towards becoming Dakota language teachers through three interconnected strategies: working with a master speaker/elder; obtaining Dakota Teacher certification through the University of Minnesota; and teaching Dakota language in the community.

For more information or to apply for these positions please call Dory at (507) 697-6272

Or mail your cover letter and resume to: Sharon Pazi  
Dakota Wicohan  
280 N. Centennial Drive  
P.O. Box 2  
Morton, MN 56270

**Deadline to apply: Monday, February 18, 2013**

# January 2013

# Dakota Wicohan Program Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <b>DW OFFICE CLOSED</b>	2 <b>Tiwahe Gathering</b>	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 <b>Tiwahe Gathering</b> Guest speaker— Mary Louise Defender 10:30-2:30 Storytelling	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 <b>Tiwahe Gathering</b>	17	18	19
20	21 <b>Koska 3:30-5:00 Drum Group 5:00-6:00</b>	22	23 <b>Tiwahe Gathering</b> 6:00-7:30 <b>Wikoska 3:30-5:00 Koska 3:30-5:00 Drum Group 5:00-6:00</b>	24	25	26
27	28 <b>Koska 3:30-5:00 Drum Group 5:00-6:00</b>	29	30 <b>Tiwahe Gathering</b> 6:00-7:30 <b>Wikoska 3:30-5:00 Koska 3:30-5:00 Drum Group 5:00-6:00</b>	31		