Maza Okiye Win

Han mitakuyapi. Cante wasteya napeciyuzapi ye. Dehan, Dakota oyate k’a Dakota Wicohan tiospaye kin iyounkisicapi ca takuye Maza Okiye Win mahpiya heciya i. Wanna hde i. Tunwin waihpeya Dakota Wicohan unk’upi heon, pidaunkiyiepi. Tunwin tosta ake waciyanekte unkeyapi. Relatives, I greet you all with a good heart and handshake. At this time, the people and the Dakota Wicohan family are saddened that our relative, Yvonne has left for the spirit world. She has now went home. We are grateful for the Dakota Wicohan legacy she has given us. We say, Tunwin, we will see you again.

Yvonne Leith, Maza Okiye Win, Woman Who Speaks to Iron, her great grandmother’s namesake – was one of the original founders of Dakota Wicohan and over the years served as board member, teacher, and elder language advisor. What started out as a small group around Tunwin’s kitchen table is now a strong organization with many families remembering, reclaiming and reconnecting – our language, kinship, history, our stories, our Sunktanka, our arts, our ways of being, our traditions. The Dakota Wicohan tiospaye is flourishing and we credit this to the work to Tunwin. Yvonne was the spiritual backbone and inspiration for Dakota Wicohan’s foundation and work, rooted in faith, spirit and vision. Despite her long battle with cancer, she continued to encourage, support, mentor, advocate, educate, teach and guide the work of the Dakota revitalization movement.

Tunwin Yvonne understood the history of the Minisota Dakota – and returned to her birthplace – Pejutazizi. Many of us have heard Tunwin recall her childhood growing up along the river. She would fondly share her memories of, “the soft gentle voices of her relatives and elders”. She returned here, providing those encouraging and nurturing voices she longed for. If you went to her home, you became the sole focus of her attention. “Wahpe yacin he? De wota.” She carried those old ways of hospitality – being a good relative. In her many roles as mother, sister, auntie or grandmother – she nurtured, encouraged, she was non-judgmental, she lifted up, she united, she was a builder, she inspired, she made you feel like you belonged and sometimes she propped you back up. She made sure you knew that, “I matter.” She shared stories – and her stories made you want to be brave, be courageous, keep the faith, believe in ourselves; believe in the vision.

Yvonne followed her vision – returning to the original ways and teachings, especially kinship and woosida – compassion. Tunwin had a gift and she generously shared that gift. My icepansi always says, “We should be medicine for each other”; and in her memory – we can be medicine for each other. We must each now search in our hearts for OUR purpose – Tunwin understood hers, gave generously and remained in relationship to mitakuye owasin. We have our good memories of her, her spirit lives on within each of us. It is our job now to hold steadfast, and honor her by being a good relative. Han, hecetu.

Pidamayayapi,
Utuhu Cistinna Win
Teresa Peterson
**Tiwahe Program**

Dakota Wicohan’s Tiwahe (Family) Gathering is held every Wednesday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Dakota Wicohan office in Morton behind the old Morton High School. All families are welcome and encouraged to attend. We serve a meal, visit and share a Dakota Language Lesson. On the last Wednesday of each month, the Red Tree Singers come and sing ceremonial songs. Families are welcome to sing along or just enjoy the songs while visiting relatives.

The Tiwahe Program has four focus areas with each season. March brings us into our Spring Season. The focus for Spring will be Arts & Crafts.

If you have any questions on the Tiwahe Program or would like more information, please call me.

Pidamaya ye!
Kateri O’Keefe
Tiwahe Coordinator
(507) 697-6272

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**Wikoska Program**

Our programming has been focusing on the Dakota value: Wowançíye. The meaning of wowançíye is to be a dependable person. A long time ago every person within our tribe had a role and responsibility. Today we don’t give everyone a place and make them feel valued. The Wikoska learn about their role within the program, as well as within their community.

This gives each of the young women a sense of belonging and ownership over their culture & language through their Dakota identity.

Wikoska have been working on creating a digital story about the Dakota 38 Memorial horse ride. Each of the Wikoska had a role before, during, and after the ride. Some of their roles were riding, preparing the horses, serving & preparing food for horse riders/supporters, and being supportive to the participants. Our Dakota value, wowançíye, gives us the teaching to understand who we once were as Dakota people and how we still practice those values and traditions today.

We will continue to talk about our traditions and values throughout the program.

During the month of April we will be focusing on higher education. The Wikoska will be visiting two colleges. And we will be having a special guest come talk about financial aid, scholarships, and tools for finding the right school.

If you have any questions regarding the Wikoska Program please call me at: (507) 697-6272

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**Koska Program**

Ah-Ko Haw-tso aim Day oohn day,
Hau Mitakuyepi, Jozee Campos emakiyapido,
Hello friends and relatives My name is Jozee Campos. Im the Koska Iton-cha here at Dakota Wicohan. I work with the Koska (young men) here at Dakota Wicohan. We are currently in our 6th month of the program and I am maintaining an average of 10 Koska in the program from ages 6-15 yrs.

The program is open to any young men who are interested in learning Dakota language, culture as well as song and dance.

Last month the Koska Society picked a name for their drum group, the name was drawn from a selection process. The name of the drum group is Red Hawk Singers, the Koska practice singing every Tuesday & Thursday afterschool. We offer tutoring from 3:45-4:30pm & drum practice from 4:30-5:50pm with the assistance of our drum consultant, Darwin Strong. Recently we’ve had some Wikoska (young woman) come over and show interest and participate in the learning of the Flag Song around the drum. So I’m also encouraging any Wikoska who are interested in learning language and singing behind the drum to feel free to come participate. Tiwahe Family Language night takes place immediately after drum practice Wednesday nights. All are welcomed to come eat, sing and learn Dakota Iapi.

As the Koska program goes along into the year we have many thing planned for our young people, summer camp, Sunktanka, arts & crafts and much more. If anyone has any questions or want their young person to be involved in something healthy and positive that is culturally based please feel free to contact me at Dakota Wicohan, (507)697-6272 email me kos-kalead@gmail.com or look me up on facebook under user name Koska Leader.

Toksta Ake’
Jozee Campos
Han Mitakuyepi, Wasicu ia Anne O’Keefe-Jackson, Dakota ia Mahpiya Amaste Win emakiyapi ye. My name is Winona Goodthunder. My Dakota name is Eagle Woman with a Good Voice. I am currently going to school online at the University of Minnesota Morris as a psychology major. I have been a part of the Sunktanka Program for eleven years as a youth and youth worker. I am going to be working with the Dakota Wicohan youth this summer as a Horse Worker and assist my mother, Laverne Goodthunder in the Sunktanka Program as her assistant. I’ve missed working with the everyone and I can’t wait to start! See you in May! Pidamayaye!

Laverne Goodthunder
Lead Horse Worker/Youth Worker
(507) 697-6272

Sunktanka Horse Worker

Gypsie & Blackjack, Sunktanka Program horses

Summer horse camp will start on June 10th and consist of six weeks of riding.

- Tues: Boys (5th-8th grade)
- Wed: Highschool (9th-12th grade)
- Thurs: Girls (5th-8th grade)

If you would any information on the Sunktanka Program or would like to sign up for Adult Riding lessons feel free to call me! Tosta Ake’!

Winona Goodthunder
Horse Worker

Arts Coordinator Program

Han Mitakuyepi, Wasicu ia Anne O’Keefe-Jackson, Dakota ia Mahpiya Amaste Win emakiyapi ye. My name is Winona Goodthunder. My Dakota name is Eagle Woman with a Good Voice. I am currently going to school online at the University of Minnesota Morris as a psychology major. I have been a part of the Sunktanka Program for eleven years as a youth and youth worker. I am going to be working with the Dakota Wicohan youth this summer as a Horse Worker and assist my mother, Laverne Goodthunder in the Sunktanka Program as her assistant. I’ve missed working with the everyone and I can’t wait to start! See you in May! Pidamayaye!

If you are a Dakota artist, in any art field and interested in participating in this project, please feel free to call me. Pidamaya ye!

Mahpiya Amaste Win
Anne O’Keefe-Jackson
Arts Coordinator
(507) 697-6272
Han Parents and Guardians!
This month I will be focusing on the upcoming service projects for Spring and Summer. A lot of exciting things being planned!
I am currently working on a Gardening Project. If you would like to volunteer your time to help with the garden please call me at (507) 697-6272.

Shakeena Pazi
AmeriCorps Promise Fellow

Contact Us:

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

Dakota Wicohan
Donation Form

Name: ____________________________________________ Amount: _________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________________________
Phone:  _(___)__________________________________

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

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.

TO DONATE:

Like us on Facebook!

www.dakotawicohan.com

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www.dakotawicohan.com

Dakota Tiwahe
On the behalf of Dakota Wicohan and everyone who has participated in or helped with Dakota Wicohan’s Oral History Project, I am excited to report that we are nearly complete. The still untitled project runs roughly 55-minutes in length and includes interviews with Dakota elders, scholars, and language speakers. The goal of the project is educate people across the state on the history and experience of Dakota peoples in Minnesota, encourage community involvement, and encourage Dakota people to learn their language.

Later this month, Dakota Wicohan will share the project with the elders involved in the project and their families to be certain that those who took part are happy with how they have been represented. In the spring, Dakota Wicohan will start sharing the project with a larger audience across the state. We are excited for the next step and hope everyone has a chance to see this new project. Pidamaya ye!

- Simon Goldenberg
  Project Coordinator

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**WANTED: MN Dakota Artists**

Dakota Wicohan will be starting up a new Dakota Community Arts Project. This project will include a monthly artist’s support group, idea sharing, a two day training with the First People’s Fund, a field trip to an art gallery, visit and share with other artists around the state of MN, build a website, and much more! This project will support all art fields. If you are a Dakota artist or know of someone in the state of MN, please contact Anne O’Keefe at (507) 697-6272.

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This has been a tough time for our Communities with loss of loved ones...Dakota Wicohan would like to extend our deepest heartfelt condolences to all families and friends grieving loved ones.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

“Wanna takuye tawah’indab he, tuwe nag’i maka akan ed unmps’ni, mah’piyati hetkiya cekiya akan iyayapido, he wakanyedo, nitakuye ahanna, tuwe kinhdapi, tuwe ded umps’ni, hedakeptedo, hehan iyonaks’ices’nikte, iyokpi unptedo. Hecah’ he apcedo”

“Dakota people believe when you lose a loved one, when their body is no longer here on this earth and when their spirit enters heaven with a prayer, it is a sacred time for us, it is then when they see their loved ones who in the past have also journeyed home, their hearts will then not be saddened, but be filled with happiness...”
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**March 2013**

Dakota Wicohan Program Calendar

Redwood Schools are OUT for Spring Break

Happy Easter!!