

## EASTER MESSAGE

My goodness, its Easter week, Palm Sunday today as I write...Covid restrictions are lifted; and yet all of us; after being vaccinated a number of times, wearing masks, keeping socially distanced, testing everyday... got Covid!!! Unbelievable; however, for most of us, it did not last longer than a week!!! Thank Creator!



Sooooooo we are *back in action* as if nothing ever happened. Strange days...we have just had a second year of Covid....losses of ten thousand children at residential schools....fires and floods in British Columbia...not a simple fire...the whole town of Lytton does not exist anymore ...where the First Nations there were one of the first to respond *in a healthy way* to the pandemic...and now after passing through that trauma...(or still within it...depending where you are on the planet and/or on your healing journey)...we have Darth Vader in Ukraine....you would think planetary wise...we would be more highly evolved....heck we have millionaires booking flights to grandmother moon...

Speaking of which, we are having our Moon Gathering Saturday at 9 pm (rather than 7 pm) at the Telus World of Science in the dome; as it is a lunar eclipse...and people will be able to gather outside at 10 pm to view the eclipse. Our gathering will be mixed this time to reflect on our roles in community; and to have our songs, stories and drums shared.....see poster on website.

On Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, 2022, our Transformative Reconciliation Gathering ZOOM – and in person – meeting, is taking place at 9 am; where we continue to explore our methodologies for the upcoming September 25-28, 2022 gathering at River Cree. We are currently working on an Indigenous law bundle for Turtle Island (briefly outlined in the Spring message); a youth horseback memorial ride based on the Dakota 38 +2 riders, (some of whom will attend the gathering to help us prepare for this endeavour), a horse and buffalo parade, motivational speakers, and traditional and non-traditional activities for youth and families; and, a longhouse residence framework, for our abandoned Indigenous babies, to be moved further along

towards actual construction. Therefore; 4 days at River Cree this year (rather than the just over 2 days that we had last year); *as we have lots to share and discuss*. The poster will be ready this week; sooo book your spots now as the rates are very reasonable. AND/OR get involved!



Since we did not have our annual *Kiwani Owapi* spring celebration this year; (after 25 year plus celebrations since 1993); we are having a *Welcoming Back of the Thunders* April 21, 2022 in Rm 333, from 10 am to 2 pm, at THE ORANGE HUB. Please join us (see poster on website).

Moon Gatherings (at the Telus World of Science), Triple P Parenting, Positive Indian Parenting, Cultural Creations with Tamlyn, Stoney Language Classes with Eugene, Cree Language Classes with Rita, Indigenous Court, Recovery Sharing Circle, Men's Gathering (see poster), Friends of Bill W and Friends of Lois W; walking in the river valley (exercise with our counselors and Elders), other field trips, children's programs, TWEEN programs with Bent Arrow, and tipi talks....are all coming up this month...and more next month....get involved!!!

Our calendar and events are posted on the [www.redroadjourney.ca](http://www.redroadjourney.ca) website and facebook. **Join us** where and when you can. AND YES, we are not perfect... We STILL have all kinds of tech issues...our landline phones are generally good tho' the message is not always up to date... AND please, use the 780 471 3221 number; the 780 471 3220 works periodically....our website is STILL an ongoing construct...though it is getting easier to navigate!!! Once again it is [www.redroadjourney.ca](http://www.redroadjourney.ca)

AND; in closing, a little more from Richard Wagamese, What Comes From Spirit, 2021

*I don't know that I personally know anything of real weight and consequence. In very real terms, any knowledge or hint of wisdom that I have is borrowed from other people, protocols, ceremonies, teachings, and processes. But I do know this: If I commit myself to a rigorous daily practice of spirituality, my life becomes extraordinary. Not in riches or acclaim but in a calm and abiding assurance that I live under the grace of a loving, benevolent and eternal*

Creator. That spiritual energy guides me to things, events, circumstances and people I could never have found on my own. IT IS LOVE. And LOVE in my ceremonial way means "you leading me gently back to myself." Thank you Creator of all things, for the gift of this way. Now there is only one thing left to do—repeat what got me this far.

7 sacred values of our Lakota Sioux: **Love**, Courage, Honesty, Generosity, Chastity, Silence, Respect...

May the Creator of the Universe surround you with LOVE that flows from the many spiritual disciplines around the Earth...and from the Beatles...ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE...

Have a Blessed Easter and LONG chilly lol weekend!!!

Mitakuye Oyasín

Red Road

