



Wellbriety!

White Bison's Online Magazine

Volume 4, Number 1

Sacred Hoop Journey IV: HEALING NATIVE MEN and CHILDREN April-May 2003

16 Cities • Eastern Journey • 2003

- 1-St. Louis, MO.....April 4
- 2-Cherokee, NC.....April 9
- 3-Washington, DC.....April 12
- 4-Baltimore, MD.....April 14
- 5-New York City.....April 17
- 6-Connecticut.....April 19
- 7-Boston, MA.....April 25
- 8-Passamaquoddy, ME.....
.....April 26-27
- 9-Syracuse, NY.....May 3
- 10-Buffalo, NY.....May 8
- 11-Cleveland, OH.....May 10
- 12-Dayton, OH.....May 12
- 13-Detroit, MI.....May 14
- 14-Chicago, IL.....May 16
- 15-Milwaukee, WI.....May 18
- 16-Oneida, WI.....May 23



Volunteer Coordinators are Needed
To Help With the Journey!!
1-877-871-1495



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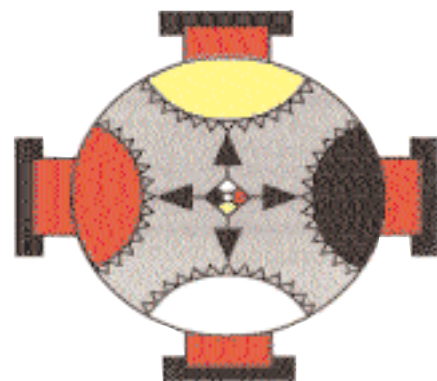
White Bison Speaks

Sacred Hoop Journey IV in April and May of 2003Page 3

White Bison's Hoop Journey IV is about to begin. This year's Journey of the Sacred Hoop is focused on Healing Native Men and Children. Read about what will happen during each of the 16 planned visits as the Hoop travels 6000 miles with a special message and special healing resources for Native American men and children.

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Who should you contact to attend a Wellbriety Day gathering in your community as part of Hoop Journey IV? Better yet, who can you contact to volunteer your services so that the visit can be the best? Here is an up-to-date listing for local Hoop Journey IV coordinators.



Visit White Bison, Inc. Online at <http://www.whitebison.org>



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White Bison Speaks

Sacred Hoop Journey IV in April and May of 2003

Plans to visit Ground Zero in New York underway

White Bison's Hoop Journey IV is about to begin. The first of 16 Wellbriety Days gatherings takes place in St. Louis, Missouri on Friday April 4. The Journey concludes more than six weeks later in Oneida, Wisconsin on Tuesday, May 20. All in all, the Hoop will be carried over 6000 miles to 16 different Wellbriety Days events in cities and towns East of the Mississippi. (Please see the cover of this issue for a map) What's Hoop Journey IV about and what will happen during each Wellbriety Day?

This year's Journey of the Sacred Hoop is focused on **Healing Native Men and Children**. Just as last year's Journey offered ceremony, presentations, and wellness resources for Native women and children as it traveled West of the Mississippi, this year's pilgrimage has something for Native men. A typical Wellbriety Day gathering looks like this:

9:00am-10:15am	Entrance of the Sacred Hoop and introduction of Sacred Hoop Journey IV: Healing of Native Men and Children
10:15am-11:00am	The Wellbriety Movement: Hoop Journey III Video
11:05am-11:50am	Open microphone—sharing what you saw, heard, felt
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch (Pot Luck)
1:30pm-2:30pm	Speaker or Panel #1
2:30pm-3:30pm	Speaker or Panel #2
3:30pm-4:15pm	Closing Ceremony

During the entrance ceremony, the 100 Eagle Feather Hoop of the Nations will be carried in by members of your own community to begin the day. The Hoop carries the gifts of Healing, Hope, Unity and the Power to Forgive the Unforgivable. It has traveled Turtle Island so many times since 1995 to communities like yours that seek healing from substance abuse, domestic violence, and other struggles of Indian and non Indian people. The Hoop's Grand Entry marks the start of a day of miracles for the community.



The 100 Eagle Feather Hoop at home in the White Bison office prepares to embark on Hoop Journey IV

A documentary video that shows what took place during last year's Hoop Journey begins the morning learning session. Then it's time for anyone present to come up to the mic and share their heart with all those present.

After a luncheon feast there will be two special presentations on the theme of Healing Native Men and Children. What happens at this time is different for each and every community. This is an opportunity for those in your community to present what they, or their Circles and organizations are doing. It's a chance to learn about men's wellness and what the men are doing with and for local youth. Contact your

"The Hoop carries the gifts of Healing, Hope, Unity and the Power to Forgive the Unforgivable. It has traveled Turtle Island so many times since 1995 to communities like yours that seek healing from substance abuse, domestic violence, and other struggles of Indian and non Indian people."

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local coordinator (see the listing after this article) if you or your Circle of Wellness would like to get on the program.

When the learning events of the speaker or panel discussions are complete, it's time for the Hoop to exit in ceremony. But there are usually some surprises at this time because good things have been happening for participants all day and there is often something more to be said before the day is complete.

Making Relatives is one of the themes that will come up during Hoop Journey IV this year. Men will be encouraged to seek out children who might not have a male role model in their life. If they feel able, individual men might consider making a commitment to some youngster who could use a little more help. How will this work in each tribal community? It's up to the local traditions and ways to make it happen in a manner that is appropriate for each area. This will be one of the topics of discussion during each Wellbriety Day event.

The success of each Hoop Journey IV visit depends on your own local community. There are coordinators in each community who will find a location for the visit and will bring together other community volunteers to make it happen. Not all communities have coordinators as we go to press, so there is still opportunity for individuals to take on that role or to assist established coordinators as a Hoop Journey Volunteer.

"Making Relatives is one of the themes that will come up during Hoop Journey IV this year. Men will be encouraged to seek out children who might not have a male role model in their life. If they feel able, individual men might consider making a commitment to some youngster who could use a little more help."

Susan Leading Fox is Program Manager for Recovery Services for the Eastern Cherokee Nation in **Cherokee, North Carolina**. She is currently planning for the coming of the Hoop on Wednesday, April 9 to the Nation, the southernmost visit. She says, *"I think it's going to be great. We're really excited. We've already started planning for the day. People want to know what is White Bison? Why are White Bison's programs important to us? There isn't yet the exposure here that there needs to be or could be for the Wellbriety Movement. It's an opportunity for us to learn about the White Bison wellness resources that are offered."*



Community members carry the Hoop during a previous visit to Cherokee, NC, during Hoop Journey II in the summer of 2000

The Hoop's visit to **New York City** is likely to be an opportunity for healing on a world wide scale. The planning is under way at this time for the Hoop to go to the Ground Zero World Trade Center site and for healing ceremonies and talks to take place.

Rosemary Richmond, Executive Director of the American Indian Community House in Manhattan, is helping secure a permit for this Native American event at Ground Zero. She has assisted with Native American visits to the site on numerous occasions since September 11, 2001 and has a large view of the importance of Ground Zero.

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Sacred Hoop Journey IV in April and May of 2003 Plans to visit Ground Zero in New York underway

"It's important that Native Americans have an opportunity to participate in the blessing of Ground Zero," she says. "This impacted on everyone in the country, however it impacted greatly on American Indian people who were down there during the rescue period, primarily the ironworkers who were doing the physical work. There were Indian people from all over the country who came in and provided assistance periodically from time to time throughout the long period of recovery attempts."

Ms. Richmond talks about the need for healing ceremonies at Ground Zero. She says, *"There are many people, spirits, who are there that need the attention. The majority of the people who were killed in that event were not Native American. But there were Indian people who were workers in the restaurants, and who are for various reasons undocumented, whose spirits are there that need to have that kind of attention."* The application for a permit is with the New York City authorities so keep checking the White Bison website for up-to-date information.

"It's important that Native Americans have an opportunity to participate in the blessing of Ground Zero. There are many people, spirits, who are there that need the attention."

When the Hoop Journey visits **Buffalo, New York** on Tuesday, May 8, it will receive a big welcome from Six Nations people and coordinator Valerie Staats. Valerie Staats runs the Native culture component of the Freedom Way addictions treatment program at the Margaret A. Stutzman Addiction Center in Buffalo. Stutzman is a 33 bed state run inpatient facility that presently has three Native Americans in residence. The cultural component of treatment at the center uses the White Bison



Three books used in the culture-based Freedom Way Program at the Stutzman Addictions Treatment Center in Buffalo, NY

Medicine Wheel and 12 Step video programs for both women and men, as well as books such as **The Sacred Tree**, **Wounded Warriors**, and now **The Red Road to Wellbriety** as core curriculum.

Looking forward to the Wellbriety Day visit, Ms Staats says, *"We are so honored to have White Bison carry the Sacred Hoop through Iroquois territories (Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora original territories). We expect to have people from all directions including Canada participating on that day."*

She goes on to make a connection between the Peacemaker, who brought unity to the Iroquois Nations long before the white man arrived on Turtle Island, and the coming of the Hoop. *"We're very grateful that the Hoop is coming our way," she says. "It's very symbolic that the Hoop is coming into our home. In our traditions there were people who traveled from community to community to bring the message. The Peacemaker came to us and went from community to community. Through those travels and through that way of walking through the communities and bringing to us the Great Law of Peace and the principles of the Good Mind, peo-*

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"The Peacemaker came to us and went from community to community. Through those travels and through that way of walking through the communities and bringing to us the Great Law of Peace and the principles of the Good Mind, people were able to become of one mind and to be able to sing the same peace song."

ple we're able to become of one mind and to be able to sing the same peace song," she concludes.

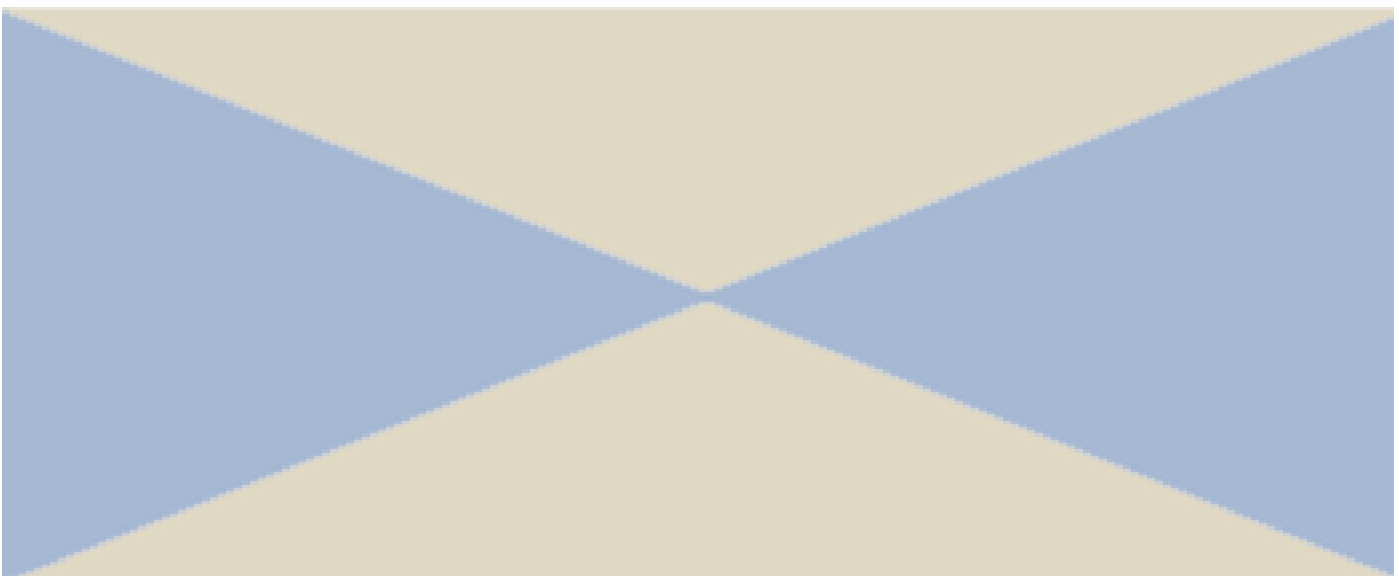
Valerie Staats also talks about Making Relatives among the Six Nations peoples. *"Making relatives is integral within our Confederacy," she says. "It's the children to whom were all responsible. In our healing ways it's the formation of that whole network of aunts and uncles. When our own immediate family is not able to be there, for whatever reason, that*

network of support for the children extends out because the children are sacred in our tradition. It helps us answer the question, 'what role can I play to leave this world a better place to children for seven generations to come?'"

Hoop Journey IV is the fourth in a series of cross-country journeys for sobriety, recovery, healing and Wellbriety that began in 1999. The Wellbriety Movement expresses the desire of Native people and others to find recovery from substance abuse and other unhealthy behavior, and then to commit to making the life-long journey to further wellness in a Red Road way.

Visit the White Bison website, www.whitebison.org or call toll free 1-877-871-1495 to find up-to-the minute information and stories about Hoop Journey IV, as well as to learn about White Bison's many programs, books, videos, audiotapes and other tools for healing. ✚

Richard Simonelli



White Bison Speaks

Coordinators List

Hoop Journey IV, February 19, 2002

Please go to the White Bison website www.whitebison.org for information about gathering locations and times

1 St. Louis, Missouri
April 4
TO BE ANNOUNCED

708 Broadway, 8th Floor
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2 Cherokee, NC
April 9

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The Ingrid Washinawatok El Issa
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Co-Coordinator
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Program Coordinator
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6 Connecticut
April 19

7 Boston, Massachusetts
April 25

JoAnn Dunn, Executive Director
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April 12

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Saundra Johnson
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8 Passamaquoddy, Maine
April 26 evening & 27

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Phone: 207-853-4052
Email: Vera_Francis@umit.maine.edu

4 Baltimore, Maryland
April 14

5 New York City, New York
April 17

Rosemary Richmond, Executive Director, Co-Coordinator
American Indian Community House

9 Syracuse, New York
May 3

Clint Shenandoah
Rural Box 330

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Coordinators List

Hoop Journey IV, February 19, 2002

Please go to the White Bison website www.whitebison.org for information about gathering locations and times

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**10 Buffalo, New York
May 8**

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Enkatatawenniiohake (Freedom Way)
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(NACASA)
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May 10
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**12 Dayton, Ohio
May 12**

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May 14**

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May 16**

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May 18
TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**16 Oneida, Wisconsin
Green Bay—May 23**

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