



The ICRC Insider

The Indian & Colonial Research Center

March 2011

Dear Member,

The March Newsletter will introduce you to our **New Board Members** and will provide updates on **Reconstruction** and **Membership**. We are moving ahead.

MEET THE NEW DIRECTORS OF ICRC



Sharon Maynard

Sharon Maynard was raised in the town of Niantic, CT. As a youngster in the 1960's, she often accompanied her mother, Virginia Damon, to Eva Butler's home in Old Mystic where Mrs. Damon was helping to organize the collection of papers and files that would one day become an important part of The Indian & Colonial Research Center.

Sharon has held many diverse jobs, most notably spending fifteen years working onboard the ferries that travel from New London CT to Orient Point, NY.

A member of the Mohegan Tribe, Sharon has a keen interest in local history and archaeology. She has worked in the tribe's Cultural and Community Programs Department as manager and as a field and lab technician with the tribe's Archaeology Department. An avid basket weaver, her interests include Algonquin Language restoration, primitive technologies, music and the culinary arts. She is currently serving on the Mohegan Tribe's Council of Elders.

Having earned an Associate Degree in hospitality management from Three Rivers Community College, Sharon is currently pursuing a Bachelor degree with a focus in Anthropology at Charter Oak State College. She and her husband Ray currently reside in the neighboring town of New London, CT.

Sharon was elected and welcomed by the Board on April 7, 2010. She has been a valuable director and has offered many creative suggestions at Board meetings.



Tom Santos

Tom Santos grew up in Mystic, aged in Gales Ferry and retired in Pawcatuck, all in the state of Connecticut. He graduated from Stonington High School. He has been a member of the Lions Clubs International for over 35 years, he is now a member of the New London Club. He is Past President of the Lions Low Vision Board of Eastern Connecticut, Past Lions District 23C Region Chairman, currently a Board Member, and a graduate of Lions Train the Trainer.

Tom is retired after owning several businesses, including a music store, Disc Jockey Service and most recently worked as Business Manager for a NASCAR memorabilia store. He is Chairman of SE CAPA (South East Chapter of Connecticut Authors and Publishers Association)

Tom is also a self published author. His first book "My Son Todd and My Guardian Angels", discusses what it's like to lose a child and how he survived. The book gives hope to others that they too will survive. Therapists are using the book to help with their clients. "My Son Todd and My Guardian Angels" has received acclaimed reviews in several local newspapers. Family members and friends of those who have lost children use the book to help educate them to understand what it's like to lose a loved one. Tom has held seminars, book signings and has also served as a consultant to families who have lost children. He has participated in several radio talk show interviews and call-in programs. He has spoken at area churches, various local organizations, Support Groups and libraries.

Tom's current book "Mystic in the 1950s" is about growing up in a small depressed village, where you knew everyone.

Tom was elected to the Board on October 26 and has much to contribute. We look forward to working with him in the future.



Barbara J. Poirier

Barbara Poirier, Mashantucket Pequot, was raised in Norwich, CT, attended Norwich public schools and graduated from Norwich Free Academy in 1969. She earned her Associates Degree and RTT in Radiation Therapy from Quinnipiac University and Yale-New Haven Hospital in 1972 and worked in the field of Radiation Therapy for over 20 years.

Ms. Poirier began working for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation (MPTN) in 1992 as career development specialist. She was elected to Tribal Council in late 1992, served a three-year term and was appointed by the Tribal Council to the position of Deputy Chief of Staff in 1996. She served for two years as Executive Assistant to Councilwoman Marjorie

Colebut-Jackson, and nine months as Executive Assistant to Councilman Steven J. Thomas. Ms. Poirier was appointed Director of Tribal Health Services in September, 2010. Barbara is a Tribal Elder and Vice Chairman of the MPTN Constitution Review Team. She also serves on the MPTN Election Team and is a commissioner on the MPTN Pre-trial Intervention Commission.

Ms. Poirier completed her Bachelor's Degree in General Studies from the University of Connecticut and was inducted into the Alpha Sigma Lambda honor society. She was promoted to Chief of Staff in 1999, which position she held until 2002. Since 2002, Barbara has worked with the executive leadership at the Spa at Norwich Inn, attended the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy, and was appointed to the position of interim innkeeper at Randall's Ordinary in 2004. Ms. Poirier attended the Center for Creative Leadership and studied Hakomi Therapy with Ron Kurtz in Ashland, Oregon. She has volunteered for the American Cancer Society as a Road to Recovery driver coordinator, and has served on various boards of directors. She fulfilled two terms on the Otis Library Board of Trustees, serving as President during the expansion and construction of the new Otis Library.

Barbara was welcomed to the Board January 5, 2011. We know she will be a great asset to our Board with all her special interest and talents. We look forward to working with her.



Meredith Laine Vasta

Meredith has eleven years experience as collections manager/registrar at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. Her broad experience includes the care and preservation of museum collections and registration methods. She is self motivated as a single person department but also able to direct and oversee interns and volunteers. She has experience working with unique communities to meet their heritage preservation concerns and needs. Meredith earned a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Connecticut in 2007.

Meredith has been employed at Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center since September 1999. She has various responsibilities and skills involving archaeological and tribal history collections and their care. She deals with financial business and coordinates cultural programs and intern/volunteer programs.

Meredith has many professional affiliations and has participated and attended many workshops. She was elected and welcomed to the Board on January 5, 2011. She has been a sustaining member of ICRC for many years. Meredith was instrumental in developing the inventory of all materials from ICRC which are currently housed at Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. We look forward to working with her and tapping her many talents.



UPDATE ON RECONSTRUCTON

FEMA Money - all money received = \$16,756.00

Donations From Members & Friends = \$10,102.61.

Annual Meeting/Luncheon, Raffle = \$1,490.00

TOTAL TO DATE \$28,348.61

RE-BUILDING COMMITTEE established consisting of Allen Polhemus, Ed April, Tom O'Connell and Don Slingsby. The Committee members have removed all old sheet rock, insulation, flooring, etc. They have been working on a bid proposal to be sent to local contractors. Once the bids have been received the Board will review and select a contractor.

OTHER GOOD NEWS



Member, Michael Spellmon, found information on-line regarding used library shelving at New England Shelving Company in Plymouth, MA. After researching the shelving, calls were made for a pick up appointment time.

On Saturday, March 5, Ed April, Michael and Joan Cohn picked up the shelving in Ed's truck and delivered them to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center where they will be stored until the back two rooms are rebuilt.

New Library shelving cost around \$450 per double unit. We needed at least 12 units costing \$5,400 plus delivery. The used shelving which we purchased cost \$125 per double unit or \$1,500 with no delivery charge. We received 14 double units, plus hardware and four end pieces for the price quoted of \$1,500. The shelving is in very good condition. They came from a Harvard renovation project.

Board President, Robert Lecce, Directors Tom Santos and Joan Cohn have met with Mr. David Fairman, President of **The New London Group**, for assistance with grant writing, fund raising and other advice. Projects discussed so far:

- Applying for grant money from 1772 Foundation for a security and fire alarm system
- Contact with Grasso Technical School for assistance with upgrade of electrical service

David's group has worked with other non-profits in the area and obtained grant money, supplies and donated labor.

Membership Update

ICRC currently has 213 members. Letters by regular mail were sent out February 10 to remind members that have not renewed their membership. To date twenty-six have responded. We asked members if they no longer wish to be a member to please let us know. With increase in postage we can no longer send newsletters and notices to unpaid members.

If we do not hear from you by April 4, your name will be removed from our membership list.

We value your membership and support as we are moving ahead with plans to rebuild. Please use the Membership Application to renew your membership.

Membership Renewals - Important Notice

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2010-2011, please fill out the application form and mail it with your check.

THE INDIAN & COLONIAL RESEARCH CENTER
an independent historical research center

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION *Check one – (Contributions are Tax Deductible)*

<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT, \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION or CLUB, \$45
<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL, \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING, \$75
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY, \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> PATRON, \$135
<input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTING, \$40	

Thank you for your support

Please make checks payable to: The Indian & Colonial Research Center or [ICRC]
Mail to: PO Box 525, Old Mystic, CT 06372

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____