

Smoke Signals Radio Archive Episode 1992-12-19

Segment 1

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Dan Smoke discusses the gathering of the United Nations General Assembly on December 10th and two Indigenous leaders who were there to speak; Thomas Banyacya of the Hopi Nation and Oren Lyons of the Onondaga Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy. Dan also introduces the four sacred medicines; tobacco, sweetgrass, cedar, and sage.

Host(s): Dan Smoke, Mary Lou Smoke, John Turner

Guest(s): Beaver Chief

DAN SMOKE: Aanii, boozhoo, sge:no, shekóli, aniish na, skanako:ka! Greetings to all our listeners at Smoke Signals. You are listening to Smoke Signals, a First Nations radio program here at Radio Western, CHRW 94.7 FM—changing the face of radio. And we are heard every Saturday from 1:00-3:00. And you just heard **Dr. Ahab Spence**, who we featured last week on Smoke Signals, and that was Dr. Ahab's Spence message to the Smoke Signals listeners. That was your...your message to take with you and to share. It's...it's a very timely message in regards to education and taking control of education, getting back that equality of education that all society wants to see, wants to strive towards. And my name is **Dan Smoke** and today I'm in the studio with my co-hostess, **Mary Lou Smoke**, and our producers, **John Turner** and **Hal Gilpin**. Hi Hal, hi John, hi Mary Lou.

MARY LOU SMOKE: Season's greetings, everybody!

HAL GILPIN: Hi Dan.

JOHN TURNER: Hi Dan, hi Mary Lou, hello Hal.

HG: Hi John (*laughter*).

DS: Boozhoo. So last night we had a really great, festive time to...to try to bring in this...this festive season. We were graciously...John's house was opened up to us. The **CASNIP Chapter**—the **Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with Native People**. And we had a pizza party last night at John's place—it was really fun, lots of fun.

MLS: Just like our ancestors did.

JT: Yeah, they loved pizza (*laughter*)! Yeah we had all kinds of pizza, everybody seemed to like it, all the kids liked it. And there were a lot of people there. Hugh and Heather didn't show up—they thought they were going to but they didn't. Yeah...and Hugh...I'm talking about **Hugh Dickey**. And he's...we keep trying to get him on the program too but he hasn't showed up here either. Maybe he doesn't know the way, we'll have to draw him a map (*laughter*).

DS: Yes so...but yeah, there was really good fellowship, lots of...a good social time was had by all. And we revisited one another—sometimes we don't get enough time to do that. You know...and of course of our weekly schedules. And we should take the time to just be able to sit down and socialize and eat together and have fun, you know? Just let, let...let loose, and have a good time.

So this week at...here at Smoke Signals, we're going to try to have our listeners reap some of the wisdom and knowledge that some of our Elders have to share with us. And some of the Elders that we're going to be hearing from was, as you already heard, Dr. Ahab Spence. We're also going to hear from **Art Solomon**, who is an **Ojibwe** Elder from **Nobel**, up near **Parry Sound**—between Parry Sound and **Sudbury**. We're also gonna be hearing from **Judy** and **Betty Pamp** from **Michigan**. And we're also gonna be hearing some of the transcribed verse that **Thomas Banyacya** shared with people prior to his address at the **United Nations General Assembly** on December...or December the 10th, which would have been last Thursday. There he was to address the **United Nations** regarding the **Year of Indigenous Peoples**. As everyone knows, 1993 is the year of Indigenous Peoples. And Thomas Banyacya wished to open up the assembly with a message of the **Hopi Prophecy** and to sensitize all the countries of the world that this prophecy is indeed coming true and, in many respects, now is the time to take action so that the...the actual prophecy, as the Hopi Prophecy states, in the end, there will be a purification. And I have talked with many Elders—Art Solomon, **Joe Couture**, you know, people who have often talked about this...this purification that may take place in the near...not too distant future if mankind does not start to change and heal our **Mother Earth**, because of the state that we have put her in, the destruction that we reaped upon her. If we don't, you know, we are so near to destroying her that we have to see it and bring it out from within ourselves the power to heal her. And this is one of the messages that Art Solomon will be sharing with us.

And we will also be reading a little bit about what Thomas Banyacya had to say. The talk that he gave was actually given at the...in...in **San Francisco, California**. And it was there that he had some comments on what he was going to say at the United Nations. But December 10th were the **Opening Ceremonies** of the **United Nations International Year of Indigenous Peoples**. There were two speakers from the Indigenous sovereign Nations in the **United States**; Thomas Banyacya of the **Hopi Nation** and **Oren Lyons** of the **Onondaga Nation** of the **Iroquois Confederacy**. Thomas Banyacya is a speaker for the **Hopi Elders**. He has been requesting that the Hopi prophecies be heard by the General Assembly since 1948. Tomorrow isn't...or December the 10th isn't the answer to his request, but perhaps it is a step towards it. He feels honoured that the Elders of the Hopi Nation have agreed to send him to address the Assembly. In a part of the prophecies, it is said that all the races of men must work together in order to heal Mother Earth. Now Oren Lyons, a chief of the Onondaga Nation, has said, quote: "in our way of life, with every decision we make, we always keep in mind the seventh generations to come; when we walk upon Mother Earth, we always plant our feet carefully because we know that the faces of our future generations are looking up at us from beneath the ground—we never forget them," unquote.

There are people from every part of the world speaking before the Assembly on December the 10th. And we here at Smoke Signals are hoping that we can get a report of what was said. It is time for the United Nations to include all the Nations of the world. Perhaps the International Year of Indigenous Peoples will bring this about. And we also will share with our listeners something about some of the wisdom and knowledge that Oren Lyons has to share as well from the Onondaga Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy. But now we are going to take a music break and listen to **Beaver Chief**. Beaver Chief comes from the **Lummi Nation** on the west coast and he is a...from a long line of traditional people and singers. And the song he's gonna share with us is the "**Cedar Tree's Song**." **Cedar** is one of the four **sacred medicines**. The other medicines being; the first one was **tobacco, sweetgrass, cedar, and sage**. These are the four medicines that Native people use to pray, to purify, to cleanse. And this album that Beaver Chief has...is sharing...he has...of which there are two, this album is called ***Healing Spirit of the Sacred Water***.

BEAVER CHIEF: I'm also known as Beaver Chief. From northwest coast Native American, from here. I'm from **Lummi Island** and also from **Vancouver Island** in **Canada**. These songs that I'm gonna share are from our family—they're family songs. I'm sharing them with you so that you can also learn them and sing them. The medicine that we practice in the northwest coast is called **Sesewis**...is a medicine that we practice. Translation is *the sacred breath of the earth*. The sacred breath of the earth. The first song that I'd like to share with you is the "Cedar Tree's Song." The "Cedar Tree's Song" comes from my great grandfather—his name was **Frank Hillaire**. His Indian name was **Haeteluk**. He's from **West Saanich**. He passed this song down to his son, **Joe Hillaire**, who in 1953, translated it into **English** and put it on a children's record for children, because children understand that the **cedar trees** dance for you. The cedar trees are your friends. The cedar trees are part of you. So I'd like to share this song, the "Cedar Tree's Song."