



# INTERTRIBAL FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

## Newsletter

Summer 2009

A fiscally-sponsored project of Community Initiatives

[www.ifhurbanrez.org](http://www.ifhurbanrez.org)

## EVENTS AT IFH

### Ongoing

Come each week for these happenings:

Tuesdays:

Rez Aerobics \*NEW

6-7 p.m.

Beading circle (potluck)

7-9 p.m.

Thursdays:

Medicine Warriors Dance and All Nations Drum 7-9 p.m.

Board Meetings-3rd Thursdays  
6:30 p.m.

Saturdays:

All Nations Parent Circle

12-2 p.m.

Native Permaculture Gardening  
10-2 pm.

### Upcoming special events

Friday, Aug. 21:

Movie Night "Grizzly Road: The Last Days." 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 1 & 2: Gathering of Native Americans (GONA)  
9a.m.-3 p.m.

Sept. 10: IFH 54th Birthday Party  
6-9 p.m.

Oct. 3: International Council of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers Event  
12 - 3 p.m.

Soon--Lakota Language Classes

Check the website for updates!

*"Despite everything, the Friendship House and the community surrounding it face the future with faith, hope, and a sincere honoring of all those who have passed through its welcoming doors."—Wilma Mankiller*

### GREETINGS FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAROL WAHPEPAH

Intertribal Friendship House was full of activity this summer! A primary focus for summer was naturally on our youth: We held a week-long youth day camp where campers enjoyed cultural arts activities, sports, gardening, swimming, and a trip to the Oakland Zoo. Several parents and community members volunteered and their support helped to make the camp a huge success. We also had the opportunity to have the Youth Fellows program from the Native American Health Center spend two days with us—one day cleaning the house and the other helping with the day camp. They did a great job and we welcome them back next year.

In June, the IFH board and staff attended a strategic planning retreat in Point Reyes at the Marconi Retreat Center. This was an excellent and welcome opportunity to reflect on our growth and sustainability.

As always, IFH is refreshing our programming as guided by community input. Our weekly beading and dance and drum nights continue to be especially popular, and we have added more family movie nights and even a new aerobics class. Also, this fall IFH will launch a Lakota language class taught by Willie Under Baggage from Pine Ridge, SD. The most current information on IFH events and activities can be found on our website at [www.ifhurbanrez.org](http://www.ifhurbanrez.org). Thank you for your donations and other support that contributes to the success of our beloved IFH.

*Carol Wahpepah*

## Celebrate the remarkable history of IFH

### *IFH 54th Birthday Party to be held September 10*

IFH is celebrating our 54th birthday with a party on Thursday, September 10th from 6-9 p.m. The evening will feature light refreshments, an elders' speakers panel, a silent auction, and a dance and drum circle. The gift shop, silkscreen room, and new library will also be on view during the celebration.

What today is our strong and vibrant community anchor was born under the most distressing of circumstances in the Relocation era of the 1950s. Few would have believed at that time that out of such a vulnerable situation would rise a sustainable institution.

However, that is just what happened—Through sacrifice and great care, IFH's founders and subsequent generations have nurtured IFH over 5 decades. The success of IFH is a source of pride and demonstrates how we as Native peoples are resilient. **Please join us** on September 10th as we honor, commemorate, and celebrate this unlikely story.



# Reflections

A look back at the roots of IFH...



*"There were three of us that moved into an apartment down by Lake Merritt. We stayed there together like little baby chicks, all in a cluster. Somebody mapped out a route for me from Oakland to San Francisco terminal, and I just followed that little route faithfully every day. I didn't look from one side to the other, or across the street... I did that for about six months because it seemed so huge, and I didn't know anybody there and nobody knew me. If I got swallowed up, nobody would even miss me for months. I was afraid..."*

—Millie Ketcheshawno  
(Muskogee Creek) 1937–2000,  
On the move to Oakland as part of  
the Federal Relocation program.

## IFH Strategic Planning UPDATE

After months of preparation, more than 200 completed surveys were submitted to IFH's Strategic Planning Consultant for analysis. The results will highlight priorities for all generations of IFH so we can more effectively evolve.

The preliminary findings were discussed at IFH's Board and Staff Retreat in June. The results reaffirm the vital role of IFH in our lives. For example, across all age categories, IFH ranked as the number one or number two place where community members report they can go to "get support for their dreams;" more than church, school, relatives, ceremonies, pow-wows, home, or other organizations.

A report-back with an overview of these results will take place during our 54th Birthday event. Final results will be disseminated community-wide at the end of the year.

Sincere thanks to all who have been thoughtfully contributing to this process. Together we will preserve the integrity of the Intertribal Friendship House for the future leaders who are within our midst.

## IFH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**JANET KING** (Lumbee)-Chair; **GEORGE GALVIS** (Quechua/Chibcha)-Vice Chair;  
**MINDY WOOLBERT** (Chippewa)-Treasurer; **JAYNIE WEYE** (Yaqui)-Secretary;  
**JOLENE EMERSON** (Ojibwe); **MORNING STAR GALI** (Pit River/Chiricahua Apache/Yaqui);  
**CHERYL SANCHEZ** (Pomo). \* & until 4/09 Kris Longoria (Cheyenne/Caddo)

*Thank you for your service to the community.*

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**Our community support keeps us strong.**  
*Thank you for the many ways that you give.*  
Currently, the **volunteer skills**  
especially needed are:

- administrative support skills,
- digital archiving assistance, and
- silkscreening expertise.

We would also like to **borrow a professional floor cleaning machine to keep our facilities sparkling.**

**SPECIAL REQUEST:** IFH is in need of volunteers for the 54th Birthday Celebration. If you are able to help with securing sponsors, donating silent auction items, or volunteering at the event, please contact Carol Wahpepah at (510) 836-1955 or by email at [info@ifhurbanrez.org](mailto:info@ifhurbanrez.org).

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### ✧ *Reminder: Board Elections in October* ✧

By late September, IFH will post information by website, flyer, and email about the IFH Board of Directors election procedure. Elections are scheduled to take place the end of October. Please consider if you are motivated to give your skills, time, and service in a leadership role to IFH. Nomination details, ballots and other information will be distributed via e-mail and mail, so make sure your addresses are up-to-date with us by contacting [info@ifhurbanrez.org](mailto:info@ifhurbanrez.org).

## DONATION WISH LIST

Van, couches, wood desks, postage, carpeting, digital projector, leftover BART tickets.

As always, financial donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and contribute to the ongoing success of IFH. Donations can be sent via mail or can easily be made online at [www.ifhurbanrez.org](http://www.ifhurbanrez.org).