



# Soboba Tribal Family Services

## MARCH NEWSLETTER

"Our families made strong through balance and support."

### **Soboba Tribal Family Services Staff:**

**Nancy Currie, Director**  
**Alicia Golchuk, Tribal Social Worker**  
**Catherine Gonzalez, Legal Admin. Assistant**

### **Office Hours:**

**Mon-Thurs 7:00am to 5:30 pm**  
**(951) 487-0283**

### ***Alternatives to Domestic Violence 24-hour Hotline***

Riverside City and out of County: (951) 683-0829  
Remainder of Riverside County: (800) 799-SAFE (7233)  
(800) 787-3224 – TDD Line

*If you are in immediate danger call 9-1-1*

## **HEALING HEARTS**

### **Foster Family & Relative Caregiver Training**

**Soboba is developing its own foster family homes.**  
**If you are interested in becoming a foster parent,**  
**please join us**  
**for more information.**

**Informational Meeting**  
**The Oaks – Conf Rm 2**

**Monday, March 19, 2012**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**RSVP to**  
**Soboba Tribal Family Services at**  
**(951) 487-0283**



**"A nation is not defeated until the hearts of its women are on the ground. Then it is done, no matter how brave its warriors or how strong its weapons."**

-- Cheyenne proverb



## **A Voice for Her People**

### **Mending the Sacred Hoop**

*This article is the first in a multi-part series, excerpted from Mending the Sacred Hoop Technical Assistance Project, 2004.*

*i am the fire of time,  
the endless pillar  
that has withstood death.  
the support of an invincible nation.  
i am the stars that have guided  
lost men.  
i am the mother of ten thousand  
dying children.  
i am the fire of time.  
i am an Indian woman! <sup>1</sup>*

Traditionally, the influence and respect that Native women hold in their societies not only gives them a voice, but also keeps them safe from domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Standing Bear, a leader of the Ponca Indians said of his mother, "in her humble way, [she] helped to make the history of her race. For it is the mothers, not her warriors, who create a people and guide her destiny.

Historically, many tribes are women-centered and matrilineal. These tribes include, but are not limited to, the Iroquois, Mohegans, Chickasaws, Seminoles, Pawnees, Dinè, Hopis and Zunis. In terms of tribal structure, matrilineal means that a child's ancestry is traced through her mother, and that the family property is passed down through the female line, from mothers to daughters to granddaughters. In some cases, this is also true with family names. In many tribes, not only does a woman own the land, she owns the dwelling her family lives in. Married couples stay with the women's family, and in cases of divorce, the custody of the children goes unequivocally to the mother. If subject to abuse or exploitation, a woman's blood relatives defend her. In cases of divorce, women are fully supported by their blood relatives. These social factors are a testimony to the power and influence women hold in our traditional Native society.

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<sup>1</sup>Paulzine, Niki. "Untitled." I am the Fire of Time: the Voices of Native American Women. Ed. Jane B. Katz. EP Dutton, 1977.



## TEEN CORNER

### Social Networking Safety

You deserve to be in a safe and healthy relationship, whether in person or online. If your partner is digitally abusive, know their behavior is not acceptable and could be illegal. Check out our tips below for staying safe on social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, foursquare and others.

- Only post things you want the public to see or know. Once it's online, it's no longer under your control.
- Be protective of your personal information. Your phone numbers and addresses enable people to contact you directly, and things like your birth date, the schools you attended, your employer and photos with landmarks may make it easier for someone to find where you live, hang out or go to school.
- Set boundaries and limits. Tell people not to post personal information, negative comments or check-ins about you on social media. Ask people not to post or tag pictures if you're not comfortable with it.
- You can keep your passwords private -- sharing passwords is not a requirement of being in a relationship.
- Don't do or say anything online you wouldn't in person. It may seem easier to express yourself when you are not face-to-face, but online communication can have real-life negative consequences.

### Abuse or Harassment

- Don't respond to harassing, abusive or inappropriate comments. It won't make the person stop and it could get you in trouble or even put you in danger.
- Keep a record of all harassing messages, posts and comments in case you decide to tell the police or get a restraining order.
- Always report inappropriate behavior to the site administrators.

Excerpted from [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)



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Native women's responsibilities include providing for themselves, their children, relatives, the sick, elderly, disabled and community at large. Women are seen as the creators of life and involved in all things that deal with creativity from planting to harvesting to giving birth and raising children. Women not only give birth physically to children, but also to ideas, plans and other forms of life. An example is how Pueblo people pray for "female rain", believing that women have power over the lifecycle.

Traditionally, Native women are nurturers and sustainers of their communities, building and maintaining housing and supervising family affairs. The land as well as the crops belongs to them rather than their husbands or brothers.

Men are traditionally the hunters for the community, with women skinning, packing and preparing the kill; and in the spring, joining the men in fishing. Because men's duties (hunting, conducting trade, defending the community, etc.) require them to be often absent from the community, their social position is traditionally often weaker than that of women. In addition, many Native women are the artists of their communities, widely known and acknowledged, with their works being highly sought after. In many societies, their skills extend to house construction, for instance, the plastering done by the Pueblo women, and boat construction, such as that accomplished by Native women of the Great Lakes. This pattern of mutual service between men and women represents the balance and harmony of the universe.

The traditional stories of many tribes demonstrate the importance of women. The Lakota story of White Buffalo woman tells that when she came to the people, she presented them with the gift of the sacred pipe, giving women the gifts of corn, beans and squash. These and other stories, credit women with feeding and blessing the tribe, and providing their people with everything they need to survive.

Indian cultures have long recognized special roles for certain women, roles that differ from traditional tribal roles. Not only are there women who have the ability to prophesy, and to heal, but there are also those who are known as "hunting women" as well as those called "warrior women". Among the Crow, some men dressed and lived as women and some women lived like men. In other tribes, there are numerous stories of women fighting, battling in place of their killed husbands, or in order to protect them. Women often fought as warriors along with the men, carrying the honor of singing or dancing during war rituals.

*See April's Newsletter for Part 2 of this series.*