



from
Beautiful Painted Arrow
Seeds of Peace newsletter
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The 9th International Peace Chamber Gathering, April 2017

recalled by Jane Innmon and Kristen Bissinger



Envision a beautiful mountain foothill setting amidst the majestic Saguaro's with blooming cactus all around and you have arrived at the 2017 *International Peace Chamber Gathering*. Envision the colorful, radiant, joyful people who follow Beautiful Painted Arrow's visions and you are doubly surrounded by beauty!

The *International Peace Chamber Gathering* was hosted on the land of Jane and Pat Innmon in Tucson, Arizona, April 27-30th. In the photograph to the right, the chamber, Sweet Beautiful Waters, and the dance arbor can be seen.

We started by gathering in the Sun Moon dance arbor with introductions around the circle, then, facing the sun, we chanted "*Wah*". We processed into the chamber in single file while chanting "*Pah-nu*" for entering the 5th World and, once in the chamber, we chanted "*Dah-vii*" to acknowledge the Spirit Being gifted to Joseph to raise 33 years ago.

We opened our sharings with a recorded message from Joseph Rael brought by his eldest daughter, Geraldine. He sent blessings to the chambers, dances and arbors, and all of us with this message:



"This is a good time to get together as there are many international situations that need our prayers. At the Gathering you will find something to take home; a spiritual, divine message will come to you.

The time in the moment is also in the past. The energy of the past and future will come in the here and now. We were created for this time so we can contribute to planet Earth. Thank you for choosing to be dancers and chamber builders. Better times are coming with the fruits of your work helping Mother Earth. God will be with you. Aho! Amen!"

Geraldine told us that her Dad's vision to generate world peace and healing of mankind came in the 80's. More prayers are needed. Mother Earth and Father Sky are in peril and we can help to change that with chanting, recycling, bicycling and respecting Mother Earth and Father Sky. The protective grids of the Sound Chambers and the Fire Ceremonies were started for peace. Joseph is now 81. He is slowing down and is no longer consulting but he is still writing and doing his art.

Jeff Combelic from Colorado saw Joseph a day before the *Gathering* and said that he was looking great. He had finished his house, out buildings and green houses, and had recently gotten his heart tested. The nurse told him "You are the healthiest person on the reservation!"

Beautiful words were sent by Rick and Elisa Cotroneo, from House of Mica, and read to all by Kristen Bissinger. Among other things they reminded us of those in our community who have passed on and set an inspired tone for the chamber sharings.

Stella from Scotland said, "In his art, his books, and his music, Joseph has given us the most incredible legacy to work with. He has given us everything we need."

Andrew Macdonald from Brazil said, "We need to nurture the young people of this time. There is more to life than video games and Facebook." We were inspired to hear of the events that have been organised in Brazil and elsewhere with children and young people included in this work.

Nan Citty from Tennessee said that she started a Young People's dance in '99 after a vision. Adding: "The dance includes grandparents, parents, teens, and children. How do you bring up spiritual children? Follow that path yourself, offer it to them, let them witness it; involve them on your path".

Steve Citty shared a recording of Echo-Caller, "*ii-toh cheh-loh*", sung by Beautiful Painted Arrow. Various children's events were described by Steve, including mini Long, Drum and Sun Moon dances, 2 to 3 hours of Elders' wisdom sharings, drum making, outreach to the wider community, and storytelling overnights.

Geraldine talked about Joseph's life. How he came under scrutiny as a member of this tribe or that tribe, his mother being Ute and his father, Picuris Pueblo. He was not accepted by either tribe but after his mother died, he was sent to a foster couple in Picuris, who had no children and he was loved. At one time AIM threatened him for sharing his spiritual visions with non-Indians but at great risk he has shared his gifts with us.

Brenda Sue Whitmire Taylor shared with us the importance of reading Joseph's book, *Being and Vibration* and of chanting the 5 sounds. She said, "We are all vibration. Everything we do is vibration; it is the way to peace. Check out the *Seeds of Peace* song on YouTube. Do the best you can. When chanting, one person should be outside the chamber and share what impression they receive." She at one point also emphasized the importance of tithing as an expression of appreciation for what we have been gifted from Joseph.

Lukas and Marina came from Denmark. Lukas shared a ceremony with cards that he made and brought to share with us all. The ceremony was one of acceptance instead of judgment. We started with the people sitting in



each direction in the chamber chanting the sound of that direction and then we all chanted "u" together. We wrote our names inside the folded card Lukas gave us. The cards had the picture of the sun on one side and the words "Thank you for being" and on the other side the moon and "Who you are." "I love you no matter what you do," said Lukas.

right, Lukas; middle, Marina

Felicity, Andrew, Heidi, Denis, and Sama, came from Brazil. Denis, now officially a Drum Chief, on the left, said he had learnt the importance of pronouncing correctly the sacred sounds in the chants and songs, whatever the mother tongue of the chanters or singers, as it is these sounds that carry the force and energy of what is being sung.



left to right: Denis, Heidi, Sama and Felicity



left, Jennie Coles from Australia; right, Stella Longland

Stella from Scotland looks after the website for the sound chambers. She gave an example of the sound work done in the Cave of Clay chamber, where chanting the word 'harmony' had revealed the Tiwa word "moh-neh" meaning 'medicine bag' which had added a new dimension to the English word of 'the fresh things coming out of the medicine bag from the Creator'. She suggested that the Tiwa sounds taught at the Drum Mystery School were for singing the dance chants and that the work with the vowel sounds in the peace chambers was more flexible.

Cheryl, of Cheryl and David from the North Carolina Watersong sound chamber, said there were three calls from the Thunder Beings to build their chamber. They have 1,000 crystals in their chamber and Watersong has been a place of refuge for many people. They have both separate non-profit and for-profit chamber funds.

There were also sharings from Jeff Combelic of the Gold Hill chamber in Colorado; Ruth and Vic Eichler of Earthsong in Michigan; Jennie and Michael Coles of the Red Eagle chamber in Australia; Jane Innmon, Martha Boose and Jack Gillette of the host chamber, Sweet Beautiful Waters in Tucson; Tom and Kristen of Birdsong in Pennsylvania; and Lisamarie McGrath who has been a sacred drifter between many sound chambers throughout the world, playing her flutes and doing sound work. Prayers were said for Fritz and Elba Duminy and their chamber, Windwalker, in South Africa, where the 8th Chamber Gathering was held in 2014.

The sharings were important and rich with story and teaching. There were some new folks at the *Gathering* – Imani White who recently bought the North Carolina chamber, Earth's Ancestral Voices, and is now learning about the community of Joseph's students, and Geri Littlejohn who came with Kc Swickert and wants to build a chamber in the Pacific Northwest. Jim Frank and Hollis Payer, Lawrence Kampf, and Alan Katz, were also with us. We were enriched and blessed by everyone who participated. Please forgive if we failed to mention you here!

We had wonderful breakout sessions that covered a variety of topics and gave us all a chance to sit with others we may not have known as well. (A more detailed account will be included in the next Newsletter, ed.)

The days were interspersed with movement, sound and stillness. We did a beautiful Figure Eight ceremony uniting the peace chamber and the dance arbor led by Lukas Budimir. Ula Rae Mynatt, from Grandmother's Place chamber in Tennessee, led us in a beautiful ceremony inside the chamber on the last morning.

We shared wonderful food prepared by our two kitchen angels Deb Shippione and Celia Riddle, together with helpers from the Sweet Beautiful Waters community: Martha, Birke, Shelley, Mary, Bettina, and Kathleen.



Ani Clearmoon and Mathew Machu along with their gorgeous son Taiga, brought the beauty of the didgeridoo to the opening and closing ceremonies.

Every morning we did Sunrise ceremony incorporating other ceremonies described in *Being and Vibration: Entering the New World* by Joseph Rael, Beautiful Painted Arrow.

Paulette Millichap and Judith Brooks presented a wonderful introduction to the *Beautiful Painted Arrow Visionary Art Cards: The Path of the Red Road* published recently. Paulette told us that she has received a grant and will be working on a new website with teachings and connections to the chambers. After we had done the meditation with the cards, Geraldine Rael made recordings of the words of some of the young people that were present, to share them with her father.

Jennie Coles closed the *Gathering*, with a ceremony honoring and linking all the participants with the gift of a crystal to take back to their chamber or home.

We ended where we began, in the Arbor. Jane had asked Tom Bissinger, who officiated at their wedding 10 years ago, to give Pat and herself a 10th wedding anniversary blessing. He gave the blessing and more than that, he did a renewal of their vows asking all that were there, to share in the blessings and joy.

Many lingered for a swim, some last conversations, and to eat the leftovers from all our feasting. Our time together was magical and filled with the love we all share for one another.

Aho, Jane Innmon and Kristen Bissinger



Hosts of the *Arizona Gathering*, Pat and Jane Innmon at their wedding anniversary blessing

photographers of the above pictures in this article unknown

photos below added 2020 by Stela Longland



Sweet Beautiful Waters chamber interior



Sweet Beautiful Waters chamber at dusk