

CUEL ATAH

The Star People

*The latest news and updates
from the Juaneno Band of
Mission Indians -
Acjachemen Nation*



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BACK TO BUSINESS

by Chairwoman Heidi Lucero

July 10, 2021 was a momentous day for the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation as we were finally able to hold our 2020-2021 Tribal Council election in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Nation overwhelmingly called for change and elected new leadership as follows: Heidi Lucero- Chairwoman, Richard Rodman- Vice Chairman, Georgia “Chena” Edmundson- Secretary, Ricky Hernandez- Treasurer,





Sabrina Banda- Member at Large, and Ruthie Ann “Cookie” Stoffel.

Unfortunately on August 21, 2021, Ruthie Ann “Cookie” Stoffel notified Chairwoman Lucero that she was resigning from her position as Member at Large. Fortunately for the Tribal Council, Shannon Wingfield was ready to fill the vacancy and was unanimously appointed. Shannon brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Tribal Council.

The transition to the new leadership has been slow but steady. The Tribe’s finances were turned over by the bank in late July and the keys to the tribal office were turned over by the City of San Juan Capistrano on September 2, 2021. Now begins the process of rebuilding the relationships that had gone by the wayside and start forging new relationships to help us to our goal of federal recognition.

Some of the first items that need to be addressed will be negotiating a new contract with the city and reinstating the Tribe’s nonprofit status with the Franchise Tax Board and with the Internal Revenue Service. We will be resuming meetings at the office in the coming weeks and will soon be in negotiations with Concordia to continue the use of their facility for our General Council meetings.

THOUGHTS ON A SUMMER DAY

by Adelia Sandoval

The summer season opens us up to the medicine of the Wolf Clan. This morning I listened carefully as I sat in the South. I heard the howl of the Great Mother Wolf called Ishwut Yo.

Ishwut Yo spoke up clearly, “I have heard the voice of Our Mother Earth, TOMAYOWUT, as I slumbered in the den with our young ones”.

“My children”, She said, “there are two worlds going on at the same time, the world of destruction and separation, where chaos and confusion, doubt, mistrust and lack of integrity abound. There is another world also going on and that is the world of truth and beauty, it is the world of joyous celebration where relationship and unity abound.”

Where do you spend most of your time?”

We have a month or so before we step into the season of the fall. Let us take advantage of this time to play together, laugh together and pray together, and OH, if we have been squabbling, let us forgive each other quickly.

The very essence of our Tribal Nation is at stake. Please let us take advantage of this season of the Wolf and take in this sacred medicine, honoring each other with integrity, and beauty.



“*I have heard the voice
of Our Mother Earth,
TOMAYOWUT*”

ELDER SPOTLIGHT

by *Dr. Richard Rodman*

Richard: Hello Dad, it's great to have this opportunity to interview you for the newsletter. Can you begin by telling the readers a little about your tribal ancestry?

John Rodman: Sure. Our family tree goes back on my mother's side; her maiden name was Beatrice Garcia. Through her we trace our lineage back to Maria Flugencia Zodut, or before her Christianization, just Zodut. She was from the Mother village of Putuidem. Mom (Bea) had three children: your Uncle Jerry, Rosalind, or as most people know her, Sister, and me; growing up most people called me Johnny.

RR: Great. I think I knew most of that. I know we lived on Los Rios street when I was young; can you tell the readers where you were born, where you grew up, and that stuff?

JR: Sure. I was born on Los Rios street in a house that's still there; it's the house that's almost exactly behind the El Adobe Restaurant, on the other side of the tracks. Back then most children were delivered at home. When the woman was in labor the doctor would come over to the house and deliver the child; that's the way it was. Dr. Esslinger delivered me.

As I already mentioned, we lived on Los Rios Street when I was born. Later we moved to La Calera Street over next to the baseball field; in Clara Garcia's old house. There were two houses on the property; one in the front and a second one in the back. Sister and Clara lived in the front house and the rest of us lived in the back house. By the way, that's where I met your mom. Your mom lived across the street from Clara's. Most of our readers will know Marie's parents, Paul and Carmelita Arbiso. Paul, most people knew him as Mocho, and Carmelita later became the patriarch and matriarch of San Juan.

RR: I want to talk more about you and mom, but before we do, tell our readers about your experience growing up in San Juan.

JR: Well, I went to Ambuehl Elementary School for grades K-8 and then to San Juan High School. I remember San Juan being a quiet town when I grew up. The Mission Drive-In wasn't built until around 1963, and there just wasn't a lot of things to do. We went to school, worked, and that was about it.

RR: Tell me about your jobs. Do you remember the jobs you had growing up?



Pictured: John Rodman & Noah Rodman

JR: Of course. I had several jobs during my teen years: I worked as a cook at my Aunt Ventura's restaurant, the Las Rosas Spanish Kitchen, that was around 1957; I worked on the San Juan Creek pouring the concrete walls that line the creek; that was around 1961; I also remember working for Rosenbaum Construction clearing the orange grove where the Mission Drive-In would be built; that was 1961 too. I landed my forever job in 1963. I worked for the South Coast County Water District in South Laguna; I worked there until I retired in 1991.

“ I remember San Juan being a quiet town when I grew up. ”

RR: Cool; that's some new information I hadn't heard about before. Okay, let's go back to Mom. Tell me a little about you and her. How old were you when you met, stuff like that?

JR: Well, like I said, I lived across the street from your mom. Before we married her name was Maria Rubacava. We met when we were about 14 years old, dated, got engaged, and married when she was 16 and I was 17. We remained married until your mom died of bone cancer in 1997.

RR: I think I knew most of that, but thanks for sharing that with our readers. Okay, let's finish this with a little about you today.

JR: Well, after I retired, we moved up to Anza and lived there until about 5 years ago. Today, I live in Oceanside. Mom and I had 5 children: Roland (whose nickname was Dad), Roy (whose nickname was Tungies), you (everybody knew you as Dickie), Tina (whom we called Mommy), and Teri. I currently have 13 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Understanding the Constitution

What is a Constitution? A Constitution is a collection of rules and principles which set out how a nation will be governed. It is the backbone and the framework for all decisions made by every government official and, particularly the executive (Tribal Council). It also sets out the rights of everyone which must be respected by the Nation and establishes the relationship between the government and the people.

Why is a constitution is important? It ensures that those who make decisions on behalf of the General Council fairly represent the Nation's best interest. It also sets out the ways in which those who exercise power may be held accountable to the people they serve. And it sets out where government powers end by guaranteeing individuals' specific rights and freedoms. These rights help to assure the protection and promotion of human dignity, equality, and liberty.

Democratic constitutions are voted on rather than imposed so as to provide a framework adopted by the General Council to settle different political views and create a clear path for the leadership. They help provide for a stable society by ensuring that, although everybody may not agree with the government all the time, the people accept the legitimacy of the system of choosing governments.

In the coming issues, we will deconstruct our Constitution in order to better understand our Nation's rules.



"It sets out the rights of everyone which must be respected by the Nation and establishes the relationship between the government and the people."

Language Corner

Hi! How are you?

Míiyu!
Michá \$ú íiq?

I'm fine!

Lóoviqan!

LEARN
YOUR
LANGUAGE



Contributed by Kelina Lobo

Pro Tip: The accented letter means that it is pronounced a little louder than the rest of the word. The vowels are like Spanish "A, E, I, O, U."

Polóov temét!

Nice day!

[For more pronunciation tips click here!](#)

Veteran Spotlight

In recent news, scenes of chaos played out on our screens as the US pulled out all troops in a frustrating end to the war in Afghanistan. One can hope our country has learned to separate the warrior from the war, the soldier from the service, to appreciate the soldier.

We thank our Veterans for their service in this operation, as well as many others. The honor of which your service is worthy remains undiminished in our hearts by the outcome of the conflict. Your community and your nation are grateful.



Resources for Native American Vets:
<https://bit.ly/3k8A9pS>



Health & Wellness Update

There are multiple COVID -19 variants spreading around the world at the present time. The Delta variant is the most predominant in the United States at the present time. Some of the variants seem to spread easier and quicker than other variants. Things to protect yourself and your families.

- Get vaccinated. A booster may start in the Fall.
- Beware of symptoms (everyone should have a thermometer at home)
- Good hand cleaning hygiene
- Wear a mask and social distance
- Testing if you have been in contact with a person with COVID 19 or have symptoms.

This pandemic continues to be fluid and recommendations are changing daily.

For more information

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/>
- <https://www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus>
- <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/>
- <https://www.longbeach.gov/health/>
- <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus.html>

CONTACT US:

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TRIBAL COUNCIL

Heidi Lucero, Chairwoman

Dr. Richard Rodman, Vice Chairman

Georgia Edmundson, Secretary

Ricky Hernandez, Treasurer

Sabrina Banda, Member-At-Large

Shannon Wingfield, Member-At-Large

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 18-19 Moompetam Festival - 9 am - 5 pm** at Aquarium of the Pacific
- **September 25 - General Council Meeting** - 12 pm at Tribal Hall & Zoom - Limited indoor seating. Bring chairs for outdoor seating. Tribal Council meet & greet potluck to follow
- **October 4 - Open Meeting 6:30 pm** Tribal Hall
- **October 16 - General Council meeting** location TBD
- **November - Harvest Dinner** location TBD



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We aren't
a Tribe
without you!

Want to contribute to the newsletter?

- Have a Veteran to spotlight?
- Have an idea for an article?
- Have an event to share?

Email us - webdirector@jbmian.com



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