



Red Wind Councils

Spiritual & social awakening through indigenous restitution

Thanksgiving & Holiday Appeal 2017

Birthing Indigenous Leaders
in the Era of Women's Restitution

Why Support Maya Women?



3 Generations of Indigenous Women

Warmest welcome to our annual appeal & newsletter!

This year, we, at Red Wind Councils, are decisively celebrating the growing dawn of the Era of Woman. Women everywhere are central to

the life-affirming work so crucial to creating a world of balance, dignity, equity & justice. **Myriads of women are rising on the planet as warrior-esses of life - you, me, all of us, women caretakers & leaders in charge of taking our places back at the Center of our societies & worlds.**

There are several reasons why Red Wind is supporting so strongly the Maya indigenous women for the past 31 years; *because they are at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder, at the lowest basement of opportunities, because they have suffered for too many generations from absolute oppression, having been totally ignored & having been denied access to any education whatsoever & having seen the loss of their basic human rights.* Always unnoticed, taken for granted, abused & raped, forgotten under mounds of tortillas they make daily for their family, yet they continue with unflinching love & resilience to feed the world with their invisible, yet most sacred work.

Red Wind Councils, a charitable U.S. non-profit, fosters spiritual consciousness & a restoration of social justice through awakening into the promised return of indigenous Council Ways & the struggle of Maya people.

Thanksgiving & Holiday Fundraising

Since 1994, the Maya resistance & struggle for dignity with **the first Maya Declaration of Women's Rights** have created such an impact in Chiapas for the indigenous women of Mexico & the whole world, that the oppression, exploitation & oblivion are lifting, changing, as the indigenous women raise their voices, their children, & even dare for the first time to raise their hopes for a world in which their children & grandchildren will no longer starve, no longer suffer, no longer die of preventable diseases, *no longer be invisible*. The most extraordinary of all this is that the emergence of Maya women & their world-changing path provides an unparalleled & powerful model for living in harmony & respect of our sacred Earth & her children. This is the real Restitution of the Feminine by a people who have been denied knowledge of their ancient prophecies for the past 525 years.

I warmly invite you to participate in this incredibly good cause & read our year's newsletter dedicated to just that: **the honoring of the Eternal Feminine & the Power of Birthing the Restitution of Women!** I sincerely hope you will be as touched, inspired & ignited as myself & all of us at Red Wind by the humble stories of a few indigenous women such as Marichuy, the first indigenous woman presidential candidate in Mexico & in the world!

For over 3 decades your valuable help has been a vital river of life for the Maya. And the changes are astounding! I can only extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for sharing this path, this struggle, this vision with me & us all at Red Wind to maintain this vital bridge with the Maya.

In Mexico, the expression "to give birth" is ***dar a luz***, literally translated as "to give to Light." **Please share what resources you can donate to stand with us, as Midwives altogether, at this great Birthing, by generously supporting the Restitution of Maya indigenous women.** Together may we give abundantly to the Light of Hope that the Maya women share openly with the world!!

Muchissimas gracias for all your kind & generous support,
Ohki Forest & Red Wind Councils in Chiapas



Helping the Maya Elderly at Red Wind

Abuela Rosita, an indigenous “invisible” woman



Before NAFTA, it was a common practice that the Maya people — men, women, children & elders — dressed in their traditional clothing, traveled barefoot from their remote communities in the highlands of Chiapas to knock door to door in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, carrying huge baskets on their backs & selling their goods to the Mexicans & descendants of Spaniards. They offered traditional

products which they grew & made themselves such as flowers, tamales, corn tortillas, live chickens, vegetables of all sorts, copal incense, clay pots, huaraches, straw mats, crafts & many more. They would visit you several times a week bringing what they knew you needed on a daily basis. This was a lifetime relationship that would grow overtime as a very stable & affectionate one.

As the years have gone on, there are fewer & fewer of these indigenous *marchantes* (merchants) as they grew older & lifestyles changed. Now most indigenous carry their goods in trucks to the local markets. Only a few of these Maya continue with this lively tradition but this is a huge struggle against the rising tide of modernism.

Abuela Rosita, “*the most adorable soul on Earth,*” as Ohki describes her, has been her *marchanta* for 30 years. Now Rosita is left to beg in the streets of San Cristóbal. She is quite old & cannot carry heavy baskets anymore. The worst part is that there are no social services in southern Mexico to support someone like Rosita & so many others. No food subsidies, no healthcare. Rosita survives through the kindness of a few people, like Ohki, who charitably donate to her whenever they see her so she can survive.

This describes so well what Comandanta Esther said in a speech in 2001, in Mexico City’s central plaza; **We, as women, are oppressed three times over, because we are poor, because we are women & because we are indigenous. Our fight is simply for dignity & decent living.**

Breaking the multi-generational cycle of impoverishment & marginalization of women has long been recognized as one of the most effective keys to reducing poverty & injustice in families & communities, which is what Red Wind strives to achieve with our projects for autonomy & dignity.

News from Mexico

Marichuy, Mexico's 1st Indigenous Woman Candidate for President

**A Nahua Woman Healer
Leading in the Era of Woman!**



Marichuy, 1st indigenous woman candidate for Mexican Presidency

In May of 2017, for the first time in Mexican history, not only the first woman but the first indigenous woman ever has been nominated as a candidate for the presidency. **This is a world's unprecedented event!** The country hasn't had an indigenous president for 145 years, & a woman has never held the highest office, much less an indigenous.

Marichuy received unanimous support at the nominating assembly of the CNI (National Indigenous Council of Mexico) in which more than 1,400 delegates of 58 indigenous nations from Mexico & 250 Zapatista representatives were present. Marichuy was also presented with a drum, a shield & staff of authority from **the Lakota people** who recognized her crucial representation of Native people of the Americas.

Yet, Marichuy is a simple woman of the Earth, a traditional herbal healer. For her, winning the presidency — or even getting votes at all — isn't the aim of the venture into the electoral arena but it is to bring together all the indigenous communities in Mexico as well as non-indigenous, Mexicans & people from all walks of society.

Restitution in the Era of Woman

Indigenous Teachings for Our Times

In her book published in 2000, *Dreaming the Council Ways: True Native Teachings from the Red Lodge*, Ohki Forest shares about ancient Maya & native prophecies concerning the end & beginning of Cycles of Time on Earth & the Return of the Feminine from the Cosmos. Leaving the *Era of Man*, which lasted 5,400 years — where women were isolated at the outside ring of our world, — we have now entered into the *Era of Woman* since 25 years & for the next 5,400 years. This shift in cycles is called the *Restitution of Women*, where women are actually being restituted — by cosmic forces entering our Earth's field — their natural power to return to the Center of our world's wheel & affairs.

As many women everywhere are rising from oppression to realize their visions, this does not mean the Restitution is a given! There is much work to do to replace the terrible imbalances created by humanity. Ohki shares with us that this Restitution involves for both women & men to walk together in unity amidst the death throes of patriarchy. *This is powerful medicine to all our hearts & spirits for healing our beloved Earth, connecting more deeply with one another through the True Dream of Earth, the one deep within each of us.* By taking our bearings from indigenous leaders & women, it provides us with a powerful root of inspiration, courage & determination in the face of injustice & instability.

Indigenous Teachings



Let's pursue our work, visions & journeys together, & this, for the sake of our *Coming Faces*, the 7 generations to come.

Ohki Forest, of Mohawk descent, has imparted indigenous Council Ways, Spiritual Earth ways, Women's teachings & Womb practices for the past 31 years to women & men of all backgrounds. Sweat Lodges (Temazcal) Drum ceremonies & Teaching circles led by Ohki have helped restore ancient

Native & Maya practices in Chiapas & in North America for cultural & spiritual renewal & inner transformation.

Ohki writes: *It is vital today that women & men from all backgrounds turn their entire beings — mind, heart & Spirit — toward the Feminine Lodge of our sacred Earth for it is the only place where we can transform & heal our deepest memories of pain, losses & wounds. It is imperative today that men & women open their inner centers & wombs, & **manifest together the voice of our Mother to call forth the most powerful healing this planet has ever seen.** This is our destiny as humanity.*

Maya Women at Red Wind Councils 30 Years of Autonomy & Transformation

For the past 3 decades, we at Red Wind have worked with strong & amazing Maya women. We have seen entire communities being transformed with our projects for women & daughters:

- ◆ **Where ingrained *machismo* was predominant, more understanding between genders took place.** Women are now considered as "capable" as men, & in most villages, men now even think that, without a doubt, women are stronger & more capable than them!
- ◆ Where many women's traditions — weaving, food, clothing, herbal healing, midwifery, ancestral knowledge & stories — were getting lost by

the day, a powerful movement inspired the Maya daughters to bring to life again their mother's & grandmother's traditional ways.



Examples of Red Wind's projects to help Maya women:

- ◆ Corn mills to relieve women from the hard task of grinding corn by hand every day
- ◆ Cisterns in communities so women don't have to haul clean water for many miles daily, preserving their health from this difficult labor
- ◆ Wood-saving Fogon stoves to minimize smoke exposure & serious ailments for women & children
- ◆ Women's Emergency & Medical Help - funding everything women & motherly from prenatal vitamins; life-saving hospitalization for pre-eclampsia; care for post-partum anemia; antibiotics for infants dying of pneumonia; post-operative recuperation; even a cardiac pacemaker for the matriarch of a large extended family!
- ◆ Micro-loans for Women for community stores, emergencies & food
- ◆ Corn & beans for Women & families affected by floods & droughts
- ◆ Subsidies for food & transportation for training education & health promoters, an opportunity many young women have dared to take
- ◆ Seeds, supplies & training for Women's community greenhouses
- ◆ Support of Ohki's Medicine Centers in Chiapas which offer Healing, Maya Limpias, Ceremonies & Vision Quests for women, children & men
- ◆ Weaving, Embroidery, Sewing Projects - Sewing machines & materials for Maya women & their daughters. A true revival of Maya ancestral weaving skills!

Donate

Join & Support the Restitution of Maya Women

Remember & support Maya women with a generous contribution to nourish & grow the emerging light & promise for which they are daily struggling so hard. **You can make a world of difference for a Maya mother, a daughter, a grandmother or a young girl.**



Please stand with us & with Marichuy, presidential candidate, who said;

Our call is for the millions of women of Mexico who stopped counting their dead & their disappeared for they are so many, & with their own mourning & suffering can raise their voices, despite the threats of losing their own

lives. Our call is for women to gather fearless courage & see that a true path of hope does exist, & that, despite corruption, repression, contempt & exploitation, we can organize ourselves together from all corners for the true dignity & the just organization of a new country & a new world for all.

The Maya people send their heartfelt gratitude for any support you give & they offer sincere prayers for your constant well-being & that of your family.

Please send your donations for any amount to:

Red Wind Councils

P.O. Box 413

Littleton, MA 01460

(978) 633-7388 / pathways@redwindcouncils.org

Donate by credit card on our websites / Click PayPal button

***Please consider adding 5% to cover the costs of credit card processing to not reduce the impact of your donation to the Maya**

www.redwindcouncils.org ~ www.ohkisimineforest.com

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