

Debunking Native American Stereotypes

Thursday, October 18

F-Block, 9:25 to 10:45 a.m.

Presenters:

Phil Klasky, instructor, American Indian Studies Department, San Francisco State University

Kim Shuck, Native American poet and educator

The essential question for this session is, “How can we debunk Native American stereotypes?”

To read a piece that helps to explain Phil Klasky’s research focused on Indians of the American Southwest, go to:

<http://www.hidesertstar.com/articles/2006/01/18/features/feature3.txt>

To read more about Kim Shuck, go to:

http://www.nativewiki.org/Kim_Shuck

As part of the session, there will be a screening of the short documentary film, *The Salt Song Trail*. As described on the The Cultural Conservancy website

(www.nativeland.org):

“The Salt Song Trail – bringing creation back together,” is about the sacred Salt Songs (Asi Huviav Puruakain) of the Southern Paiute (Nuwuvi) people. The songs are used in memorial ceremonies, for cultural revitalization and as a spiritual bond for the Southern Paiute people living in the Southwest.

Through the beautiful landscape of the Colorado Plateau, painted deserts and river valleys, the Salt Song Trail traces the journeys of ancestral peoples to historic and sacred sites. The film also documents a healing ceremony at the Sherman Institute – a former Indian boarding school where Indian children were forcibly taken from their homes and forbidden to practice their traditional cultures. The singers return to the school years later to sing for the children who never came home.

The film is a collaboration between The Cultural Conservancy and The Salt Song Project of the Southern Paiute Nation. Original idea and content by Vivienne Jake (Kaibab Paiute) and Matthew Leivas, Sr. (Chemehuevi), Salt Song Project Directors. Executive producers Melissa Nelson and Philip M. Klasky, directed and edited by Esther Figueroa (Junaroa Productions), with sound and music by Colin Farish (Stillwater Sound) and John-Carlos Perea (Apache).

To read a short article on “The Salt Song Trail,” go to:

<http://www.nativeland.org/spiritsfree.pdf>

To read about a recent event where representatives from several Native American tribes led a protest on the UC Berkeley campus, demanding the university return thousands of ancestral remains currently held in its anthropology museum (an event in which professor Klasky and his students were involved), go to:
<http://xpress.sfsu.edu/archives/breaking/009147.html>

To visit the website of The Cultural Conservancy, a Native American nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of indigenous cultures and their ancestral lands, go to:
<http://www.nativeland.org>

To explore dimensions of Native American storytelling, go to:
<http://www.pbs.org/circleofstories/>

To explore “Native Words, Native Warriors,” an educational website about the importance of Native American languages and the code talkers of World Wars I and II, go to:
<http://www.nmai.si.edu/subpage.cfm?subpage=education&second=dc&third=general>
This is an offering of The National Museum of the American Indian.

To explore the offerings of the Indigenous Environmental Network, go to:
<http://www.ienearth.org/>
Included on this site is a description of “Unplug 2007,” scheduled for October 13.