

The Journey of a Sacred Fire – Update 2016

Here are just a few of the travels of the Peace Fire Coal Bundles

Updated November 2, 2016

* **Appalachian Trail** –Jeremy Roche, at 66 years young, carried the coal bundles from March 27 to August 19, 2012, on his 14 states, 145 day, 2,184 mile journey while hiking the entire Appalachian Trail. He left coal bundles at Springer Mountain - at the beginning; Clinger Dome - the highest spot on the trail; Harper's Ferry – the midway point; and Katahdin Mountain, at the end of the trail. His wife Sheri and the "trail angels" were vital to his success.

• **Bartlett, Illinois – World Peace Day** - On September 18, 2015 a Fire Coal bundle was added by founders Craig Dobkin and Michael Terrien to the Play for Peace (PFP) World Peace Fire. PFP has become a worldwide organization that for the last 20 years has children and teens from different cultures build peaceful communities.

• **Bethlehem, Israel / Chicago** – On December 1, 2015 the Fire Coals were handed to Joe Redding in Chicago. Joe had just driven from New York to Chicago transporting the *Flame of Peace*. This *Eternal Flame of Peace* burns at the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem. Oil lamps are lit from the eternal flame in Bethlehem and carried around the world.

• **Black Hills, South Dakota** – On June 22, 2016 the 25th *Spiritual Unity of Tribes – Gathering of the Eagles* began. Clay and Mary Ellen Uptain, elders and organizers, accepted our Fire Coals for their sacred Fire. Over 300 people attended. Based on Black Elk's Great Vision there have been hundreds of these Unity gatherings all over the world.

• **Canada, Labrador** – On October 4, 2016 Max Penashue accepted the Fire Bundles for his Innu Nation in Labrador. Max is working to bring back the traditions and the teachings to his community and the young people.

• **Canada, Ontario** – On March 7, 2016 Grandmother Josephine Mandamin received the Fire Coal Bundles from Gayle Crosmaz-Brown at Trent University. It was the premier of her film *Sacred Water Circle Gathering 2014*. Josephine is the grandmother who had the vision and walked 1500 miles, for three months, on the original Anishinaabe migration route from Nova Scotia to Madeline Island carrying a copper bucket filled with water.

• **Canada, Ottawa** – On August 24 Annie St. George, an Algonquin Elder, was gifted the Fire Coals in ceremony by Gayle Crosmaz Brown. Annie now honors the Fire by wearing the medicine bag she received with the Fire Coal. Annie opens many events in Algonquin Territory, and sits as an advisor to government and cultural projects.

• **Chicago, Illinois** – On 09-09-2016, a Fire Ceremony was held at Northeastern in honor of the 7-year Anniversary of the 09-09-09 24-hour World Wide Peace Fire. Healers from Mongolia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, veterans, and environmentalists attended the gathering. Many connections to people, places, and peace were made that afternoon.

* **Chicago / Greenland** – On October 15, 2015 Angaangaq Angakkorsuag, an Elder, Teacher, Healer and Shaman, (his name means the man who looks like his Uncle) returned to Northeastern and lit the Sacred Fire using the traditions from his Eskimo-Kalaallit people of Greenland. Angaangaq was "called" by his people to bring home the Sacred Fire to Greenland. On July 17, 2009 elders and spiritual leaders from all over the world made their way to an ancient sacred site on the Top of the World, fulfilling a prophecy so old that no one knows the time. Jane Goodall stood next to Uncle as he lit the Fire. They both placed Fire bundles from our Northeastern Fire into that Sacred Fire.

• **Chicago / Hayward, Wisconsin** – On March 4, 2016 Mary Ellen Baker was given the Fire Coal Bundles at a Fire Ceremony at Northeastern. Mary Ellen has walked the around Lake Michigan and Lake Superior of the Great Lakes. She will be holding a *Women and Water Coming Together Symposium* on the Lac Coutre Oreilles Reservation.

• **Chicago / Mongolia** – On June 22, 2016 at Northeastern, four Mongolian shamans and eight helpers came and did a Sacred Fire and the "Air Ceremony." They shared that it was the first time it was performed in the United States.

• **Chicago / New Zealand** – On June 4, 2016 a Sacred Fire was struck by Kathleen Haerr at Northeastern. The purpose was to connect with the *Mauriora Society Worldwide Simultaneous River Blessing*. Kathleen was adopted by the Maori and given the name Mahuta Te Whaea. She was initiated as one of the *Grandmothers of the Earth* and asked to do this ceremony in Chicago. For further information go to: www.MaurioraSociety.com.

• **Illinois, Homer Glen** – On July 14, 2016 a Fire Coal bundle was give to Father Sotirius (Sam) Dimitriou the pastor at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. On July 19th, 2015, while Father Sam was at Mayo Clinic being treated for

cancer, the 3' x 5' icon of John the Baptist started to "weep" a fragrant liquid that could not be explained. Father Sam came home kissed the icon and his cancer markers were gone. Pilgrims travel far to receive a blessing from the oil.

- **India, New Delhi** – From March 11- 13, 2015 over 3,000,000 people gathered from all over the world at the *World Cultural Event* sponsored by the *Art of Living Foundation and the International Association for Human Values*. Pam Brockman gifted the Fire Coal Bundles to Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the founder and visionary, who formed this organization 30 year ago. The event was to bring people together to celebrate peace. **Lakota Sundance Chief Steve McCullough** was the only Native American elder who was invited and attended this world cultural event.

- **Indiana, Roachdale & Bennington** - On July 9, 2016 a Fire Coal Bundle was added to the lighting of the Sacred Fire by Bill McComb, the head Fire Keeper, at the *Sacred Nations Sundance*. On July 16, 2016, the 25th Anniversary of the *Salt Creek Sundance*, a Fire coal bundle was added to the lighting of the Sacred Fire by the head Fire Keeper Marty Fair. Salt Creek, first Sundance east of the Mississippi, was started to stop the desecration of Native graves.

- **Iraq, Irbil** - In August 2016, Katie Freghetto was given the Fire Coal bundles to carry with her to Iraq. Katie will be teaching there for one year and will leave the coals in special places, or with people she meets. The daily temp is 115 degrees. It is also a place of war and chaos for the children and people who call it home.

- **Mongolia, Kharkorin** – On September 22, 2016, our Fire Coals bundles, along with ashes we mailed from 11 other Peace Ceremonies, were used at the *Mother Earth International Shamans Festival*. Over 300 shamans from Mongolia and around the world attended. We were honored for the acceptance and use of our Fire coals.

- **Nicaragua, Ometepe** - In December 2015, Joanne Trahanas left a Fire Coal at the Beach San Jorge, Isle de Ometepe called "An Oasis of Peace." Joanne also left one at the **Mayasa Volcano** at the Granada Pueblo San Juan de Onente where master family artisans still work in in Pre-Columbian pottery techniques.

- * **Oklahoma, Prague** – On March 19, 2015 at the Fox-Sac Cultural Center, coal bundles were handed to Principal Chief Kay Rhoads, a direct descendent of Black Hawk. Ten miles down the road coal bundles were left at the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague which has a history that goes back 400 years. www.shrineofinfantjesus.com.

- **Peru, Andes Mountains** – In February 2016, Erin Claudio, while on his honeymoon, left the Fire coals in the foothills of Aconcagua. Aconcagua is the tallest mountain in the world outside of the Himalayan Mountains. Erin was the director of the Adventure Programs at Northeastern Illinois University.

- **Portugal, Fatima** – On October 2, 2016 Coal bundles were added to the perpetual Fire at Fatima. On October 13, 1917 the Blessed Mother appeared to three children. Over 5 million people travel to Fatima yearly to "Pray for Peace."

- **Scotland, Orkney Islands** – In August 2015, Jenny Sontag left Fire Coals at The Ring of Brodgar the largest stone circle with 60 megaliths dating back to 3,000 B.C. Another coal bundle was placed at the Stones of Calianish on the Isle of Mann, and the last two on the Isle of Skye at the Fairy Bridge and the Fairy Glen.

- **Sedona, Arizona** – On March 21, 2016 a Fire Coal bundle was given to Al Cornell. Al is part of the "Prehistoric Pyrotechnology " primitive skills group. Al does demonstrations for the park service and has started 7,500 hand drill Fires. He is passionate about sharing his knowledge and skills and the magic of starting primitive Fires.

- **Spain, The Camino** – In September 2016, coal bundles were left along the 500-mile route to Santiago. Today over 250,000 pilgrims from all over the world walk part or all of "The Camino" which is a 1000 year old tradition.

- **Thailand** – In July 2016, Molly Creely and Katie Freghetto traveled all over Thailand and left our Fire Coal bundles. They placed coals at the underwater temple, all of the prayer trees, and the elephant preserve.

- * **Utah, Salt Lake City – World Parliament of Religions** - The Fire coal bundles were carried by Michael Terrian to the World Parliament of Religions. On October 15, 2015, Michael handed the Fire coals to the elders at the opening sunrise Fire Ceremony. They said, "We have been waiting for YOU!" The Fire was the heart of the gathering that involved 10,000 people, 80 nations, and 50 faiths. The theme was "Reclaiming the Heart of Our Humanity."

**In the last 21 years, over 15,000 coal bundles have been carried around the world and used by good-hearted people. ** You can read about the history and details of the entire Fire story at: www.neiupacefire.weebly.com

