



AIM – WEST

1668 Alabama Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
Mobile: (415) 577-1492
eltony@earthlink.net
www.aimovement.org

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For more information:

Antonio Gonzales – Director, AIM-WEST – 415-577-1492

Joyce Umamoto –Volunteer, 415-776-5833

AIM FOR FREEDOM!

A 40 Year Photography & Art Retrospective of the American Indian Movement

Who: AIM-WEST, *an affiliate of the American Indian Movement*, and now officially based in San Francisco, is pleased to present in the Bay Area, AIM for Freedom. A 40 year Photography and Art Retrospective Exhibit.

Where: The photo and art exhibit will be on display at **SomArts Cultural Center**, 934 Brannan Street (between 8th & 9th Streets), in The Bay Gallery, located in San Francisco.

When: The AIM ‘40 Year’s Retrospective’ begins **Tuesday, July 8, through July 31, 2008**. The special exhibit occasion also begins the mid-year count-down preparations for AIM-WEST’s plans to host a special AIM 40 Year commemoration starting from 24-28, November 2008 here in the CITY by the Bay! Mark your calendars NOW!

The Photo and Art exhibit will display events, campaigns, issues and Indigenous leadership, some of whom have also passed on to the spirit world. It will be distinct with a range of posters by local artists, paintings by Paul Owns the Sabre and Leonard Peltier, traditional rugs, banners, blankets and flags contributed from many individuals, organizations and countries in solidarity with AIM’s 40 Years Retrospective, giving the overall effect of “movement”. There will be an opportunity for a “silent auction” of some of the items for sale.

Inside the gallery there will be two traditional tee-pees with a stack of rocks in the middle to help set the tone of the exhibit. There will be music and interviews as well as video clips of AIM in major campaigns, and interviews of testimonies given by Indigenous peoples, friends and supporters.

Why: At the core of the movement is Indian leadership under the direction of NeeGawNwayWeeDun (Clyde H. Bellecourt), Nowa-Cumig (Dennis Banks), and others. The women in the movement like Janet McCloud, Agnes Lamont, and Mary Jean Wilson have had a key role in AIM’s development from the beginning. Indian people were never intended to survive the settlement of Europeans in the Western Hemisphere, our Turtle Island. The liberation of Wounded Knee in 1973 was the catalyst raising the consciousness of the entire world

that Indigenous peoples are still alive in the USA, and are willing to die for their right to the land and their way of life. Wounded Knee was the last military challenge by Native Americans with the U.S. Army to this day.

How: From Alcatraz Island to Washington D.C. future AIM members have left their mark! By asserting their right to self-determination American Indians today can hold their heads up and say they have a place at the table, to include economic independence with the creation of casino enterprises. With the strength of a spiritual base, AIM has been able to clearly articulate the claims of Native Nations and has had the will and intellect to put forth those claims. AIM develops partnerships with an array of allies to address the common needs of the Native Peoples. Its first mandate is to ensure the fulfillment of treaties made with the United States. This is the clear and unwavering vision of The American Indian Movement.

Artists and Photographers include:

Dick Bancroft: Documentary photographer who has chronicled AIM actions since 1971.

Ilka Hartmann: Internationally acclaimed Bay Area photographer.

Michelle Vignes: Long time photo-journalist will feature photographs from her book *Indiens d’Amerique*.

Dave Cordova: Photographer currently on Longest Walk II.

Events Planned:

Opening Reception

Tuesday July 8th, 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Featuring: The Vallejo Sweet Medicine Singers honoring Patricia Bellanger, The California Traditional Pomo Dancers, The All Nation Singers and The Tlingit Women’s Dance Group.

AIM-WEST will proudly recognize the Women of the Movement. Among special guests will be an Elder and leader, Ahwan-Dquay, aka Patricia Bellanger (Anishinabi-Mide), from the Minneapolis region. She is co-founder of the American Indian Movement and a founding member of the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) in 1974 www.treatycouncil.org Patricia helped found the Little House American Indian Housing Project, a health clinic, and is currently advocating health and transplant issues, an Elderly housing project, and much more. Interviews will be on request, please contact the coordinator for information and scheduling, at 415-577-1492 or 415-776-5833. So come on down and share refreshments and snacks while glimpsing the events and achievements made for American Indians during the last 40 years by the American Indian Movement.

Storytelling, Poetry, and Music

Tuesday July 15th, 2:00pm – 8:00pm

Featuring: Storyteller Ann Marie Sayers, all ages welcomed.

Performance and Activities

Tuesday July 22nd, 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Founder’s Day Reception and Fundraiser

Wednesday July 30th, 3:00pm – 9:00pm

Featuring: A ceremony honoring Lee Brightman and the completion of Longest Walk II with Dennis Banks, a book signing featuring AIM authors and artists, The All Nation Singers, The Tlingit Women’s Dance Group, and a performance by Dr. Loco’s Rockin’ Jalapeno Band.

For more information contact Antonio Gonzales at 415-577-1492 or Joyce Umamoto 415-776-5833 to schedule interviews with the photographers, artists, and guests.