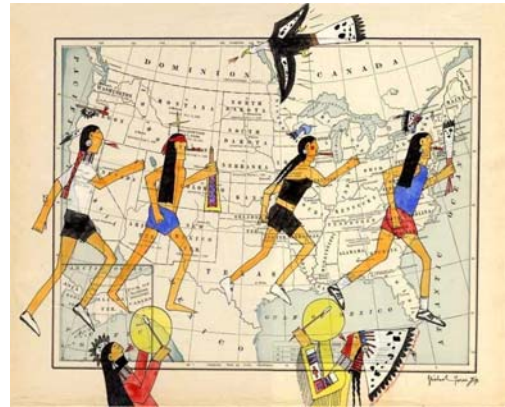


**Sacred Run 2006 ([www.sacredrun.org](http://www.sacredrun.org))**  
**SACRED JOURNEY - A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**  
**Two-Week Update - February 11-26, 2006**  
(Volume 28, Issue 1)

Sacred Run 2006 officially began Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, with a sunrise prayer and pipe ceremony on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay. Alcatraz is highly symbolic and significant to all Native Americans due to the peaceful takeover of the abandoned federal prison in 1969. The site provided a strong and sacred starting point for this year's 71-day crossing of America which culminates in Washington, DC, on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Earth Day.



Originally organized in 1978 by Dennis Banks and AIM (American Indian Movement), the purpose is to promote international peace and understanding for all people and to honor and recognize the sacredness of Mother Earth and everyone who lives here. We're calling for a deeper sense of consciousness and responsibility for all life on this planet: for clean air, soil and water, and for respect for sacred burial sites and other issues that affect land and life.

The Sacred Run team includes international long-distance runners and walkers who are running and walking shifts to cross 12 states and over 4,000 miles as this year's route headed south from San Francisco and swings through the Gulf Coast territory to be with those rebuilding after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

**WEEK ONE:**

After the Alcatraz sunrise ceremony, participants returned to Pier 39 on a special charter Blue & Gold ferry and then carpooled to DQ University in Davis, the first Native American university in California, to circle up and officially begin the journey. After the runners and walkers finished for the day, the group headed south and spent the next two nights at La Paz, the educational retreat center of the Cesar Chavez foundation.

Special thanks for Fred & Connie Short who helped coordinate our stays in various California locations with the help of K.T. Walker, John Molloy and Wounded Knee DeOcampo. Our prayers go out to Fred & Connie on the passing of Fred's aunt.

2/11 - Our first night on the road we were hosted by the wonderful people at Yosemite Parkway United Methodist Church in Merced, CA. Special thanks to David Alvarez, Paster Andrew Bear, Lucinda Duran and all the other excellent supporters.

2/12 - La Paz, CA -- wonderful stay at the Ceasar Chavez educational facility, enjoyed tour of Ceasar Chavez museum and excellent talk by Paul Chavez, son of the legendary worker's rights activist and founder of the UFW (United Farm Workers). Participants received a warm welcome by Rudy Delgado and the entire staff at La Paz.

2/14 - Apple Valley, CA -- Special thanks to Rosemary for the wonderful welcome and home-cooked meal provided by staff and people at Lone Wolf Colony and RV Park. Special thanks to Shirley who volunteered to drive with us the next day to Parker, Arizona, and help with our walking team.

2/15 - Parker, AZ - Thanks to Felton Bricker, Linda Otero of Fort Mojave and George Ray of Colorado River Indian Tribes. They explained the current challenges with PG&E' Compressor Station and chromium contamination of the local groundwater and potential hazards to the Colorado River.

2/16 - Phoenix, AZ - Our first night in Phoenix we were hosted by the Tona Tierra Indigenious Ambassador who graciously provided accommodations for everyone with just a few hours notice. Special thanks to Salvadore Reza and Gustafo and all the people there who were so kind to all of us.

2/17 - Phoenix - Our second night in Phoenix we were hosted by the wonderful people by Salt River Pema Maricopa. Special thanks to Ivan, Meldon and Spencer (Bone), also Garfield Nish presented the three young girls who sang bird songs while he drummed.

2/18 - Payson, AZ - We had to scramble as one of our vans broke down on the way to Payson, transportation of all the runners, walkers and equipment had to be rescheduled to make it to Show Low.

2/19 - Show Low, AZ, Hon-Dah Casino-Resort provided excellent accommodations and even provided buffet dinner and breakfast and even donated their shuttle van to transport nine members of the walking team all the way to Socorro, a distance of about 160 miles. Thank you Hon-Dah.

#### WEEK TWO:

2/20 - Socorro, NM -- Special thanks to the Socorro city council and Sophia's Kitchen for their generous accommodations.

2/21 - Albuquerque, NM

Dennis discussed his role with the American Indian Movement (AIM) as a guest panelist at University of New Mexico discussion of civil rights activism in the 1960's, other participants included David Hilliard of the Black Panthers, and Mark Rudd of the Weather Underground. Because of the crowd of students and community people who

came to hear this historic event of the turbulent 60's the forum had to be moved to a larger auditorium. Even then that space was still too small.

2/22 - Special benefit concert at UMN Continuing Education Building. Special thanks to Dennis' daughter, Tashina Banks, and all the committee for an excellent job. Guest music performers included Cherelle Walker, Rio Grande Drum Group, Kalpulli Chalchihuitzilin, Jade Hummingbird Society-Aztec Dancers, Le Chat Lunatique, Star Naye, Robert Mirabal and our own Kid Valence who performed his new song entitled "The Sacred Run."

2/23 -- Final night in Albuquerque, everyone was invited to participate in a Native American Sweat Lodge Ceremony at home of Pablo and his wonderful family and friends. Over 40 people squeezed into the lodge for a memorable, spiritual ceremony to conclude our time in the beautiful city of Albuquerque.

2/24 - Mountainair, NM - Special thanks to our hosts Dennis Fulfur and the City of Mountainair and the local high school as well the Chuckwagon Restautant for the excellent food.

2/25 - Vaughn, NM -- Special thanks to City of Vaughn and Penny's Diner.

It's been an excellent first two weeks. We'll plan to start sending out an update every week. Thanks for everyone for your prayers and support and healing energy. Together we are making a difference.

For the latest information and photos of the Sacred Run as we move across the country, please visit [www.sacredrun.org](http://www.sacredrun.org)

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