

The Rabbit Dance (Mohawk –Eastern Woodland) Long

ago, a group of hunters were out looking for game. They had seen New animals, but they were shy and did not go through the forest, knowing that at any moment they might find something. Just ahead of them was a clearing. The leader of the hunters held up his hand for the others to pause. He thought he had seen something. All of the men dropped down on their stomachs and crept up to the clearing's edge to see what they could see. What they saw amazed them. There, in the center of the clearing was the biggest rabbit any of them had ever seen. It seemed to be as big as a small bear! One of the hunters slowly began to raise his bow. A rabbit as large as that one would be food enough for the whole village. But the leader of the men held out his hand and made a small motion that the man with the bow understood. He lowered his weapon.

Something unusual was happening. It was best to just watch and see what would happen next. The rabbit lifted its head and looked toward the men. Even though they were well hidden on the other side of the clearing, it seemed as if that giant rabbit could see them. But the rabbit did not take flight. Instead, it just nodded its head. Then it lifted one of its feet and thumped the ground. As soon as it did so, other rabbits began to come into the clearing. They came from all directions and, like their chief, they paid no attention to the hunters. Now the big rabbit began to thump its foot against the ground in a different way.

Ba-pum, ba-pum, pa-pum, pa-pum. It was like the sound of a drum beating. The rabbits all around made a big circle and began to dance. They danced and danced. They danced in couples and moved in and out and back and forth. It was a very good dance that the rabbits did. The hunters who were watching found themselves tapping the earth with their hands in the same beat as the big rabbit's foot. Then, suddenly, the big rabbit stopped thumping the earth. All of the rabbits stopped dancing. BA-BUM! The chief of the rabbits thumped the earth one final time. It leaped high into the air, right over the men's heads, and it was gone. All of the other rabbits ran in every direction out of the clearing and they were gone, too. The men were astonished at what they had seen. None of them had ever seen anything at all like this. None of them had ever heard of seen such a dance. It was all they could talk about as they back to the village. All thought of hunting was now gone from their minds. When they reached the village, they went straight to the longhouse where the head of the Clan Mothers lived. She was a very wise woman and knew a great deal about the animals. They told her their story. She listened closely. When they were done telling the story, she picked up a water drum and handed it to the leader of the hunters. "Play that rhythm which the Rabbit Chief played," She said. The leader of the men did as she asked. He played the rhythm of the rabbit's dance. "That is a good sound," said the Clan Mother. "Now show me the dance which the Rabbit Chief played."

The hunters then did the dance while she listened closely. When they were done, she smiled at them. "I understand," she said. "The Rabbit Chief has given us a gift. We can honor its people for all their beings. If we play their song and know we are grateful for all they have given us, we can call this new song The Rabbit Dance. We will call this new song The Rabbit Dance and women together, to honor the Rabbit People. So it was that

Four Winds of Indian Education, Inc.

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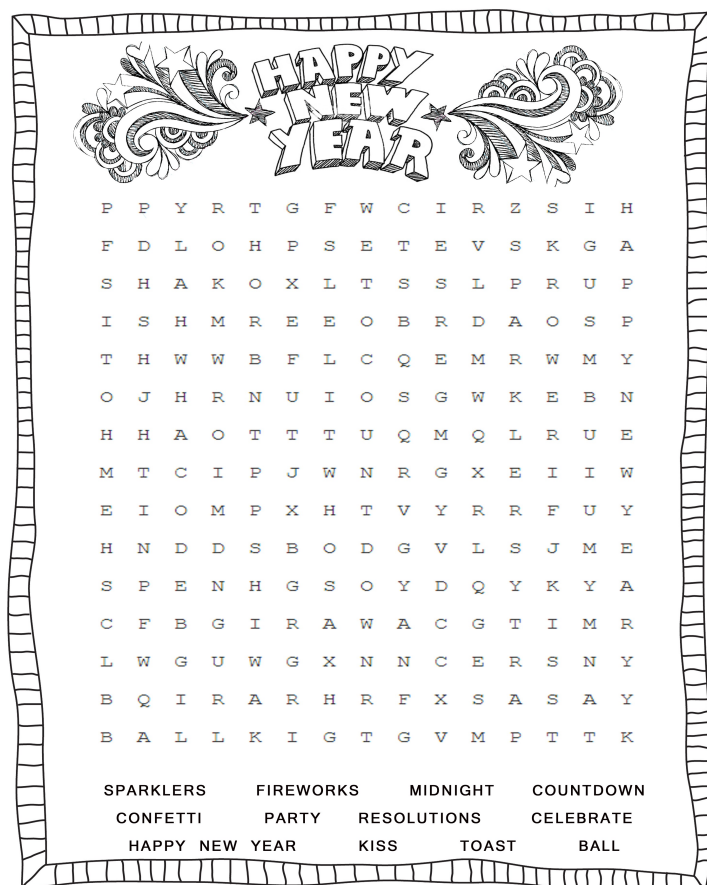
Four Winds of Indian Education Center **Staff Contact numbers**

Phone: 530-895-4212
Fax: 530-895-4310

Directory:
Irma Amaro-Interim Executive Director:
Ext. 110
Darcel Cernas-Coyote Program Coordinator/Program Specialist
Ext. 109
Laurence Gammell-Education Specialist:
Ext. 106
Shane Noel-Fiscal Analyst:
Ext. 101
Nathan Heck- NSP Program Director
Ext. 103



The Rabbit Dance



*** OH! RUBBISH! BLOG *** FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY ***

2019 BAAITS Two-Spirit Powwow

Date: February 2, 2019,

Time: 10am-6pm Grand Entry at 12pm

Place: Fort Mason Center, for Arts & Culture, Festival Pavilion

2 Marine Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94123

Directions: <http://fortmason.org/visit/>

American Indian Two-Spirits come together to socialize in an alcohol and drug-free environment. Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS) is a community-based volunteer organization offering culturally relevant activities for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Native Americans, their families and friends.

Women of Wisdom

Women of wisdom is an evening of intercultural storytelling, learning and hospitality inspired by Native American tribal communities throughout Northern California. Through this event we honor the traditions and philosophies of the nations that preceded our own and offer attendees a greater appreciation of the wisdom of our local tribal communities.

Date: March 1st

Time: 4:30-7:30pm

Place: California State University, Chico 400 West First Street Chico, Ca. 95926 (Bell Memorial Union Auditorium)

42nd Annual California conference on American Indian Education

Date: March 17th-19th, 2019

Location: Hilton Sacramento Arden West

2200 Harvard Street Sacramento, California, 95815

Hotel Reservations: 1-800-445-8667(Reference CCAIE)

Single/Double/Triple/Quad: \$ 95.00 +Occupancy Tax

For more information contact:

Irma Amaro, Co-Chair

Phone: 530-895-4212 x110 **Fax:** 530-8954310

Email: Irma.4winds@gmail.com

Rachel McBride-Praetorius, Co-Chair

Phone:530-898-6241 **Fax:** 530-895-4310

Email: rmcbride@csuchico.edu

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Location: Four Winds of Indian Education
2345 Fair Street, Chico, Ca.
(Step Up Academy Gym)

Time: 6:00 p.m.– 9:00 p.m.

Schedule

January: 10, 17, 24, 31

February: 7, 14, 21, 28

Gathering times will be on the weekends and seasonal.

Open to students 12 years or older and must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information contact:

Irma Amaro: 895-4212 X 110

Darcel Cernas: 895-4212 X 109



Four Winds of Education,
Inc.

**2345 Fair Street
Chico, CA 959**



Four Winds of Indian Education, Inc. is a commercial tobacco-free facility. Only traditional use of tobacco is permitted in/on the premises.