

Growing relationships between Decorah and Meskwaki Folks; the Meskwaki Nation opens Language Preservation to Decorah friends.

About two and a half hours south of Decorah, east of Cedar Rapids, the Meskwaki Settlement, a thriving Indigenous community, is located in the rolling Iowa River valley. The tribe purchased their first 80 acres in Tama County and was Federally recognized on July 13, 1857. Today the Meskwaki Nation comprises more than 1,450 enrolled tribal members and has over 8,624 acres.

Through preservation, community services, and business growth, the people of the Meskwaki Nation are committed to protecting their inherent sovereignty, preserving and promoting their culture, and improving the quality of life for future generations.

Over the last 15 years, the Meskwaki Language Preservation project has initiated many language learning programs and in 2017 they rolled out an adult learner program. With the success of this program it's now time to reprint the Meskwaki Language Primer for new learners.

Wayne Pushetonequa, Meskwaki Language Preservation Director, has opened Meskwaki Language Preservation to Decorah folks to support and participate in the reprinting of the Meskwaki Language Primer, "Meskwaki Atowetaki".



"The Meskwaki Nation works hard to preserve our history. Our people are of Algonquian origin from the Eastern Woodland Culture areas and have been historically located in the St. Lawrence River Valley, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa. We rely on the knowledge and experiences of the past, along with the will to survive to advance the people, culture, and well-being of the Meskwaki Nation." ~ the Meskwaki Nation.

The Meskwaki Language Primer was first printed in the 1980's. Due to the thriving language program, it is time for a reprinting of the Language Primer book. Those interested in building relations with the Meskwaki Nation can contribute to this project with cash contributions to Meskwaki Language Preservation.

"This book is a treasure on so many levels and I think our Meskwaki Language learners will enjoy it," says language learner, Shelley Buffalo.

"People from Decorah and people from the Meskwaki Nation have many things in common. We value learning, growing, and forming good relationships. This opportunity to grow community is a beautiful overture by our Meskwaki friends Shelley Buffalo and Wayne Pushetonequa," says Decorah friend of the program, Carolyn Corbin.



When people from Decorah Unitarian Universalists and Decorah Friends (Quakers) expressed interest in reparations and relationship building, Shelley Buffalo suggested this way to learn about Meskwaki language and history. Wayne Pushetonequa, Meskwaki Language Preservation Director, opened the Preservation program to those wishing to make cash donations as friends of Meskwaki Language Preservation.

Those interested can contribute financially by mailing a check of any amount to “Meskwaki Language Preservation”.

Mail checks to: Meskwaki Language Preservation Department
 303 Meskwaki Road
 Tama, Iowa 52339

Decorah area folks who wish to learn more about the Meskwaki Nation can read the Meskwaki Newsletter for news and developments including Language Preservation projects.

To connect with others interested in growing relationships between Decorah and Meskwaki folks, sign up for the MeskwakiDecorah@gmail.com listserv.