

The White Buffalo Native American

Poet Laureate

The White Buffalo Tribe is true sponsor of the **Native American Poet Laureate poetry contest.** It is not a physical organization, although its lodge members and honorary chiefs are physical people. There are no officers, dues, meetings, bylaws, or rules. Only one way to join exists, as far as we know: each member finds at least one successor and initiates him/her in whatever manner is fitting. They serve in the creative spirit and spiritual intention of the Great Spirit, regardless of actual Native American descent.

Wanda Sue Parrott/Prairie Flower initiates her successors through literary nominations:

- Barbara Youngblood Carr was the first White Buffalo Poet Laureate award winner in 2009;
- Dr. Carl B. Reed was White Buffalo Poet Laureate award winner in 2010;
- Ronald J. Jorgenson, aka Dr. Charles A. Stone was White Buffalo Poet Laureate award winner in 2011.

As laureate poet, each became an Honorary Chief of the White Buffalo Tribe. Two others Wanda named were Barbara Callahan Quin (Little Crow Walking Eagle) and Yvonne Londres (Dances with Poetry), who will carry on when Wanda returns to Spirit.

Each initiate receives a symbolic Native American name by whatever means is appropriate, if he/she does not already have one. Prairie Flower's name came intuitively. She had a Chickasaw ancestor and possibly at least one Cherokee on her father's side, but no proof exists other than her late aunt Geneve Stephenson's genealogy records that are incomplete. Her father was a cloud and shape reader and she has always been intuitive and attuned to various Native American numinous influences of a subtle nature.

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Poet Laureate Program

Wanda Sue Parrott, working with Barbara Callahan Quin and Yvonne Londres, organized the first formal White Buffalo Native American Poet Laureate poetry competition in 2010, receiving 57 entries, a great response for the first open competition! It was a challenge to pick the winning entries from so many great poems, but the contest judges finally arrived at a conclusion for the winner, judging first for compliancy with the contest rules, and secondly for the impact perceived from the Great Spirit.

The 2010 White Buffalo Native American Poet Laureate was Dr. Carl B. Reed, of Altus, Oklahoma, for his poem, "*The Poet and I.*" Two White Buffalo Calf Awards were given to Barbara Youngblood Carr, Austin, Texas, for her poem, "*Dreamdancing Back to Kituwha, Holy Birth Place of the Cherokee*," and Dr. Charles A. Stone, Austin, Texas, for his poem, "*Maiden Rock*."

The 2011 contest brought over 80 poet laureate entries, resulting in the 2011 White Buffalo Native American Poet Laureate award going to Dr. Charles A. Stone, of Austin, Texas, for his poem, "*Grandfather Cypress.*" Two 2011 White Buffalo Calf Awards were given to Ella Cather-Davis, New Richmond, Ohio, for her poem, "*The Four Winds' Song*"; and Hilda F. Wales, Albuquerque, New Mexico, for her poem, "*Familiar Path.*" The quality of entries inspired the judges to add two Third Place and four Fourth Place categories, plus nine additional online honorable mentions.

Judges for the 2010 and 2011 contests were Yvonne Londres, aka Dances with Poetry, and Barbara Callahan Quin, aka Little Crow Walking Eagle. The winning poems from 2010 plus the Unknown Namesake contributions were published as Volume I of *Gifts of the Great Spirit*. The winning poems from 2011 plus the Name the Chief contributions were published as Volume II of *Gifts of the Great Spirit*. Both volumes are sold online through CreateSpace, Amazon, and Amazon Kindle, as well as published in The Dip*loe*mat, official newsletter of Amy Kitchener's Angels Without Wings Foundation, whose founder and editor Wanda Sue Parrott (aka Prairie Flower) was co-sponsor of the 2010 contest, and who served as Contest Coordinator of the 2011 contest.

(Vol. I) - Gifts of the Great Spirit: from White Buffalo to the Unknown Namesake

This beautiful, full-color collection honoring the Native American Spirit of the Unknown Namesake and recognizing the White Buffalo Native American Poet Laureate and Calf Award winners in the 2010 poetry contest, features poetry and prose that will inspire the Native Spirit within you, no matter what your race or creed.

ISBN-13: 978-1452820842:

Order from: <u>https://www.createspace.com/3448329</u> or www.amazon.com, keywords "Gifts of the Great Spirit," or from Great Spirit Publishing at <u>http://www.greatspiritpublishing.yolasite.com/book-store.php</u>.

(Vol. II) - Gifts of the Great Spirit:

to White Buffalo

Original birch bark painting by Maureen "Moe" Paccione graces the cover of Vol. II Native American Spirit of the Unknown Namesake and recognizing the White Buffalo Native American Poet Laureate and Calf Award winners in the 2010 poetry contest, features poetry and prose that will inspire the Native Spirit within you, no matter what your race or creed.

ISBN-13: 978-1466351936:

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