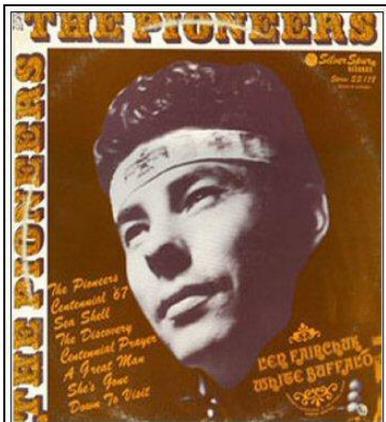
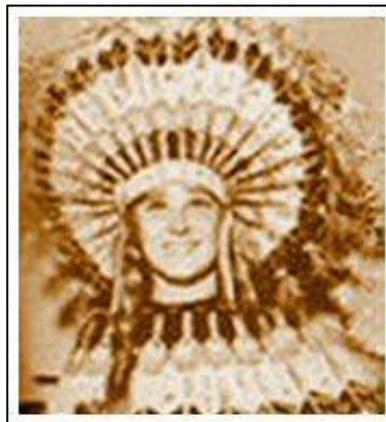




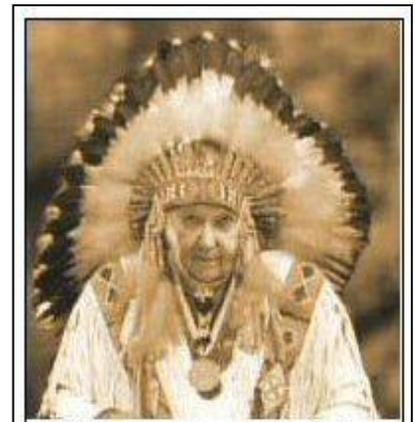
# *The White Buffalo Tribe*



Len Fairchuk



Wanda Sue Parrott (aka Prairie Flower)



In the **White Buffalo Tribe**, Prairie Flower (Wanda Sue Parrott) is a successor to the late-great Canadian artist/musician William Leonard Fairchuk, more familiarly known as Len "White Buffalo" Fairchuk. A Salteaux, Len named Wanda Sue as Honorary Chief of the White Buffalo in 1968 in Los Angeles. Len celebrated talented Canadian First Nation people through his widely popular TV program "The Western Hour." Len died in 2004 and was posthumously inducted into the Aboriginal Music Hall of Fame.

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

## *The White Buffalo Native American*

### *Poet Laureate Program*

Wanda Sue Parrott, working with Barbara Callahan Quin and Yvonne Londres, organized the first 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 Diploemat*, 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.

### *White Buffalo Native American Literary Challenges*

In addition to the poet laureate competitions, literary challenges were offered in 2010 and 2011 where writers were asked to contemplate a specific Native American photograph and then write their impressions about the individual in the picture.



The subject of the 2010 literary challenge was "The Unknown Namesake," featuring the photograph of an unnamed elderly Native American woman. She was a mysterious historical figure captured by photographer Edward S. Curtis (1868-1952), who traveled North America in the 1890s and early 20th century preserving the end-of-the-age of free indigenous life through still photography, recordings of languages, and books.

This photo was dated 1910, but we have no other clues about her, so we called her "The Namesake" and featured her likeness as a metaphor for our initial White Buffalo literary project, the goal of which was and is preservation of Native American customs, beliefs, teachings, languages and other facts through poetry, song lyrics, fiction and non-fiction. We asked writers to give her a name and tell us about her.

Respondents to this challenge, in addition to the winning poems in the 2010 White Buffalo Native American Poet Laureate competition, were show-cased in the *Gifts of the Great Spirit: from White Buffalo to the Unknown Namesake* (available from Great Spirit Publishing, CreateSpace, Amazon, and Amazon Kindle).

When considering a literary challenge for the 2011 poetry contest, the editors were immediately impressed with the work of artist Maureen "Moe" Paccione, the 2010 West Virginia Senior Poet Laureate, who donated the image used in the 2011 literary challenge and which served as the cover for the book, *Gifts of the Great Spirit – Vol. II* (publication late October 2011).

Maureen, whose pen name is "Moe," is a 50-something "struggling artist," who paints on birch bark in her rural home in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. She and her retired police officer husband, live 1,200 feet above the Shenandoah Valley. She has two children. Her sign is Capricorn.

A self-taught artist whose work has sold throughout the U.S. and has been featured in the Journal Newspaper, Moe loves to paint on birch bark. She painted birds, squirrels, other animals and flowers, until her Muse inspired this portrait of an unknown Native American in chief's headdress. Moe claims a Celtic background with no known Indian forebears, so she shares with our readers her mystery chief—whose headband bears a White Buffalo medicine wheel above his temple.

Moe says, "I am an impressionist/realist; I also create traditional pieces on canvas and sometimes give new life to old, throw-away pieces, incorporating them into my artwork, which would make me semi multi-media? I use whatever is available to me, and I am an avid yard sale browser, with an eye for creativity."

Contributors to the "Name the Chief" Literary Challenge were asked to gaze at the face of the Indian Chief and ask silently, "Who are you?" and then wait patiently for their Muse (creative inspiration) to respond by inspiring them to write a poem and/or short story that they felt answered the question and submit for consideration.

The responses to the Challenge varied in style and focus, and are included, along with the winning entries to the 2011 White Buffalo Native American

Poet Laureate contest, in entries to the 2011 White Buffalo Native American Poet Laureate contest, in Vol. II of *Gifts of the Great Spirit*. The editors adjudged none right or wrong, no one story or poem better than another. They were included in the book as offerings, *Gifts to the Great Spirit*, from



the souls of those who answered the call from within. Like the poems in the poetry contest, these writings offer different perspectives of Native American spirituality. While the ultimate goal of the White Buffalo is to emphasize the positive, loving aspect of the True Great Spirit of our understanding, we allowed different points of view for the consideration of our readers.

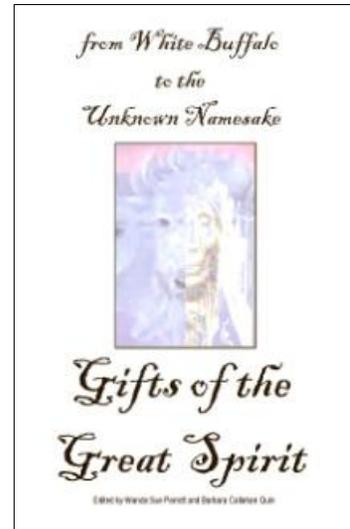
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***(Vol. I) - Gifts of the Great Spirit:  
from White Buffalo to the Unknown Namesake***

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.

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***(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.

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