

During our lunch breaks we heard presentations from members of the community. Dr. Felicia Hodge (Wailaki), Principal Investigator for a study of cancer among Indians in California and Director of Native Studies at Berkeley, spoke about her work in the San Francisco area. She enlightened the Ambassadors about the local Indian tribes, many of which still speak their language and practice their cultural ceremonies and dances. Lily Wong Filmore, Professor with the Language and Literacy Division, Graduate School of Education at UC Berkeley, talked to the group about her work with languages. She shared her findings with the Ambassadors that proves that languages are dynamic and forever changing and adapting. Jim May (United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees) is Vice Provost for Information Resources at California State University in Chico and Visiting Scholar at the Center for the Study of Language and Information at Stanford University. Mr. May creates computer programs that successfully teaches native languages. Each of the presenters added a great deal to our discussion on identity and cultural well-being. As has been our experience at the other Gatherings, not only did the Ambassadors glean knowledge and insight from members of the San Francisco Bay Area Indians, but the local community was honored and proud to be included on our program.

Throughout the Gathering, LaDonna Harris and David Beck met privately with each of the Ambassadors to discuss the progress of each Ambassadors' Field Project. LaDonna and David were able to comment on the content and direction of the projects, as well as suggest resources and funding sources.

While in Berkeley, we attended two receptions held in honor of the Ambassadors. These two receptions allowed the Ambassadors in a social setting to visit and get to know the local urban Indians. AIO believes that understanding the urban Indian community is an important part of effective national leadership.

The first reception was hosted by the American Indian Contemporary Arts Gallery of San Francisco. Members of their Board, their Executive Director and members of the Community joined us for a very pleasant evening at the Gallery. At the reception, Elizabeth Woody, an Ambassador from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, performed a reading of her poetry.

The second reception was generously hosted by a prominent law firm in San Francisco, McCutchen, Doyle, Brown and Enerson. Bill Tharp of the Trefethan Vineyards donated wine for the event. Members of the San Francisco Urban Indian community joined us in honoring the Ambassadors and the AIO Board of Directors. The Ambassadors each spoke to the group about their feelings of the Program and described what they have gotten out of the Program so far. Their words were very touching and rewarding for the AIO staff.