

RAINBOWHAWK

Spirit Warrior for Peace

Dee Alexander
Hirtenstein

We are sitting in a circle around the fire, the sun shines, the wind is blowing and two buzzards float on thermals overhead... and we are remembering.

It is July 2012, and I am taking part in an honouring ceremony in Penwith, Cornwall in the UK for a medicine teacher called RainbowHawk. In New Mexico, in a few hours, another honouring ceremony will be unfolding, and in other places around the world others have already begun, or will soon begin. All in places where wonderful ceremonial time with him had been spent.

RainbowHawk Kinney-Linton, a Metis (mixed blood) medicine man, died in New Mexico at the Village of the Shining Stones, on Tuesday 26th June 2012; his partner and spouse WindEagle with his family by his side. He was 88 years old, and had first brought 'medicine teachings' to Cornwall in 1983.

This story of the medicine begins back in the late

1970's with a visionary psychology lecturer persuading the heads of a Cornish college to introduce a radical course for the Development of Human Potential. A lecturer from Vienna facilitated the group, and brought a link to an Native American medicine man who came the following year from California, teaching for a week and then telling the group they must ask 'Grandfather' to come to Cornwall to give more teachings.

Grandfather was RainbowHawk, and so it was arranged that he would come to Penwith in West Cornwall, and in September 1983 he arrived.

When RainbowHawk arrived in the UK he brought with him his assistant, Raven, and a brand new tipi - a medicine lodge. In attention to detail RainbowHawk had been to Montana and cut the lodge poles himself, then hinged them so that they could be put onto the plane to bring them to the UK.

The lodge was then brought to Cornwall and raised in a field as the centre of the ceremonial gathering, with a further sixteen tents around it to house the seekers attending the ceremony.

WindTree was the medicine teaching centre that RainbowHawk and WindEagle created together, and where they lived as Twin Keepers of 'The Origin Teachings of the Delicate Lodge' - an ancient tradition of earth wisdom originating from the Americas. There, together, they co-founded the Ehama Institute which became their formal teaching organisation.

WindTree was the home of their medicine teachings for 13 years, with a beautiful eight sided Council House with a central fire pit, and further buildings creating a village of cabins for those on their training programme. The whole complex was surrounded by gardens leading down to a large medicine circle with a sand surface. This was raked daily so that the pattern of the rake spikes spiralled out from a fire pit in the centre, creating beauty and perfection in the environment.

Talking and dreaming and planning happened, a vision of two thousand circles spread around the Earth was brought forward and the first European tour of RainbowHawk and WindEagle was arranged in 1996, in Cornwall, Scotland, Ireland, Germany and Finland. Out of each, medicine circles were created to continue the practice of the teachings.

RainbowHawk, then aged 72, declared that the teachings were coming to the land of Brigit and to the lands of Europe carrying a dream... "We come to these places of ancestors in respect and to honour the old people of these lands and the dreams they held that are the heritage of the people now living there."

They both taught that it was important in these changing times that people all over the world awaken the remembrance of the sacredness of life and the beauty of the spirit of the self; and shared that the old chiefs had said "This is the time for the dream to come alive again in the peoples' hearts and minds."

The following year saw another summer of ceremonies. Their teachings were expanded and in a moment of spontaneity I contacted the organisers of the large British summer festival, 'The Big Green Gathering,' who welcomed them, allowing a ceremony there that touched many people.

RainbowHawk linked a multitude of people around the world and filled his life with 'the extraordinary' in every aspect of its expression. As the youngest Chief Petty Officer in the US Navy during World War II - out in the Pacific theatre - RainbowHawk's war experience had a profound impact on his life journey, and led him to dedicate his life to peace. As a young man he was Navy feather weight fleet boxing champion, but he also had a great love of art and literature which took him to Paris for three years, where he painted with Picasso; and he had a life-long love of American football which led him to play as a running back at Michigan State. He also studied architecture, spending time with American architect, interior designer, writer and educator Frank Lloyd Wright.

RainbowHawk found great meaning in exploring the world's spiritual paths and had a strong affinity for Zen Buddhism, but his

early roots and his own Native American heritage was a profound influence throughout his life.

In 2007 RainbowHawk and WindEagle co-founded the 'World Foundation for the Discipline of Peace,' and continued their travels worldwide with this new initiative.

And so, on this day in July 2012, in this honouring ceremony in Cornwall I am sitting around the fire with others, remembering. Around the circle from me Chris Luttichau begins his story and I settle back to enjoy it:

"I first met RainbowHawk back in '83, when I was studying with Evelyn Eaton. He told me that his name came from a vision quest when he saw a hawk flying through a rainbow.

"At that time he was building a medicine camp in the Sierra Nevada's in Eastern California. He'd bought a piece of land and built a beautiful round Council House with poles in each of the four sacred directions. He lived upstairs in his private quarters - all one room. RainbowHawk was the elder there, he was known because he loved the people.

"Back in the early eighties it was a very exciting time; the first time that the teachings were being shared on this scale in an open way, and the medicine camp was very lively and soon became a real International centre - an Australian Aboriginal came and shared teachings from his people, and someone from the Far East, and a man with a Tibetan background came. A large Tibetan Buddhist Green Tara statue was given a central place, as Hawk liked to make the whole camp very beautiful.

"He built a big medicine wheel and created a lawn, then around the circle he made an eight pointed star with white pebbles - eight points for the eight sacred directions. Japanese cherry trees and other fruit trees were planted around the points of the star.

All the years I was there, ceremony was always going on, different kinds of people came - from very ordinary people to rock stars - and even some people from Disney - all coming to do ceremony. He was so good at talking with anybody he attracted people around him.

In the evenings we'd watch movies in the Council House, as a unique way of learning, always without alcohol but with loads of laughter, it was a very vibrant time.

I remember sometimes we would sit in a cafe and he'd give teachings. Once Hawk and I were left with just my motorbike, and we set off with him sitting on the back. I'll always hold the image of him, an elder, with his long grey hair streaming behind him, as we rode up the mountain back to camp."

Chris paused, seemingly remembering something, then launched into stories again.

"As well as his generosity, he had a fierceness which was inspiring to see; it came from fighting in the Pacific. He had a warrior's fierceness, yet he was always benevolent and full of heart.

"In his seventies he was always first up a ladder, he was very energetic, the whole process of building houses was woven together with giving the teachings. He'd give us teachings while we were building, a very practical way of working and teaching. One day he said he'd teach us 'seagull medicine.' He took us down to the sea, made us sit in a beach chair, gazing out to sea and having an ice-cream... that was 'seagull medicine.'

"I was taken aback by the deep wisdom he had, a clarity of mind; he could see things others couldn't see. I was doing ceremony for RainbowHawk just seven hours before he died, and after a blackbird with a white head flew in and stayed there for half an hour and a hawk flew from east to west."



The talking stick is passed further around the circle, stories are told and the message remains the same, that the teachings changed

lives. The sacred pipe, which has been on the altar by the fire, was passed around the circle too, in a final remembering of the many gifts and tools we have been given.

This story of the honouring circle for RainbowHawk is being shared here in Sacred Hoop because a group of us, people living in the UK and in Europe who have been working with the medicine for many decades have undertaken to look into our role in eldership here, and what that means for us and 'the medicine' here. We recognise that we are the holders of pieces of history - like times spent with RainbowHawk; holders of how the medicine teachings came into Britain. These stories of times spent with RainbowHawk need to be told so that they are not lost.

Written with love and the blessings of the memories and teachings that form my life today.
For All My Relations

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Thanks to Chris Luttichau for allowing his words to be used in this article

Photo of RainbowHawk sitting by the window StarFire (Kevin Spitzer)

Photo of RainbowHawk and hawk Liz Oettinger
Inset of RainbowHawk and WindEagle by an unknown photographer

For information on the continuing work of the Ehama Institute:
www.ehama.org
www.disciplineofpeace.org
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