



Dixie Archaeology Society

December 2019 Newsletter

The Dixie Archaeology Society does not meet in December. We are planning to have our annual get-together in the spring rather than in December. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

Our club traditionally supports the annual Shivwits Toy Drive. Please consider making a monetary donation through M&S Turquoise at 53 East. St George Blvd, St George, UT 84770. Or you may wish to join a toy drive hike:

Shivwits Toy Drive Hike, Santa Clara River

Saturday, December 14th

10 am to 1 pm

Shivwits Band Member Glenn Rogers will guide a hike on the Enepitsi Trail to petroglyph panels beside the Santa Clara River. Please join us in supporting the annual Shivwits Toy Drive Fundraiser.

Email sarah@conserveswu.org to RSVP today!

We are looking for a volunteer to send out the monthly emails and maintain the MailChimp email membership list. The MailChimp platform is easy to use, and training will be provided. Contact Kaye Robinson (whitefeather7@gmail.com) for more information.

Happy Holidays to all!

November 2019 Speaker

“Lifeways of the Southern Paiutes” by Shanandoah Anderson

Shanandoah Anderson is a Southern Paiute from the Shivwits Band in Utah. She was raised very traditional and learned everything from survival skills, native foods, plants, crafts, hide tanning, weapons, games, beadwork, quillwork, and sign language from listening to the elders on Paiute history, culture and beliefs. She taught at various reservation schools for K-12 classes on cultural crafts and activities. She is the editor and one of the illustrators for her father LaVan Martineau’s book: *The Southern Paiute: Legends, Lore, Language, and Lineage*.

Shanandoah will be doing a presentation called “Lifeways of the Southern Paiutes” about the rich cultural history of the Southern Paiute tribes of Southern Nevada, Utah, California, and Arizona. She will share insight about many aspects of the Southern Paiute peoples.

Our November speaker was Shanan Anderson who is a member of the Shivwits band of Paiute. As a Southern Paiute, Shanan told the Archeology club that the name for Paiute is actually Nuwu that means “The People”. Nuwu is who they really are...what they call themselves.

There are five Southern Paiute reservations in Utah. The Shivwits reservation has 312 members; Cedar has 289; Kanosh has 143; Koosharem is at 130; and Indian Peaks is the smallest at just 48. Altogether there are 1,893 Southern Paiute members.

The Paiutes date back to 1100 A.D.; however, they will tell you that they have always been here. These peaceful people are quiet and like to tease. They pray every day. Their Creator God is Toovuts (Wolf). Suhnuv (Coyote) is the trickster. Mountain Sheep (Nah’gah) are their protectors and are sacred animals.

The slave trade, started by the Spanish in the 1700’s, devastated the Southern Paiute. The Spanish stole the Paiute children, took them to

California, and sold them into slavery. In 1779-1782, a Smallpox Pandemic killed many. In fact, Small Pox and Measles were deliberately brought to the people for the purpose of eliminating them completely. However, the people are resilient and will stay strong and overcome the many obstacles that come their way.

There are many interesting facts in their culture and language. For instance, in their language there is no word for "Hello" or "Goodbye". Southern Paiute women won't look you in the eye. Babies are often given a nickname, but their actual name may not be given for as long as a year after they are born. They pass their sign language on from generation to generation by picture writing on the rocks. Older members of the family eat first. When a visitor comes, the woman will get up and prepare a meal even when people aren't hungry.

Many social gatherings and dances take place. Mountain Sheep horns and bird feathers adorn their regalia. Clothes are made from buckskin and rabbit skin. Circle Dances and the Bear Dance were popular. The last time the Bear Dance was performed was in the 1960's. They are trying to bring the Bear Dance back.

Stories are very important in the culture and are told only during the winter months. The people gather around the storyteller to learn their history and stories of the Creator. We can learn much from the Southern Paiute and the strength they have to endure and overcome the hardships that continue to come their way.