THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Department of Language, Reading and Culture and American Indian Studies Announce

SOUTHWEST MEMORY
Voices and Views on Indigenous Arizona History

O'ODHAM CALENDAR STICK
A mnemonic device carved by José Maria, of the village of Stl Nagga (Saddle Hanging), records events from 1893–1910. The distance between each notch represents a year from sahuaro harvest to sahuaro harvest. Originally started by María’s father, the notches and cuts record various happenings which only the owner can interpret. This stick is made of pine. Reading from top to bottom inside the boxed area:

1893-1894  Fiesta de Kaj Mek.
1890-1891  First dance given by Tohono O’odham in Tucson for white people.
1901-1902  Big kick ball race at Fremont Village (Jaywal Dak or Devil Sits), the northern villagers winning against the southern villagers.
1902-1903  San Xavier villagers dance at Tucson.
1903-1904  The cross indicates the building of a home for the Fathers at San Xavier.
1904-1905  Feast celebrated in honor of St. Francis; a stone kick ball race between the western villages as far west as Gila Bend.
1905-1906  Two uncertain years.
1907-1908  Drifting of the first well at Stl Nagga.

A calendar stick like this one can be found at the Arizona State Museum in Tucson.

INSTITUTE TOPICS

WEEK 1
Landscapes and Lifeways: Indigenous Arizona History through Oral and Written Accounts

WEEK 2
Land, People and History: the Colorado Plateau

WEEK 3
Land, People and History: the Canyon and Rim Country

WEEK 4
Land, People and History: the Southwest Desert

GUEST SPEAKERS

EDGAR PERRY
Apache Cultural Historian

ANCITA BENALLY
Navajo Educator and Historian

RAMSON LOMATTWAMA
Hopi Poet, Educator and Historian

CATHERINE STEELE
Apache Bilingual Educator

LUCILLE J. WATAHOMIGIE
Hualapai Bilingual Educator

WILLIAM ALLEN
Pima Historian and Educator

DANIEL LOPEZ
Tohono O’odham Singer, Writer and Educator

FELIPE MOLINA
Yaqui Singer, Writer and Historian

LARRY EVERS
Professor of English

KEITH BASSO
Linguist and Ethnobiologist

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The University of Arizona, Tucson

FACULTY

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