



The White Buffalo

Native American

Literary Challenge

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 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.

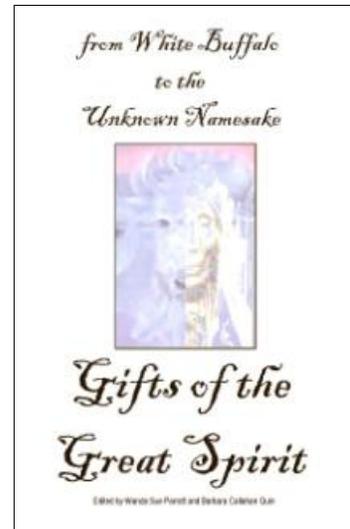


***(Vol. I) - Gifts of the Great Spirit:
from White Buffalo to the Unknown Namesake***

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.

ISBN-13: 978-1452820842:

Order from: <https://www.createpace.com/3448329> or www.amazon.com, keywords "Gifts of the Great Spirit," or from Great Spirit Publishing at <http://www.greatspiritpublishing.yolasite.com/book-store.php>.



***(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.

ISBN-13: 978-1466351936:

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