

# WINTER 2010

MISS INDIAN ARIZONA NEWS

VOL 1, NO 2.



## Miss Indian Arizona News

### Welcome to our Winter Issue!

The Summer and Fall have flown by, and we have a new Miss Indian Arizona to present to you! Daryl Lynn Jay, from the Gila River Indian Community, was selected as the 2009-2010 Miss Indian Arizona. She has already been busy ever since being crowned, and has been to several events already, including the Fiesta Bowl Parade, and the Chandler Multicultural Festival. Look on the Page 3 for more upcoming events.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Earleen Patricio for a very successful reign as Miss Indian Arizona. She has had a very fast paced and BUSY year, but was very successful in keeping up with her classes as well as doing MIA events at the same time. It has been a pleasure working with her, and we wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

This month we are excited to announce several new ways in which we will be interacting with the public. First, we now have an online form for requesting appearances. Now, you can send requests for appearances 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, without worrying about postage or phone calls.

Second, we have joined the internet craze! We are now on Twitter and Facebook! Become a fan on Facebook and interact with other fans, leave a message or share your pictures of Miss Indian Arizona's appearances with others. Follow us on Twitter and get up to the minute news, links, pictures from the road and random tweets from the Association, and Miss Indian Arizona herself. We may even hold contests from time to time. Not to worry, we can still be contacted through regular mail and phone!

With the new year upon us, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all safe and happy 2010! We thank you for all your support through 2009, and look forward to your continued support in the new year.

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# 2010

Miss Indian Arizona News is a intermittent publication of the Miss Indian Arizona Association, and the Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program. The Miss Indian Arizona Association is composed of a variety of individuals, several of whom are past MIA title holders and participants. Membership in the organization is open to all interested individuals. *If you are interested in participating in the Miss Indian Arizona Association, or contributing material for future publication, please visit our website at [www.missindianarizona.com](http://www.missindianarizona.com) or email us at [info@missindianarizona.com](mailto:info@missindianarizona.com)*

## Full Results

### Miss Indian Arizona

Daryl Lynn Jay  
Gila River Indian Community

### First Attendant

Mykhal Mendoza  
White Mountain Apache Tribe

### Second Attendant

Anseenia Shirley  
Navajo Nation

### Miss Congeniality

Gionna Cooper  
Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian  
Community

### Evening Wear Award

Daryl Lynn Jay  
Gila River Indian Community

### Community Service Award

Mykhal Mendoza  
White Mountain Apache Tribe

### Essay Award

Daryl Lynn Jay  
Gila River Indian Community

### Peoples' Choice Award

Daryl Lynn Jay  
Gila River Indian Community



Participants of the 2009-2010 Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program. (L-R) Gionna Cooper, Anseenia Shirley, Lanea Rose Burdette, Daryl Lynn Jay, Mykhal Mendoza and Tayla Tahbo

## 48th Annual Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program

Another year has passed, and we had another successful Scholarship Program. This year, we held the program at the Mesa Arts Center, and the evening was very well attended, with over XXX people in attendance. This year's theme was "Native Women - Keepers of our Culture." We had six participants in this years program.

- Lanea Rose Burdette - San Carlos Apache Tribe
- Gionna Cooper - Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Cooper
- Daryl Lynn Jay - Gila River Indian Community
- Mykhal Mendoza - White Mountain Apache Tribe
- Anseenia Shirley - Navajo Nation
- Tayla Tahbo - Colorado River Indian Tribes.

Congratulations to all the participants for their very impressive performances throughout the evening. We are all very proud of what you accomplished during the program, not just on the night of the program, but they days leading up to the event. We wish you all continued success in your future endeavors, and look forward to seeing you and your accomplishments in the future.

## Jaymee Moore crowned Miss Indian NAU 2009-2010

Northern Arizona University held their annual Miss NAU pageant Nov. 20 at the Cline Library assembly hall. Six contestants entered with the hopes of winning the crown to represent Native American students at Northern Arizona University. In the end, sophomore Jaymee Li Moore, 19, was crowned the new Miss Indian NAU 2009-2010. She is a Miss Indian Arizona Alum, having been crowned 1st Attendant 2007-2008.

Moore is currently seeking a BS in applied Indigenous studies, with an emphasis in policy administration and her minor is political science. She is from the Mohave/Chemehuevi/Hopi tribes and is a member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes in Parker. Her parents are Jonathan Moore and Lynette Stevens.

When asked why she entered the contest, she replied "I thought it would be a great opportunity to remember my college experience and youth." She added, "Always give the gift of encouragement, because you give [students] a boost to overcome some threshold that might be holding them back."

The Miss Indian NAU Scholarship Pageant, presented by the Native Americans United student club, promotes cultural awareness and understanding of tribal/Indigenous groups, positively represents Native American students at NAU, and assists in strengthening the recruitment and retention of Native American college students.

Along with her new title and crown, Moore also won a \$1,600 scholarship to help with her education. Congratulations to Jaymee on her accomplishment, and continuing her education

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## Spotlight - Veronica Homer



Beginning with this issue, we will be shining the “Spotlight” once more on one of our previous 45 titleholders. To kick things off, we will be highlighting the first ever Miss Indian Arizona, Veronica Homer.

Veronica is an enrolled Mohave member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. She comes from lineage which includes Shasta (California) from her late mother Alice Courts Home and Mohave (Arizona/California) from her late father Pete Homer Sr. She has one daughter, Alice “Renee” Murdock and one granddaughter Veronica Mildred Murdock, her namesake. She comes from a family of eight, with sister Denise Homer, Marlene Powell, and Sylvia “Cindy” Homer, and three brother Pete Homer Jr. Brother John and Gary Homer are no longer living.

She was selected as Miss Indian Arizona at the Arizona State Fair sponsored by the Arizona

State Fair Commission in November 1961. In January 1963 as Head Majorette, she left the Arizona Inter-Tribal Band down Constitution Avenue during President John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural Parade. Veronica states “All the Indian Bands in Arizona joined together to represent Arizona in the Inaugural Parade for President John F. Kennedy. I was selected as Head Majorette and my picture was on the front page of the Arizona Republic. The trip to Washington D.C. was made by bus taking three days, we arrived on a snowy day which was a new adventure for me and the first time I had been in snow! The Director of the Band was the late Loren Emerson, a tremendously musically talented man. I made many friends, and the trip was one of the most memorable events of my reign.”

After five years of administering the Neighborhood Youth Corps for CRIT, Veronica was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Colorado River Tribal Council in 1969, continually serving as Vice-Chairman or Recording Secretary until 1980. She became politically active in state and national affairs during her tenure. In 1977 she was elected as the first woman President of the National Congress of American Indians after previously serving as Vice President and Recording Secretary and Area Vice President.

She entered Federal Government Service in 1980 as Tribal Operations Specialist at Colorado River Agency in Parker, AZ. In 1987 she transferred to the Western Nevada Agency in Carson City, NV as Tribal Operations Officer. In 1989 Veronica accepted a position as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior and transferred to Washington D.C. In 1994 she was selected as Superintendent of the Salt River Agency where she served three tribes; Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. In 2004 she retired

after 25 years of service to Indian Tribes in the Federal Government and 15 years of service to the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

During her career she served on various Governor’s Commissions, the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, Charter Member and President of the Irataba Society, National Indian Days Coordinator, established little Miss CRIT in 1969, Director Miss Indian Arizona 1969-1987, Soroptimists International, Arizona Humanities Commission, 1st Alternate to OAS Inter-American Indian Institute for South & North America, 1985 one of thirty-five delegates of women for a Meaningful Summit who met with Soviet President Gorbachev in Switzerland, 1990-94 Member of the Women’s Auxiliary VEVITA (Vietnam Era Veteran’s Inter-Tribal Association – MA/VA) 1994 Re-established Miss Indian Arizona Statewide Committee under the auspices of ITCA, 2003 Founding Member and Co-President of Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN), 2005 CRIT Royalty Committee, 2008 Chairman of the First Things First CRIT Regional Partnership Council, serving the town of Parker and CRIT.

She has been recognized for her many accomplishment sand contributions to organizations, tribes, and her role in the support of Women, Children Youth and Elders. She also serves as Elder in the Parker Valley Presbyterian Church. In retirement she remains committed to lead an active and constructive life, caring for her granddaughter and attending Head Start functions with her daughter. In 1998 Veronica began researching and creating Mohave potter, considering herself only a beginner. It is her hope to become a practicing potter.

## Dates

If you have an event which you feel should be in our calendar, please send your event details to [info@missindianarizona.com](mailto:info@missindianarizona.com).

We will gladly list such events as tribal pageants, powwows and celebrations, as well as workshops, meetings and other events which might be of particular interest to Indian Women.

### January

2

Fiesta Bowl Parade - Downtown Phoenix

16

Chandler Multicultural Festival

30

Native Trails - Scottsdale Center for the Arts - 11:00 am

### February

6

Vietnamese Tet New Year Celebration - 68 S Dobson, Mesa  
10:30 am Opening  
6:30pm Fashion Show and Talent

14

Valentine’s Day ♥

15

President’s Day

### March

6

Coolidge Cotton Day Parade  
10:00am - Coolidge AZ

14

Daylight Savings Begins

17

St. Patrick’s Day ♣

# Miss Indian Arizona Association Members

**Patty Ferguson, President**  
*Pointe au Chiene*

**Daris Laffoon, Vice Pres./Secretary**  
*Colorado River Indian Tribes*

**Denise Homer, Exec. Director**  
*Colorado River Indian Tribes*

**Veronica Homer, Historian**  
*Colorado River Indian Tribes*

**Eileen Hill**  
*White Mountain Apache Tribe*

**Michelle Homer**  
*Colorado River Indian Tribes*

**Tara Kitcheyan**  
*San Carlos Apache Tribe*

**Vicky Laffoon**  
*Colorado River Indian Tribes*

**Angeline Mahkee**  
*Zuni Pueblo*

**Darin Mahkee**  
*Zuni Pueblo*

**Alice Renee Murdock**  
*Colorado River Indian Tribes*

**Earleen Patricio**  
*Tohono O'odham*

**Yvonne Schaaf**  
*Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian  
Community*

**Daryl Lynn Jay**  
*Miss Indian Arizona 2009-2010  
Gila River Indian Community*



## Support our Organization

The Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program is sponsored by the Miss Indian Arizona Association. The Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program is open to Indian women ages 16-25, who are Arizona residents, and either currently enrolled, or plan to enroll in post-secondary education programs.

Over the last 48 years, the Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program has shaped the lives of the many women who have participated, in a very positive manner. One of the greatest achievements of the Program has been to encourage, prepare and reward deserving young

Indian women throughout Arizona. Each year the Miss Indian Arizona Scholarship Program provides more than \$6000 in scholarship funds to young Indian women. Awards range from \$200 to \$3500. If you would like to volunteer, or make financial contributions to our organization, please contact:

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