

## 2013 NATIONAL INTERVENTION TOUR TO EXTEND THE FUTURE OF SNOW



LAUNCHED AT LOUP LOUP SKI AREA (WA)



©Shelli Martinez

Coville Tribal kids enjoying Loup's Future Olympians Ski & Snowboard Program for 20 yrs.



Suzy Welcoming Coville Elder Ernie Brooks



Ernie led Snowdance Gratitude ceremony



Suzy, Ernie, and hosts Sandy & Coleen Lyman  
© Terry Hunt



After the ceremony Ernie got a wild ride by ski patrol and Suzy entertained him with a ski ballet.



Twisp is a friendly little artistic, tasty organic town with modest sustainable homes, like Sandy & Coleen built next to the Twisp River where 13 eagles showed up recently.

# SUN VALLEY'S SHOSHONE CEREMONY



Local medium Eric Laws leads mt clearing ceremony



Shoshone Rosanne Abrahamson, bottom center, helping orchestrate snowdance for SLOC that saved Utah Olympics.

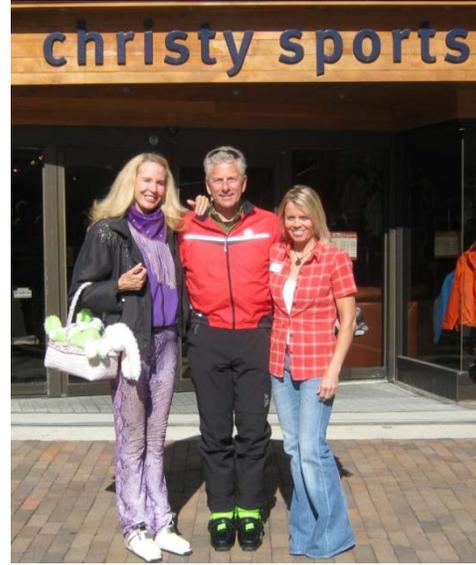


Conrad Casser helping Sandy & Suzy with ceremony snowdances & spreading the word to thank Mother Earth when it snows and rains.



Sun Valley SkiCo's Mark Thoreson learning about gratitude

## HAILING SNOWBIRD'S LAKOTA-UTE PROGRAMS on Easter



Carving up the Bird with Delaney Tyon, Lakota National Nastar Champ, and honoring their Olympic coaches, along with grandpa Lou and Billy Kidd, who have helped make him (and two other Lakotas) a force in jr racing - see below. We also honored Christys for beating the drum for affordable skiing and assisting Native youth.



Sandy learning to lead a ceremony. Suzy and Danny Bass leaving a thank you message for Dick along with a green Easter bunny so renewable, like Danny's algae biodiesel, can multiply like rabbits!

## ASPEN'S UTE-HOPI GRATITUDE SNOWDANCE



Former N. Ute Chairman, Roland McCook, the Utah Olympic host, led ceremony, sponsored by Aspen SkiCo. Renowned Hopi and N.Ute dancers, singers, skiers and Elder Loya Arum who performed in the Utah Olympic Opening & son Dan for the President of France. Diane Kessler (center), is Aspen coordinator.

© Sakhi Zach

© Dianne Kessler – Aspen-Ute Foundation



Many of these Ute dancers have won Nastar medals in Aspen!

## TELLURIDE'S SNOWDANCE & SALUTE TO GENERAL SCHWARZKOPF



Rabbi Michel Saftler ( black), and Louis Aragon (Ute Mt-Apache) led Salute & Snow gratitude ceremony – Constance Lehi (Ute Mt - center) danced, Pittsburg judge (in white) Mary Ann Cercone applauded all the leaders. TelSki's Ute Sculpture in the Mt Village



© Jessica Schwarzkopf

The Utes led a prayer song for the late General Norman Schwarzkopf on April 6 after (L-R) Olympic ice dancer Naomi Lang (Karuk Tribe) and skier Suzy Chaffee earlier saluted him for helping inspire Telluride's Ute Ski program that snowballed to 10,000 tribal youth.



Telluride's happy Ute Mt Future Olympians Ski & Snowboard program. Elder Reggie Lopez and his kids give tobacco at the top of the mountain each time they come, and it snowed each time. Telluride's program, endorsed by SIA President Ingime, provides lift tickets and a few lessons for \$15, while Christys & Bootdoctors provides rentals to enhance the good snow karma.

## SKI SUNLIGHT



(L-R) Itz, Tonantzen and Xih Martinez - the Azteca World Youth leader of Boulder – 1<sup>st</sup> time skiing!



"Awesome fun and thank you Tom, Sandy and Suzy," said the Aztecas and Denver's Seven Falls Dancers/Snowboarders who danced for Katie Couric and the Lt. Governors of America.

GLENWOOD'S SACRED SPRINGS – Powerful GRATITUDE PRAYERS with Aztecas



STEAMBOAT



Billy Kidd's (Abenaki) N. Ute Future Olympians program. He also won the ISHA Broadcasting Award at Vail!

# VAIL

VAIL DAILY

Wednesday, April 17, 2013, (courtesy of VailDaily.com)

## Calling on the snowdance in Vail

### Could national snow gratitude ceremonies extend future of snowsports?

By Randy Wyrick  
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Vail, CO Colorado



Former Olympian Suzy Chaffee was a Ford Agency model and World Champion freestyle ballet skier.



Jerry Ford skis with Olympic skier Suzy Chaffee in Vail.



Alpine Olympic medalists Billy Kidd and Suzy Chaffee were regulars at the annual American Ski Classic. Chaffee is traveling western ski areas helping Native Americans with snow appreciation ceremonies to help increase snowfall. She was in Vail last weekend and asked for some snow blessings. This week, it snowed 2 feet or more.



Suzy Chaffee has been touring western ski areas to help perform Native American snow appreciation ceremonies. She was in Vail last week as she and others expressed their appreciation to Mother Earth, and Monday it snowed more than a foot.

When Suzy Chaffee was in Vail last week, she thanked Mother Earth for all the snowblessings this season.

Between Saturday and Monday, we received more than 2 feet of snowblessings. On Wednesday, we were blessed with another foot or so with more snowblessings in the forecast this week.

We're just sayin'.

"It's an incredible solution that seems to be working to extend snowsports and water for crops and drinking," Chaffee said.

The world is Chaffee's dance partner. Don't believe it? Check out the video of her snow dancing in Vail.

"When the snow is that joyful it makes it easy to dance," she said.

Chaffee has been front and center with the Native American Olympic Team Foundation, creating snowsports and Olympic opportunities for Native American youth.

The UN's 192 countries say that regenerating the earth will require a combination of new technology and ancient wisdom, especially through the tribes.

The Ancient Wisdom part of the equation is affordable for any ski area. Therefore, Native American Olympic Team Foundation launched a series of Gratitude Snowdances across America.

"We're starting with some green trendsetters who wanted to ensure their grandchildren can enjoy our beloved snowsports," Chaffee said.

Sandy Liman runs Washington's Ski the Loup. He and Chaffee grew up ski racing together, so he brought her to the Loup for a ceremony with the Coville tribe. That led them to Sun Valley with the Shoshone, Snowbird with the Northern Utes, and Telluride.

Wherever she was involved with Gratitude Snowdances, it snowed.

So it should surprise no one that in Chaffee's wake some major snowblessings landed on Colorado and Utah this week.

Again, we're just sayin'.

Chaffee points out that in 2009, 192 countries recognized that "Mother Earth is a phenomenally wise, compassionate, sensitive being."

“That’s why the Elders taught me and ski communities to say, ‘Thank you, Mother Earth, when it snows or rains,’ since She responds even more generously than people,” Chaffee said.

Liman skied for the University of Colorado from 1962-67.

“I’ve been around Vail since it was hatched,” he said.

He remembered Vail’s Southern Ute snowdance in December 1963, when the fledgling ski area’s second ski season was starting as dry as the first.

Bob Parker, Vail’s vice president and original marketing director, contacted the Southern Ute tribe and convinced them to come to Vail to do a snow dance.

Actually, it was a rain dance, but it worked.

They told Parker it would snow on Dec. 18, 1963. On that day, Vail received 2 feet of snowblessings.

“They may have powers we don’t have,” Parker said.

Chaffee came up to help get a Coville Elder to bless their mountains at Ski the Loup, a small nonprofit ski area in Washington state. They don’t make snow, so they need all the snowblessings they can get.

“I just think, ‘Why not? What can it hurt?’” Liman said. And it’s always good to express a little gratitude.

“When you’re skiing in great snow, it’s a spiritual experience,” Liman said.

Liman was convinced enough that he and Chaffee took her show on the road for the Snowdance Intervention Tour, driving to Western ski areas in his 50-mpg VW Golf clean diesel.

Chaffee says it makes sense at so many levels: extending snow for snowsports, snowmelt for nature and our drinking water and food supply.

“Tom Jankovsky, general manager of Glenwood’s Ski Sunlight, shares snowsports with 500 Northern Utes each season. He also hosted the 7 Falls Dancers last week who were part of the snowdances led by Southern Ute Elders Eddy and Betty Box at Colorado’s SnowSports Expo that helped inspire up to 12 feet of snowblessing in the Rockies — especially to those sharing the skiing,” Chaffee said.

Hey, we’re just sayin’.

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## VIRGINIA'S WINTERGREEN RESORT



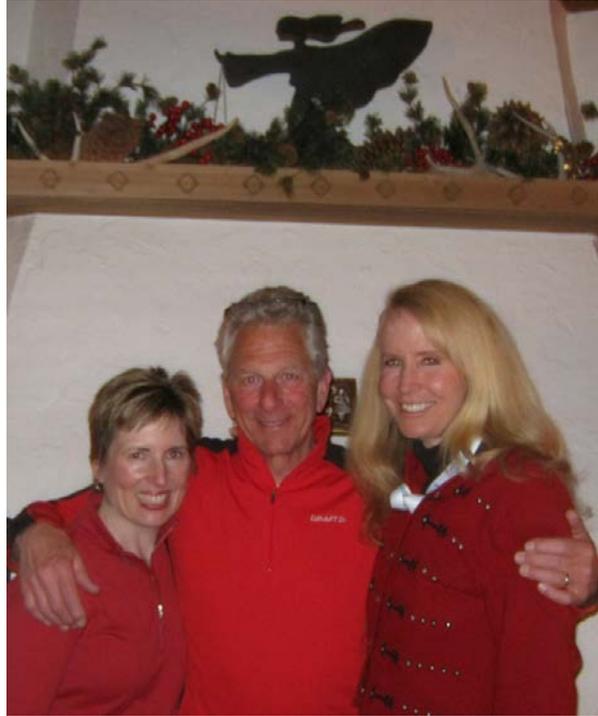
April's snowstorms helped resort push its closing date this year to the latest in history.

## MAINE'S MT ABRAM



©Naoto Inoue Tracy Hancock

This 2012 Golden Eagle Winner, Mt Abram, led by Matt Hancock and Jamie Schectman, had their highest profits this season, and were just nominated in 2013's for leading the shift to solar energy, working with Talmage Solar Engineering, which is helping turn around their Eastern snow drought, along with joining Sugarloaf in offering Penobscot youth snowsports programs.



THANK YOU COLEEN & SANDY  
AND ALL YOU ANGELS OF SKIING,  
CREATOR AND MOTHER EARTH  
WHO MADE THIS INTERVENTION POSSIBLE!

[Could National 'Snow Gratitude' Ceremonies Extend Future of ...](#)

eNewsChannels

Since the Ancient Wisdom part of the intervention is affordable for any ski area, (family or community) our **Native American Olympic Team Foundation (NAOTF)** ...

To set up a program contact: Suzy Chaffee, 323 4933877, [suzynativevoices@aol.com](mailto:suzynativevoices@aol.com), [naotf.org](http://naotf.org), [snow-riders.org](http://snow-riders.org)