



## OMNI Plays Lead Role In Making Indigenous People's Day Official In Fayetteville and At University of AR

It's official - the second Monday of every October is now Indigenous People's Day in Fayetteville. In honor of this event, Mayor Lioneld Jordan presented a City of Fayetteville key to visiting Nobel Laureate, Rigoberta Menchu. Her graciousness, simplicity and blessing of the key, moved many in the audience to tears, including the mayor. This celebration was the lead evening story on Fox News on Columbus Day:

[View news video](#)



Center: Rigoberta Menchu; to her left: event host and University Professor Frank Scheide; to her right: Menchu's body guard

In commemoration of The Trail of Tears, participants walked from the Arkansas Student Union down to a grassy location at the intersection of MLK and Stadium Drive, where in 1839 over one thousand Cherokees camped out on their journey to Oklahoma. The Trail of Tears was a series of forced relocations of Native Americans in the United States following the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

During the day's celebration, OMNI Center and OMNI's founder, Dick Bennett, were publicly recognized for spearheading the effort to get Indigenous People's Day officially recognized on Columbus Day at the university and in the city. As a result of these endeavors, Dr. Bennett and OMNI are actually part of [the City of Fayetteville proclamation](#). Also, OMNI's student group, OMNI UA, attended the march, as well as many OMNI board and staff members.

Dr. Bennett commented on his mindset before becoming aware of the true history of Native Americans in the US: "It was as though I slept walked my whole life on the issue of genocide of Native Americans." For our own awakenings, he recommends reading *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, and *From a Native Son: Selected Essays on Indigenism* by Ward Churchill and Howard Zinn.

Nine cities nationwide celebrate Indigenous People's Day on Columbus Day, including Albuquerque; Portland, Oregon; St. Paul, Minnesota; Olympia, Washington; and Seattle, Washington. Some cities eliminated Columbus Day and completely replaced it with Indigenous People's Day, and some celebrate both in parallel.

In addition, to spearheading these changes, OMNI has also provided a scholarship to university students who have been victims of persecution: [View Scholarship](#). The fund annually awards scholarships to student who have experienced domestic, political, religious, or ethnic persecution and to those who are refugees or asylees.



Far left: Matthew Miller, President of OMNI UA; Center left: OMNI Founder Dick Bennett; Center right: OMNI Board Member Kelly Mulhollan; Far right: Shane White, VP, OMNI UA

## Trash Class

Oct 22nd - Trash Class, 6:30pm, Fayetteville Library. Hosted by Louise Mann, Trash Class will begin examining piles of (clean) trash that have been saved by various OMNI and other community members. There will be a surprise speaker Skyped in. This will be someone with years of experience, who is not running for political office or in government. Be prepared to learn the truth about trash.



"[Louise Mann] really gets the long-term benefits of curb-sort programs and drop-off centers for connecting the consumer to what trash they generate and from that experience modifying their consumption habits."

*Mikel Lolley, Founding/Executive Director of the Treadwell Institute.*

## Request For Volunteers

OMNI is beginning to plan our 15th annual membership dinner, which will occur in February of 2016. This will be a dinner with special presentations and entertainment. If you have an interest in helping us organize this, please contact Gladys Tiffany at 479-935-4422 or send email to [gladystiffany@yahoo.com](mailto:gladystiffany@yahoo.com)



## [Dick Bennett's Blog](#)

OMNI founder, Dick Bennett, presents thought provoking information on peace, justice and ecology.



## **Support Our Work Become a Member & Donate [Click Here To Get Started](#)**

Every new member or donor increases our voice and visibility by one. The broader the support we have, the more impact we have on decision makers such as businesses, legislators, and community organizations. Most importantly, grantmakers and funders evaluate the number of our supporters when deciding whether we qualify for their financial resources.

## **OMNI Calendar**

### **How to add an event to the OMNI Calendar;**

- 1. No PDFs please - text only.**
- 2. Please include in the following order: a. What, b. Where, c. When, d. Accurate links to further information, e. Short description.**
- 3. Email to [Omni@omnicenter.org](mailto:Omni@omnicenter.org).**

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**Rescheduled from:** Sept 29th to Oct 20th - Goddess Festival Planning & New Member Orientation, 6:30- 7:30 pm, OMNI Center. See October 20th entry below.

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Oct 17th - Spanish Conversation Club, 11am to 5:30pm, Spanish Culture Day. Club will go to Springdale for Arkansalsa celebration on Emma St.

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Oct 18th - Collective Liberation Book Forum, 1pm, OMNI Center

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Oct 19th - Seeds That Feed Fundraiser, 7-9 pm, Ozanne Chiropractic. Join Ozanne Family Chiropractic and friends for a wonderful extravaganza of food and drink sampling, live music (Handmade Moments), food trucks (Nomad's Natural Plate), local vendors, door prizes, and shopping. Whether you come solo or with friends, this event will encourage new friendships & connection between the women in our community. All will leave feeling relaxed, filled up, and completely pampered. Part of the proceeds will go to support Seeds That Feed, an OMNI group that redistributes excess food supplies to communities and people that experience food insecurity. Ozanne Chiropractic is located at 4115 N. Steele Blvd, Suite 3, Fayetteville, AR

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Oct 20th - Goddess Festival planning meeting, 6:30-7:30 pm, OMNI Center. The Goddess Festival Planning Circle will meet on the third Tuesday of every month to plan next year's Festival. This is an open meeting and everyone, of all genders, is welcome. For more information, contact Gladys Tiffany at the OMNI Center, 479-935-4422  
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Oct 22nd - Trash Class, 6:30pm, Fayetteville Library. See article above.  
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Oct 23rd - Celebrate the Buffalo River, gala fundraiser, <http://www.celebratethebuffalo.com>. See article above.  
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Oct 24th - Roy Zimmerman, Comedian and Musician, OMNI Center fundraiser. \$25 suggested donation.  
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Oct 25th - Ecofeminist Study and Action Group, 1-3 pm, OMNI Center  
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Oct 27th - Transitions Initiating Group, 7 pm, OMNI Center. Showing movie "Transition 2.0" regarding transitioning towns into carbon-free living. "It's an amazing story about how Transition groups around the world are responding to the challenges of depleting and costly energy resources, financial instability and environmental change."  
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Oct 29th - Using The Media To Teach Peace, presented by Joanie Conner, author and peace educator. Time TBA. Ms Conner's book: Teaching Peace Through Popular Culture: <http://www.infoagepub.com/products/Teaching-Peace-Through-Popular-Culture>  
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Nov 1st - OMNI-350 Climate Change Book Forum, 1:30 pm, Fayetteville Public Library.  
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Nov 1st - Open Mic For Peace, 7 pm, OMNI Center  
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Nov 2nd - Civil Rights Roundtable, 6:30 pm OMNI Center  
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Nov 7th - Spanish Conversation Club, 10am to 12:30pm, Yvonne Richardson Center.  
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Nov 7th - Herbolgy Class, 2 - 3 pm, by Marietta Camillieri  
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Nov 11th - Veggie Potluck, 6 pm, OMNI Center  
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Nov 11th - Citizens Climate Lobby, 7 pm, OMNI Center  
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Nov 21st - OMNI Family Thanksgiving potluck, 1pm, OMNI  
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Nov 24th - West Fork Friends of OMNI Meeting, 6:30pm, West Fork Library Annex  
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Dec 6th - Alternative Gift Market, 9am to 2pm, St Paul's Episcopal Church

Rooted Vision Healing Drums - First Sundays 1-5 pm.

**Weekly @ OMNI**

**Spanish Conversation Table** - Every Wednesday, 6pm, El Camino Real Restaurant, S. School, Fayetteville

**Quaker Meetings** 9:30 am Sundays. Everyone welcome

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Omni Center  
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STAY CONNECTED:



