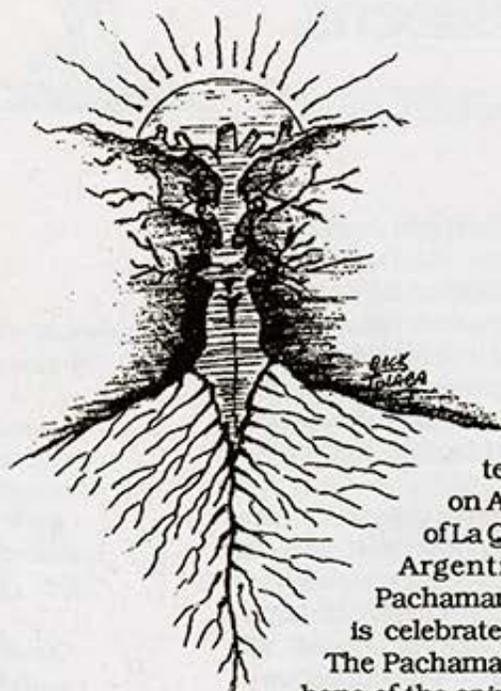




ARGENTINA



Pachamama Day and the Kolla People of Argentina

Cultural Center "1st of August"

The Cultural Center "1st of August" was born on August 1, 1988 in the city of La Quiaca, province of Jujuy, Argentina to honor the Pachamama (Mother Earth), who is celebrated every year in August. The Pachamama constitutes the backbone of the spiritual and material life of the Kolla people of Argentina.

The group is made up of people from different branches of life: teachers, housekeepers, students, priests, athletes and housewives. Most of the members are from rural areas. They share a common and global destiny and vision: to contribute to the vitalization and fulfillment of the Kolla people and of Indian people in general and to the humanize the hostile and mechanizing system of life which surrounds us.

The germinating and multiplying impulse of the Center is represented in one central objective: "Attain the historical restoration of the Andean people, restructure, revalue, vitalize and project our way of life, which contains essential and sufficiently valid guide-lines to provide new alternatives for this permanently decadent society."

The friends of the Center have common fears and concerns about problems which not only threaten the Kolla people but all the inhabitants of the earth: pollution, hunger, discrimination, extinction of Nations, alienation, arms build-ups, etc.

The Center acts as a recuperation and transformation agent. It works to permanently rediscover and share essential aspects of identity in terms of religion, social organization, literature, agricultural practices, food production and preservation methods, etc. The Center also works to promote environmental attitudes and to offer alternative ways for society to solve multiple problems.

This commitment is directed toward educating and raising consciences about our right to improve our quality of life.

To these ends the Cultural Center "1st of August" organizes camping trips, bicycle races and foot races with the motto "Youth, Let's Know our Land". Young people from both rural and urban areas participate. They cover 200 miles at altitudes of 10,000 to 13,000 feet in order to get to know the countryside and to give the credit due to the human, cultural and natural landscape.

The participants and the communities they visit learn from each other with the purpose of renewing their faith and hope of revitalizing the Kolla culture.

To these same ends, every year in the month of August the Cultural Center, together with neighbors and friends, celebrate the religious homage to the Pachamama at the *apacheta* (altar to the Pachamama) of the community.

The Center supports and promotes cultural activities such as music, theater and poetry, giving priority to those which repre-

In 1991 the Catholic Church invaded this cosmic spiritual center by placing a Christian cross next to the *apacheta*

ARGENTINA

International Congress on Indigenous Languages

The Instituto Qheshwa "Jujuymanta" (Argentina) is organizing the V International Academic Congress on Indigenous Languages to take place in Jujuy-Argentina in September of 1993.

The Institute works to make Indigenous people aware of the value of their languages. During the last years the Institute has devoted itself to promoting Indigenous languages such as Qhishwa (or Quechua) and Aymara, which are widely used in the Andean region of South America, and Guaraní of the Gran Chaco of South America.

The purpose of this effort is to organize native peoples and make them aware of their cultural roots and of how important it is that their languages survive. So far there have been four congresses organized by Indigenous groups which have documented the wide use of Indigenous languages.

Pachamama Day continued

sent recovery or creations within the framework of Indian American identity.

The Center gives presentations to schools at different levels in order to provide traditional role-models, and expose the students to diverse experiences. They produce educational radio programs and also participate in programs to improve methods of sheep farming in order to improve the economic situation for Puna families.

The last congress took place in Cochabamba (Bolivia), with the assistance of the Universidad Mayor de San Simón, and local Indigenous organizations. Rene Sainz Vega, the President of the IV Congress (October 1992), reported the following conclusions.

The congress requested:

1. That the governments of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina and Chile work on informing about and teaching Indigenous languages in their countries;

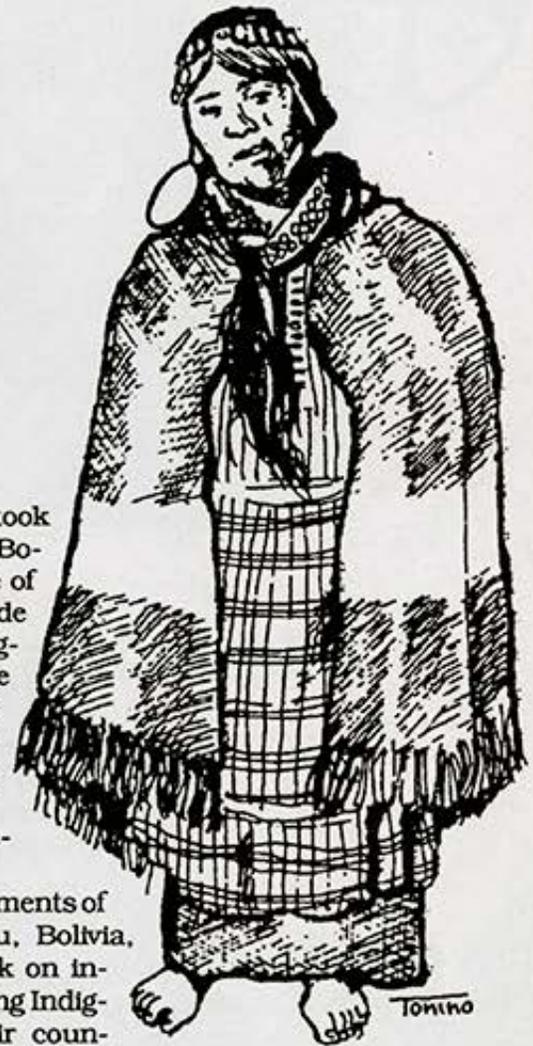
2. That educational agencies and ministries support Indigenous organizations working on revalorization of their own Indigenous languages;

3. That Latin American governments formally teach Indigenous languages at schools and universities.

4. That Latin American governments recognize demands and territorial rights of Indigenous peoples.

The IV Congress worked under six commissions: Writing, Grammar and Structure, Culture, History, Education and Law.

Instituto Qheshwa "Jujuymanta" is open to your input, contributions, and assistance.



If you are interested in attending the V Congress in October please contact:

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