

Cultural Survival

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EVERY GIFT HAS A STORY TO TELL AT A CULTURAL SURVIVAL BAZAAR

Boston has its own special holiday traditions: the giant evergreen the city of Halifax donates every year in gratitude for Boston's help after a devastating fire in 1916; the lights on the Common; the First Night ice sculpture

performers and artisans from around the world to Boston and Cambridge every December.

The Bazaars started at Harvard, where anthropologist David Mayberry-Lewis and his wife, Pix, were raising money to publicize the plight of indigenous peoples in the Amazon rain forest. The organization they founded, Cultural Survival, has grown into an international nonprofit that supports the rights, voices and visions of tribal peoples in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. The Bazaars have grown too! This year's Bazaars will host over 40 vendors selling -- and telling visitors about -- items reminiscent (including panels illustrating legends like "Man Turi In To Tiger"), Maasai beaded sandals, Cape Gof Wampanoag wampum pendants, batik clothing from East Africa, Mexican folk art, Apache silver, and "Holy



Land" olive oil from Palestine. Their personal best-sellers are hand-woven tribal rugs that finance schools in Afghanistan and Tibet.

Shopping isn't the only attraction. There's always indigenous entertainment. This year's performers include Lakota singer/duetist Tim Swallows, Songstress griot Amadou Lamine Tou-

re, and Nipmuc (Massachusetts) flute player Hawk Henries. A cadre of young (and hip) Cultural Survival interns (wearing black t-shirts) into the performers, handle the set-up, operate the cash register, stage indigenous "global fashion modeling" and do anything else that needs doing. Some are graduate students, others spending a post-college year volunteering for Cultural Survival's publications, and many have gone on to careers in international law, development and human rights.

All this serves one purpose. Directly (by providing income to indigenous vendors) and indirectly (by supporting Cultural Survival's work), every dollar spent at the Bazaars supports indigenous people's rights and helps them protect their cultures.

According to the United Nations, one person out of twenty is indigenous. They're among the poorest and least represented people in the world today. Since 1972, Cultural Survival has been working to change that. They form partnerships with indigenous groups and help them cre-

ate and finance their own programs for education, economic self-sufficiency, and cultural preservation, and to advocate for their rights.

Over the past 35 years, Cultural Survival has partnered with more than thirty indigenous groups. The most recent "spin-off" is Machila (named for a Buddhist female saint), a \$7.8 million project in Tibet that supports schools, a cultural center, and sustainable agriculture, and a fledgling education touring business.

Cultural Survival's biggest current partnership is the Guatemala Radio Project, a collaboration with a network of 250 community radio stations that broadcast in Mayan languages. The community radio movement started in mobilize Mayans during the country's brutal civil war. Now that the country is at peace,

BAZAAR DATES/TIMES

DECEMBER 2-3

David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies
1230 Cambridge St., Cambridge, MA
10am-6pm
Free parking available

DECEMBER 9-10

Hyatt Convention Center
First Floor
900 Boylston St, Boston, MA
11am-7pm



times in Copley Square. But you may not know about the 28-year tradition of Cultural Survival Winter Bazaars -- bringing indigenous art and handicrafts,

On the other side of the world, Cultural Survival's Totem Peoples Project is working with nomadic reindeer herders in the Sayan Mountains of Mongolia to preserve their 2,000-year-old way of life. In February, project

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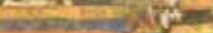
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Mayan activists are "continuing the struggle for democracy with a microphone." Next month, a group of Boston high-tech volunteers are going to Guatemala to upgrade equipment.

Director Dia Phinley will pack in vaccines and craft supplies by residents, and go with leader representatives to Ulan Bator to check on the progress of a health clinic their government is building for them. In Africa, partner South Maasai Outreach Organization is giving scholarships to Maasai women and building clinics to conserve water. Partner La FOMMA (Fuerza de la Mujer Maya) is organizing against domestic violence to teach Mayan women in Chiapas, Mexico with street theatre, and support programs for women and their children.

To find out more about Cultural Survival and its other events, check out www.cs.org

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