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# Two Rivers Circle of Mendota

no. 5    august 2026    Phone number 651-870-7034



**Please join us in celebrating Sharon Good Thunder Woman Lennartson's Birthday and Riley Tiokasin's high school graduation.**

We will be gathering at the communal hall at St. Peter's Church in Mendota from noon until 3:00 on Saturday, August 22.. Fried chicken and Indian tacos will be provided, along with the BD cake. Please bring a dish to share to help us honor Sharon's life, love, and leadership. We welcome salads, side dishes, chips and dips, veggies, fruit, and soda. We also will need help with clean up as we need to be out of the building at 3:00 p.m. sharp. All are welcome!

As a proud Dakota woman, Sharon devoted her heart and soul to the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Tribal community, volunteering countless hours as part of the founding group and serving as tribal chair for 14 years. Her passion for preserving Dakota culture, protecting its future, and building lasting relationships has driven her vision and work. She has left a legacy that inspired us to create Two Rivers Circle. We are in awe of her capacity to love and share her wisdom.

St. Peter's Church is on HW 13 near Bdote and Mendota Bridge, 1405 Sibley Memorial Highway. Please RSVP by emailing or calling Sharon at [sharlenn79@gmail.com](mailto:sharlenn79@gmail.com) or 952-239-9969.

## August Events and Volunteer Opportunity

Friday **August 14, 2026** is DRUMMING AND SINGING practice.

Community Room of the Sanctuary at West St. Paul, 1746 Oakdale Ave., West St. Paul, MN 55118

We will have pot-luck/ snacks to share and soup will start after singing and drumming which begins at 6:30 pm. Generally, we should clear out by 9:00 PM to be considerate of the other Elders in the building.

All are invited! For any questions, leave a detailed voicemail for Joseph (Waziya, Being Of The North) Bester at: 612-361-7007 or a text at 612-919-2733 🐦 ❤️ 🧡 🟡 🟢 🐦

### Repairing the Sweat Lodge

With your generosity and stewardship of our community lodge, we have reached our goal to repair the lodge. To buy ropes and stakes, Tony Rathbun donated the entire cost of the new floor for the lodge! We are putting our lodge together to allow us to give and receive good medicine.

The kindness, love and generosity of this community is such a beautiful thing to witness, and we are beyond grateful and thankful for everyone coming together like this. Our hearts are truly full.

#### Schedule:

- August 15: Starting between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM until finished.
- August 16: Starting between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM until finished.
- August 22: Starting at 9:00 AM, with a break before noon for Auntie's birthday, resuming at 3:00 PM until finished.
- August 23: Starting between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM until finished.

Love you all!!! Pidamayaye

### Burr Oak Acorn Full Moon Walk at Sacred Coldwater Springs

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Gather at the National Park entrance, 7pm

Park on the Hwy 55 access road

Friends of Coldwater seek to honor our ancient water and landscape ancestor.

Sunset 7:59 pm (44-minutes earlier than last full moon)

Moonrise 7:49 pm (1-hour, 13-minutes earlier than last month)

13 hours, 30 minutes of daylight (2-hours, 7-minutes less daylight since summer solstice)

Moment of the full moon: 11:18 pm    Raindrops take 8 minutes "fall time" to reach Earth from 10,000 feet.

DIRECTIONS: Coldwater Springs (5601 Minnehaha Park Drive in Minneapolis) is between Minnehaha Regional Park & Fort Snelling State Park above the Mississippi River gorge. Enter along the Highway 55 frontage road where you can park at the pay meters.

Gather at the cul-de-sac, which is the Coldwater Park entrance.      Free. All are welcome.

### August Birthdays

Mike Harley

Mike McNeil, July 2

Roger Grabowski, August 9

### Passing

Virgil Foot, Prairie Island, Joseph Bestor's teacher. Memorial services were held in June.

**Shakopee Wacipi** is this coming weekend, August 14 -16.



***Pidamayaye*** to all who came and participated in Pat Darling and Roger Grabowski's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary gathering on June 21. Two Rivers was well represented with Rita Chamberlain in charge of the kitchen with helpers Carol, Richard, and Isaac Fish. Spiritual elder Joseph Bestor provided drumming and blessing songs. Sharon Lennartson got some ideas for her Birthday event. Lee Newcomb brought paintings for RED DOG'S WORLD, which will be available on August 22, along with Sharon's and Samantha's books.

We were truly blessed by this gathering!

## Gathering Sage at Church of St. Peter's Native Garden

July 27 Two Rivers volunteers gathered sage from the Native garden at Church of St. Peter. Master Landscaper Doug Daubenspeck created this resource. It is now up to us to maintain and sustain it. Back to front and left to right: Tim Eyrich, Duane Leith, Richard Fish, Rita Chamberlain, Samantha Walker, and Isaac Fish at the garden.



**Two Rivers Circle will begin holding regular meetings in September.**

