

Time Sifters

October 2012



A Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 14, 2012, 6:00 PM

Mildred Sainer Pavilion, 5313 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota

Voices from Native Florida

Brian Zepeda, Seminole Tribe of Florida



Brian Zepeda will be speaking about the impact of tourism on the Seminole Tribe and how the Tribe has evolved to meet the demands for knowledge about their history and culture.

Brian Zepeda is a traditional teacher of all Seminole Arts such as woodcarving, sewing, silverwork, leather work, storytelling, songs, hunting and history. He currently serves on the Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Council. He served for six years on the Florida Governors Council on Indian Affairs and as manager at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum for seven years. As Director of Cultural Outreach and then as Director of Florida Seminole Tourism, Zepeda has spoken at international conferences on balancing the need to protect Seminole culture while also sharing aspects of it with the public.

Voices from Native Florida features a pair of presentations that explore the diversity of the Native American experience in Florida. The first lecture will feature Brian Zepeda, a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Council and a traditional teacher of all Seminole Arts.

The second (in March, 2013) will be given by C. Randall Daniels (Sakim), a Keeper of Traditions for the Apalachicola. Both speakers are wonderful storytellers and they share a commitment to sustaining their cultures. But they have very different backgrounds and experiences: the Seminoles are a federally recognized tribe and the Apalachicola are an unofficial grouping; Brian Zepeda is a young leader whereas Sakim is an elder; the Seminoles made the Florida Everglades home and the Apalachicola know the rolling hills of north Florida. The presentations will deal with history, preserving heritage, culture, and identity. Join us to hear these unique perspectives on Florida history, and how traditions play an important role in maintaining cultural identity.



Time Sifters thanks the Florida Humanities Council for their support of this series.

Notes from a Time Sifter

Archaeology is the search for evidence about the past. Historical archaeology is the study of written records of the past. After Europeans deciphered ancient writing systems like hieroglyphics and cuneiform, adventurers began searching for the places mentioned in ancient documents. Heinrich Schliemann's love of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* led him to Tel Hissarlik in Turkey in search of ancient Troy, and Sir Arthur Evans dug into the ruins of Knossos on Crete looking for the labyrinth of the Minotaur. The ancient books of the Bible drew others to the Levant in search of biblical sites. These early archaeologists were untrained and merely engaged in the haphazard collection of artifacts but, nevertheless, most were successful. Modern archaeology is now an academic discipline and has confirmed through careful excavation that Schliemann's Tel Hissarlik is ancient Troy, and Knossos was one of several important Minoan cities. Sometimes, though, archaeology produces more questions than answers. One example is the identification of Bethlehem as the birthplace of Jesus of Nazareth.

There are two cities in the Levant called Bethlehem, one near Jerusalem in what was, in the first century, Roman Judea; the other near Nazareth in the Galilee a few miles from the seat of Herod Antipas' capital city, Sepphoris. The Bethlehem near Jerusalem has been associated with the nativity of Jesus since the fourth century when Roman Emperor Constantine sent his mother, Helena, to Roman Judea to identify sites important to Christianity. It was she who identified Bethlehem of Judea as the birthplace, and tradition has accepted that identification ever since. This came from written history (historical archaeology), but written records are not always clear. The biblical Gospels of Matthew and Luke associate Joseph with King David whose family home is believed to have been in Bethlehem in Judea, and is probably the reason for Helena's choice. However, the Gospel of John seems to point to Bethlehem of Galilee, a more likely ancestral home for Joseph because it is near Nazareth, the home of Mary, and where the family lived when Jesus was a boy. Modern archaeologists excavated in both towns. They found that both are very old, dating back to the Canaanite period of the mid-second millennium b.c.e., long before the Bible was written down. Archaeologists also found that during the first century, the time of the Nativity, and several centuries thereafter, Bethlehem of Judea shows no evidence to indicate that it held any importance until after Helena's fourth century identification. On the other hand, Bethlehem of Galilee reached its peak in the first centuries of the common era with abundant remains of ashlar foundations and columns from large buildings, one a church with an expensive mosaic floor, another a religious building with oil lamps decorated with crosses indicating a substantial Christian community. These are fascinating examples of the complexities of archaeology.



Archaeologists recently discovered this artifact, a bulla, or piece of clay for sealing a document, bearing the name of the city Bethlehem, written in ancient Hebrew script. This is the first time the name Bethlehem appears outside the Bible, in an inscription from the First Temple period, which proves that Bethlehem was indeed a city in the Kingdom of Judah, and possibly also in earlier periods.

What is on the Time Sifters website this week?

OUR WEBMASTER, JIM MECKLER, POSTS THE LATEST AND MOST INTERESTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Archaeologists in eastern Bulgaria say they have unearthed the oldest prehistoric town ever found in Europe, along with an ancient salt production site that gives a strong clue about why massive riches were discovered in the region. Excavations at the site near the modern-day town of Provadia have so far uncovered the remains of a settlement of two-story houses, a series of pits used for rituals as well as parts of a gate, bastion structures and three later fortification walls — all carbon dated between the middle and late Chalcolithic age from 4,700 to 4,200 BC. For more of the story go to www.timesifters.org

Update from the New College Public Archaeology Lab

In September, Time Sifters' Gail Schnell gave a great workshop on prehistoric ceramic analysis. Four Time Sifters members attended along with about a dozen students. The workshop was part of Professor Baram's course Ancient North America. A youtube video of the workshop is in production.

In October, member Maranda Kles gave a workshop on bio-archaeology. She discussed what separates forensic work from bio-archaeology (forensics is for skeletons less than 75 years old), identifying human vs. other mammal bones, markers for distinguishing male and female skeletons, and what types of knowledge archaeologists can gain from skeletal analysis.



National Archaeology Day - October 20th, 2012

Over 100 people showed up for National Archaeology Day at Reflections of Manatee, Manatee Mineral Springs. Time Sifters hosted a table and turned out in good numbers. Members attending were Bob Condon, Alfonz Lengyel, Paul Temmer, Felicia Silpa, Paula Hollins, Ken Clark, Bill and Candy Graham, Valerie Jackson Bell, John Jaffer, Uzi Baram and family, and Sherry and Vald Svekis.

Dr. Baram spoke about the history of the area as it relates to the maroon community of Angola and showed interpretive results from previous remote sensing and limited excavations. In addition to some awesome food, attendees could try their hand with some ancient technologies including the atlatl, or spear thrower. It was a fun competition and the winners each took home a jar of Reflections' molasses.





Membership

Individual:	\$20
Family:	\$30
Sustaining:	\$50
Student:	\$10

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www.TimeSifters.org

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST

Artifact Analysis: New College Public Archaeology Lab

The New College Public Archaeology Lab welcomes Time Sifters members to wash, sort, and record information on its artifact collections. Call/email Sherry for more information.
ssvekis@gmail.com

Shell Midden Material Analysis: Historic Spanish Point

Historic Spanish Point welcomes volunteers to help process excavated midden material on Thursdays, 9am - 3pm. Contact Ryan Murphy ryan@historicspanishpoint.org

2012-2013 MEETING CALENDAR

November 14, 6pm: Brian Zepeda, Seminole Tribe of Florida: Voices from Native Florida **Sainer**

December 5, 6pm: Holiday pot-luck and party at the home of Sherry and Vald Svekis

January 16, 6pm: Nathan Lawres, M.A.: Waging War the Seminole Way: An Ethnohistoric Perspective on the Evolution of Seminole Combat Behaviors

New College is co-sponsor and will host a reception in conjunction with these lectures.

Selby Library: downtown Sarasota, Central Ave and 2nd Street

New College: Mildred Sainer Pavilion, 5313 Bay Shore Road

Go to www.TimeSifters.org
for more information!

Your renewal date is above; please remit if due.