

Attending the Sunday afternoon, October 12th, tour of the Octagon, along with Candi Wesaw's reception and art exhibit at LeFevre Gallery that evening, were very unique experiences. Being able to actually walk on the grounds of the Newark Earthworks put the scope of this vast ancient construction into perspective, something that you cannot get from photographs or just viewing it from the observation platform at the edge of the golf course. The tour was led by very knowledgeable people, and walking on land considered important by the ancestors of the Native peoples of this country set the stage for the Candi Wesaw exhibit in the evening.

At the exhibit reception we were received warmly by elders of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Nation, who had also come to visit. We were treated to a hearty meal, honored to experience traditional prayers, and music by the drum group "Eagle Boy." This traditional welcoming was very fitting to Candi Wesaw's art, which was a mix of portrayals of Native history and contemporary Native peoples. The *Shwatso Shkote* Collection, or Prophecy of the Eight Fires, was an especially moving collection; showing where the Potawatomi have come from and the possibilities that we all may be fated to disappear if we turn choose to over-rely on technology to solve our human problems.

The entire day was very educational and moving; it helped me to better understand the struggles that Native peoples have gone through in this country, and also helped me to understand the efforts to preserve their traditional cultures. With experiences such as these, more people would better understand the rich cultural heritage that did exist, and does still exist, in this country due to the cultural work of Native peoples.

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