

I am a seeking a near zip

GO!

SUBSCRIBE TO
This Week From
Indian Country Today
MAGAZINE!
CLICK HERE

Dalai Lama to Meet Privately With Kumeyaay Nation Members on San Diego Visit

By Gale Courey Toensing April 13, 2012

RSS



AP Photo/Ashwini Bhatia

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama leads a prayer session in remembrance of Khalka Jetsun Dhampa Rinpoche, the Buddhist spiritual head of Mongolia, in Dharmsala, India, Saturday, March 3, 2012. Rinpoche, who was 80, died in Ulan Bator on March 1.

Read More: [Dalai Lama](#) | [Nobel Peace Prize](#) | [The Dalai Lama](#)

SHARE THIS STORY

278 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

Get News Alerts

The Kumeyaay Nation has prepared a proclamation to welcome His Holiness the Dalai Lama to its homeland when he makes a historic visit to San Diego during a spiritual journey across the United States, Canada and Europe to bring messages of compassion and world peace.

In addition to his public talks during his two-day visit in San Diego, the Dalai Lama will hold a private audience with a small number of members of the 12 bands of the **Kumeyaay Nation**. His Holiness initiated the meeting with the Kumeyaay through the sponsoring university, said Paul Cuero, a member of the Kumeyaay Nation's executive

committee.

Where dreams take flight

Education, health, and infrastructure solutions for Native American government.

KeyBank

All credit is subject to credit approval. ©2012 KeyCorp. Member FDIC.






Earn your BA or **msw** online & make a difference in your community

With an emphasis in work with rural and Indigenous communities.

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

For additional information, visit our department at humboldt.edu/socialworkonline or call (707) 826-4443.

MOST POPULAR

-  Video: Watch This Golden Retriever Rescue a Struggling Puppy From a Pool
-  For Navajo Nation Citizens, Finding Unrelated Mates Within Tribe Becoming Difficult
-  Warmest March Ever: In Like a Lamb, Out Like One Too
-  New Residency Requirement Targets Nonmembers, Angers Pueblo of Isleta
-  Notes From a Single Mom: My Children's Paternal Grandfather Dies

[See More](#)

“He wanted to meet with the indigenous people of the area,” Cuero said. “We’re really excited about it. We feel there are some things we can exchange with His Holiness in the sense of what his people are going through right now in Tibet.”

The Kumeyaay proclamation notes that His Holiness is arriving in Kumeyaay territory during “a year of great transformation” and expresses a desire to welcome him “in keeping with our spiritual and cultural protocol.” Written in a series of “whereas” clauses, the proclamation declares that “by meeting with us the Dalai Lama demonstrates the principle that every indigenous nation and people ought to be acknowledged, honored and respected in its own traditional territory and homeland.”

This will be the Dalai Lama’s first visit to San Diego. He will arrive on April 18 after spending two days in Hawaii.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is the spiritual leader of Tibet. The 76-year-old leader was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his nonviolent struggle for the liberation of Tibet, which has been under Chinese rule since 1959. Since 1989 he has received more than 84 awards, honorary doctorates, prizes and other honors in recognition of his message of peace, nonviolence, inter-religious understanding, environmental conservation, universal responsibility and compassion. This includes being the first Nobel Laureate to have been recognized for his concern for global environmental issues.

He has written more than 72 books and travels throughout the world meeting with the public and with presidents, prime ministers and crowned rulers of major nations, religious leaders and famous scientists. His most recent award was the **Templeton Prize**, which honors a living person who has made an exceptional contribution to affirming life’s spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works. The Templeton website describes His Holiness as “the Tibetan Buddhist leader whose long-standing engagement with multiple dimensions of science and with people far beyond his own religious traditions has made him an incomparable global voice for universal ethics, nonviolence, and harmony among world religions.” The prize, valued at around \$1.7 million, will be presented to the Dalai Lama at a ceremony at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London on May 14.

The Kumeyaay proclamation acknowledges a connection between Kumeyaay spirituality and the spirituality of the Dalai Lama and Tibetan People and expresses support for his spiritual journey for world peace, noting that Kumeyaay “spirituality has been our greatest source of strength, enabling us to survive the oppression that we have experienced for centuries as a distinct nation and people.”

The proclamation notes that His Holiness will speak at San Diego State University, the University of San Diego and the University of California at San Diego—“all of which are located within our traditional Kumeyaay territory”—on the theme Upholding Universal Ethics and Compassion in Challenging Times. The proclamation says that the Dalai Lama’s teachings on compassion and ethics “are a profound standard by which to assess what we have experienced at the hands of the non-Kumeyaay society.”

But in a twist of irony, the nation points to an ongoing **conflict** with the University of California at San Diego over its **refusal to repatriate 10,000-year-old ancestral remains** held in its collection purportedly for scientific research.

“[W]ithout respect or compassion for our people, for some thirty-five years the University of California at San Diego, on the basis of the **Doctrine of Discovery**, has claimed ownership of Kumeyaay ancestral remains and has yet to return them to us,” the proclamation says. It draws parallels between “the great pain and suffering the Tibetan people have been subject to for generations now” and “the centuries of pain and suffering that our Kumeyaay ancestors experienced as a result of colonialism, dehumanization and the claiming of our lands by foreigners in 1542, 1769, 1824, and 1850 on the basis of the Doctrine of Discovery. [These] patterns of domination and dehumanization imposed upon the Kumeyaay and Tibetan peoples are contrary to every standard of compassion and ethics.”

The proclamation ends with the celebratory statement, “Whereas, we have been treated by the non-Kumeyaay society as a people of the past, but we are very much a vibrant people of the present; whereas, we hereby thank the Dalai Lama and formally invite him to return to our Kumeyaay homeland for a special event to meet with the Kumeyaay people; therefore the Kumeyaay Nation hereby makes this Proclamation of Formal Greeting to His Holiness, the Dalai Lama on April 19, 2012.”

Cuero said that this fall will mark the 470th year since the Kumeyaay people’s first contact with the European invasion.

“All through the tragedies that happened to us with the Spanish, the Mexicans and the American periods, we survived each one of those onslaughts and we’re still here today,” Cuero said. “That’s one thing we feel we can share with the Dalai Lama. What sustained us all these years is our spirituality. If you keep the spirituality alive, such as he is doing, his people will endure what’s happening today.”

SUBSCRIBE

Subscriber Savings!
This Week From Indian Country Today Magazine!



VIDEO



Brazeau Vs. Trudeau: The Pols Duke It Out



Beaver Lake Cree Nation Allowed to Continue Lawsuit Against Province and Feds



What the Hail? Massive Ice Balls Drop in Oklahoma and ... Hawaii?



University Recognizes Native Students With Awareness Week and Powwow



AFN National Chief Atleo Dissects Canada’s 2012 Federal Budget

[See More](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS

[Nihewan Scholarship](#)

[Navajo Nation Oil & Gas Company Four-Year](#)

[Outstanding Indian Youth Program](#)

[Maureen L. & Howard N. Blitman P.E.](#)

[Catching the Dream](#)

[See All](#)

RECENT NEWS ALERTS

- [Actor Johnny Depp Meets Navajo President Ben Shelly on Set](#)
- [First Native Science Fiction Anthology Showcases Indigenous Imagination](#)
- [The City of Laguna Niguel Patch: Come for the American Indian Petroglyphs, Stay for the UFOs](#)
- [Education and The Native American Man](#)
- [Notes From a Single Mom: Money Matters](#)

[See More Recent News Alerts](#)

Cuero said the Dalai Lama's visit holds great significance in terms of certain Mayan predictions about imminent changes.

"We feel that the Dalai Lama's visit to our area is one of the great changes that is happening," Cuero said.

The private audience with His Holiness is scheduled for only 20 minutes, but Cuero said he hopes for an extension of time.

"We're hoping our spirituality along with his will be so great that he'll make more time for us so we can have a really good conversation with him," he said.

Read a previous interview with His Holiness [here](#).

[Print](#)

Share this story

[Email](#)

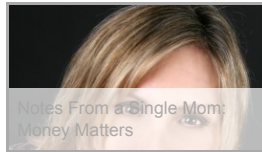
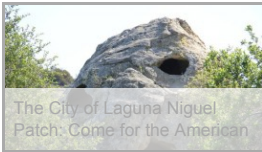
[Like](#)

278 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

Sunday, April 15, 2012

You must be [logged in](#) to post a comment.

MORE FEATURED CONTENT



MORE WORLD NEWS ARTICLES



April 15, 2012

The City of Laguna Niguel Patch: Come for the American Indian Petroglyphs, Stay for the UFOs

By ICTMN Staff

What do the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, petroglyphs, and UFOs have in common? Well, according to an article by the Laguna Ni... [Read More](#)

[Comments \(0\)](#)



April 13, 2012

Soccer Legend Lilian Thuram Tackles Racism and Human Zoos

By Dominique Godrèche

Lilian Thuram is primarily known around the world as an elite soccer player. Now 40 years old and retired, he played for the Frenc... [Read More](#)

[Comments \(0\)](#)

April 13, 2012

Osage Scholarship Winner Influenced By Desmond Tutu

By ICTMN Staff

When Emma Smith met Archbishop Desmond Tutu in 2010, she said "his philosophy of 'ubuntu,' which means 'I am because we are,' has ... [Read More](#)

[Comments \(0\)](#)

April 11, 2012

Earthquakes Rattle Indonesia

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

[University of California – Berkeley](#)

[University of North Carolina – Pembroke](#)

[University of Washington](#)

[Boise State University](#)

[Seattle University School of Law](#)

[See All](#)

TRIBAL COLLEGES

[Northwest Indian College](#)

[Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute](#)

[Sitting Bull College](#)

[Nebraska Indian Community College](#)

[Bay Mills Community College](#)

[See All](#)

POW WOW ALERTS

San Juan College Contest Pow-wow

off Hwy. 64 going towards
Bloomfield, N.M.

April 13, 2012 to April 15, 2012

SUBSCRIBE

Subscriber Savings!
This Week From Indian Country Today
Magazine!



ONLY
42¢
an issue!

WHY JOIN



By ICTMN Staff

Indonesia is reeling after back-to-back earthquakes rocked the region on Wednesday. Both earthquakes brought tsunami warnings that... [Read More](#)

[Comments \(0\)](#)

April 11, 2012

Tiny Polynesian Island Nation Requests Lady Gaga Concert

By ICTMN Staff

The country of Niue, a self-governing island 1,500 miles northeast of New Zealand has requested an concert appearance from pop star Lady Gaga. To sweeten the deal, the island's tourism... [Read More](#)

April 10, 2012

UN Special Rapporteur: Who Will Protect Human Rights Defenders?

By ICTMN Staff

Whether it's the San Francisco Peaks or the Belo Monte Dam Project, the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, Margaret Sekaggya, says the environmental defenders rights should be acc... [Read More](#)

April 6, 2012

U.S. Coast Guard Sinks Japanese Tsunami Ghost Ship

By ICTMN Staff

The so-called ghost ship debris from last year's Japanese tsunami that was spotted off the coast of Haida Gwaii territory on March 28 has been consigned to a watery grave: The U.S. Coa... [Read More](#)

April 5, 2012

American Indian Painters Travel to Paris, Bust a Few Stereotypes

By Dominique Godreche

Eleven Native artists went to Paris late last year for an art show titled Oklahoma Painters, which was part of the sixth annual Art en Capital event at the massive Grand Palais. The exhibit ... [Read More](#)

April 2, 2012

Guatemala's Mayans Take Their Demands to New Government

By David Dudenhofer

Lucas Garcia Pop, a 30-year-old Q'eqchi Mayan farmer, lost everything last year when he and his neighbors were evicted from Finca San Pablo Pomoxón, a sugar plantation in the Polochic Valley... [Read More](#)

[See All](#)

Indian Country Today Media Network

[Home](#)

[Politics](#)

[Pow Wows](#)

[Business](#)

[Arts/Entertainment](#)

[Internships](#)

[Education](#)

[Scholarships](#)

[Tribal Colleges](#)

[Health/Wellness](#)

[Native American Studies](#)

[Canada](#)

[Environment](#)

[Travel](#)

[Video](#)

[Terms and Conditions](#)

[About Us](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Advertise](#)

Reason #1

Your birthday becomes an international event.