



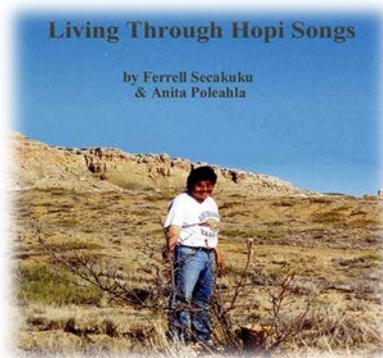
## Issue 1

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

*Welcome to Mesa Media's very first quarterly newsletter! Mesa Media has had an amazing year, and we want to share with you all the new seeds that have come to life through our work to encourage Hopi people to speak our language and continue to celebrate life. This first newsletter is dedicated to Ferrell Secakuku, the co-founder of Mesa Media in 2004. Ferrell left us in July 2007, and his vision lives on in the endeavor of Mesa Media.*



## **One day in the life of... Ferrell Secakuku**



Each day, Ferrell would get up early, and greet the sun. He devoted his time to preserving the Hopi way of life. He believed that Hopi life is best understood through the language.

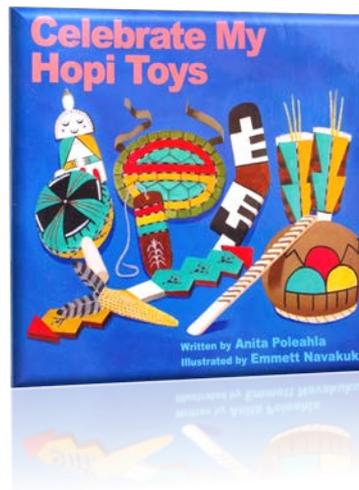
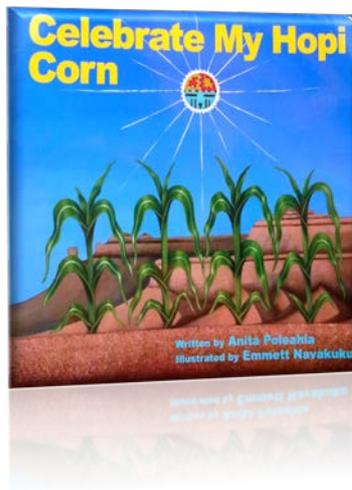
**“Live a good Hopi life, learn the Hopi language, be proud of who you are”** is his message to Hopi children on the CD “Living through Hopi songs”. Songs are a subtle way to pass on this message not just to the children, but to all of us. Ferrell shared his knowledge and passion as the skilled composer and teacher he was.

Using the analogy of a cornfield, Ferrell would periodically glance back, to ensure that the path of life he followed was straight and purposeful.



## HIMU HINIWMA? WHAT'S NEW?

- Salina Bookshelf publishers in Flagstaff released **two children books** written by Anita Poleahla in the Hopi language, with translations in English. Illustrations are by Emmett Navakuku. First time ever: children books about Hopi written **by a Hopi**. Released during the holiday season. You can find the books at the Legacy Inn in Tuba City, with the publishers in Flagstaff, or directly from Mesa Media [http://mesamedia.org/Contact\\_us.html](http://mesamedia.org/Contact_us.html)



- Follow this link for **reviews and opinions** on these two books:  
<http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/2015/12/recommended-celebrate-my-hopi-corn-and.html>
- Listen to the following interview with author Anita Poleahla on KJZZ radio in April: **“Hopi Language Teacher Publishes Bilingual Children's Books »**  
<http://kjzz.org/content/286490/hopi-language-teacher-publishes-bilingual-childrens-books>
- Anita Poleahla spread the Hopi language in April at **the Octavia Fellin Author's Festival in Gallup, New Mexico**. Along with 32 authors, she participated in a book signing, and a panel presentation for children.



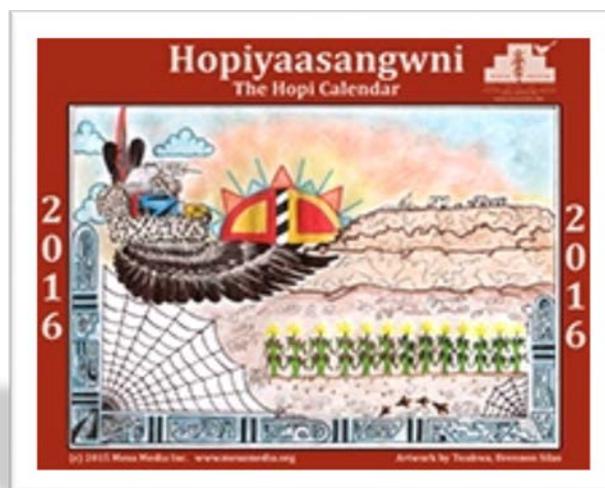
- Mesa Media continues to plant new seeds, striving as ever to help newcomers learn the richness of the Hopi culture. One of the new seeds we planted last summer is “**Welcome to Hopi**”, a hands-on workshop that took place at the Hopi Veteran Center.



Germination of this seed is a handbook with invaluable information on Secular Hopi Teachings (with photographs by Walter Niino). It can be used in the classroom or at the workplace. The team was comprised of Hopi language speakers who introduced various aspects of the Hopi culture: Edna Komalestewa presented Hopi toys, then had participants on their feet to play Hopi agility & patience games. Joannie Takala gave participants a taste of pövölpiki. Language teacher Abigail Pawytewa displayed a series of illustrations on “birds at the village”, to help us learn verbs and directions. Iva Honyestewa catered this event, sharing a delicious Hopi meal.

**Eskweli! Askwali! Kwakwha!**

- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Hopi calendar** came out just in time for the holidays. This popular calendar includes illustrations by our Hopi youth, cultural information, moon phases and major holidays. In Hopi and English.

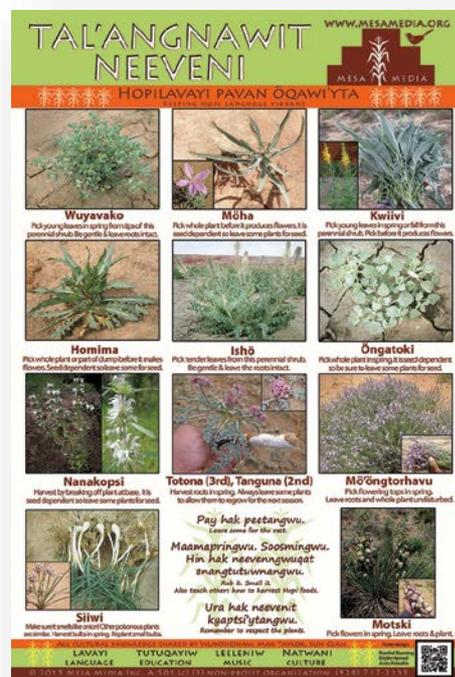


- This spring, with the contribution of Carol Fritzing, Kate Watters and Kristin Harned, we literally planted several seeds. It all started with **two composting bins and a small hot house**, where we transplanted sprouting chilies, carrots, peas, lettuce and kale. Mesa Media donated the entire operation to a Hopi family. We are looking forward to eating some fresh vegetables.



**Eskweli! Askwali! Kwakwha!** Mesa Media

- Another seed planted by Mesa Media is the **Tal'angnawit neeveni poster**, explaining how to pick and harvest edible plants found in the Hopi desert during spring and summer. This is the work of Max Taylor.



**Eskweli! Askwali! Kwakwha!** Max,  
for showing us how to enjoy these wild seeds.

- Mesa Media sowed more seeds at the **Hopi Code Talker Recognition day** in April: posters and Coyote DVDs were distributed to those who came to honor our war heroes - Hopi men who contributed to save the world with the use of their native language.



**Eskweli! Askwali! Kwakwha!**

- In order to make language learning more attractive to younger generations, Mesa Media also disseminates virtual seeds in cyberspace. **We are currently developing a language app** designed to engage Hopi youth in keeping the Hopi language vibrant. In this app, Peter Bungart uses a game approach to make it entertaining and educational. It follows a Jeopardy-like format that Mesa Media co-founder Anita Poleahla previously employed, but using a multiple choice approach so that if the user is a little persistent, they will get the right answer (and learn additional Hopi words, phrases, and simple sentences while they're at it). Our goal is to involve Hopi youth for the audio and artwork used in the app, which should make it all the more engaging for our target audience. The app can be used on smartphones and tablets, as well as being accessible on the web. It will be freely available later this year.

**Eskweli! Askwali! Kwakwha!** to the Colorado Plateau Foundation for grant funding to support this initiative.



## **NAAT AW TUMALA'YYUNGWA: IN PROGRESS:**

- Presentation of "Tsangaw uma öki. Itam haalayatotí" @ the Indian / Indigenous Teacher Education Conference at NAU, Flagstaff
- Mesa Media's first Hopi coloring book for Hopi by Hopi!
- "Welcome to Hopi" workshop
- Book reading in Flagstaff
- Open House at Hopi



## **HAKIMUY HEPNUMYA... MESA MEDIA IS SEEKING...**

...Hopi language speakers, to record their voices for the new language application.  
For more information, contact Anita @ 928-737-2255



## **HIN UM AW WUUWA? ANY SUGGESTION?**

Our next newsletter will be out on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please send your comments and ideas so that we can make it a better one! [http://mesamedia.org/Contact\\_us.html](http://mesamedia.org/Contact_us.html)



## **HIN ITAM WUNGWIWISA? WHAT KEEPS US GROWING?**

*The work of Mesa Media would not be possible without the generous support of our institutional and private donors. We thank all of our donors and pledge to continue revitalize the Hopi language.*

*Last but not least, we want to recognize the dedication of our volunteers who give hours and days of their priceless time, and offer their many talents to support the development, production and sharing of Hopi language resources.*

*Mesa Media gratefully acknowledges the contribution of all that support our work.*

**Eskweli! Askwali! Kwakwha!**

***You too can be part of this great journey. Come and join us on the path where good Hopi life and language are vibrant and flourishing. Why not sow your own seeds, and make a difference in the world today and for generations to come? You will glance back once in a while, and be proud of who you are. Contribute your time and talent, or make a donation now...***

Contact us directly to make a donation by check at:

[http://mesamedia.org/Donate\\_today.html](http://mesamedia.org/Donate_today.html)

or visit our donations page that accepts credit cards at:

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