

# Tobacco - Nov. 18, 2007

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Program:

[Indian Uprising](#)

KFAI's Indian Uprising for November 18th, 2007 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. CST #240

Tobacco - "Experts believe the tobacco plant, as we know it today, begins growing in the Americas about 6000 BC." - Gene Borio "Tobacco has been used for many generations as offerings to the spirits, for planting, for gathering food, for healings and for ceremonies (by Indigenous People). The sacred uses of tobacco are different for many tribes but a basic truth remains, tobacco should be used for prayer, protection, respect and healings. Tobacco is medicine. The meaning of medicine can be translated according to perceptions, i.e. power from the creator and/or knowledge of self. Tobacco was used as medicine before first contact. After contact tobacco was used as "gold power" of the Americas supporting the establishment of the colonies, the clergy and the militia. In 1723 Maryland and Virginia exported thirty thousand kegs per year requiring 200 ships to transport it... The consequences of the dominant culture exploitation are evident today in the commercialization, which glamorizes cigarette abuse. This raises a confusing conflict between abuse and the necessary place of tobacco within the native cultural community." - Costanoan Ohlone Indian Canyon Resource, [www.indiancanyon.org](http://www.indiancanyon.org) "A new report indicates that young adults who have suffered from depression within the past year are at a higher risk of initiating substance use including cigarette smoking and use of alcohol or illicit drugs. The findings, based on the largest national survey on substance use and health, were reported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). - Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, CADCA Online, Nov. 15, 2007

"American Indian people have used tobacco for thousands of years. It was the first medicine provided to the people. As such, it is used in ceremonies to carry prayers to the Creator. Tobacco ties, tobacco offerings and smoking in ceremonial pipes are three such ways. When used this way, tobacco promotes good health. There are no health risks when Native tobacco is used in a sacred and respectful manner." - Indigenous Peoples Task Force (IPTF), [www.indigenouspoplestf.org](http://www.indigenouspoplestf.org) Issues, among others, to be discussed on Indian

Uprising are: traditional tobacco use teaching and practices; Historical significance, imagery, and exploitation by the tobacco industry; Patterns of American Indian smoking and quitting; Resources and strategies available to help smokers quit and improve life-styles, attitudes and behaviors. Guests are:

Missy Whiteman (Arapaho/Kickapoo), Tobacco Support Specialist, IPTF Sharon Day (Ojibwe), Executive Director, IPTF Suzanne Nash (Ojibwe), Coordinator, Minnesota Native Council on Tobacco & IPTF