What Teachers Are Saying...

I love your programs. Thank you! I look forward to bringing students to the remodeled gallery. The students and I loved all aspects of the program. The program was very engaging and creative. Students were actively listening, and they all were generating some great questions.

What Students Are Saying...

I think children believe that in order to learn history, it has to be boring and long. But maybe they don’t realize when they do hands-on things, they ARE learning. You get to interact with what you’re learning about. It gives you a chance to feel and be a part of history.

What’s New with Outreach?

As many of you know, the NPG Education Department has temporarily suspended its outreach programs in order to focus on future program development for the Gallery’s reopening in July 2006. However, the enthusiasm generated by our past programs suggests to us that we need to keep the energy flowing. NPG in Your Classroom was born to provide you with just that energy and with the information you need about the department’s current and future activities, such as pilot programs, the Retratos exhibition, employee biographies (we are a biography museum, after all), the Gallery’s reopening schedule, and an exciting, full-page Heritage Month portrait that includes a biography and suggested interactive activities for your students. Please share NPG in Your Classroom with your colleagues (we have included three newsletters for that reason), and look for the next edition in February.

We hope you will find NPG in Your Classroom a useful, informative resource, and we look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to e-mail us at NPGEducation@si.edu.

Stay tuned for information about the pilot program “DC Connections” in the next issue.

Inside...

- Learn about the landmark exhibition Retratos
- Delve into the life of Native American activist Zitkala-Ša
- See why Outreach Program Manager Tia Powell Harris never has any free time
- Keep informed about the progress of the renovation of the NPG’s home, the Patent Office Building

Smithsonian
National Portrait Gallery
Special Exhibitions

Retratos: 2,000 Years of Latin American Portraits

What if it was possible to trace Latin American portraiture from the Precolumbian era through contemporary times? Imagine uncovering portraits from fifteen different countries throughout South, Central, and North America. Now envision those countries agreeing to lend their precious works of art to curators in the United States for a five-museum tour that would open a window onto Latin American history and society for viewers across the United States.

The National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution is proud to announce that this exciting exhibition—Retratos: 2,000 Years of Latin American Portraits—will become a reality, arriving at the S. Dillon Ripley Center on the National Mall on October 21, 2005. The exhibition, co-organized with the San Antonio Museum of Art in Texas and El Museo del Barrio in New York City, will open at El Museo on December 3, 2004. These treasures will then travel to San Diego, Miami, Washington, and finally, San Antonio. The project and all related programs and publications are made possible by Ford Motor Company Fund.

Retratos (the word is Spanish for “portrait”) comprises more than one hundred paintings and sculptures. Its arrival in Washington brings a plethora of offerings for school-age youth, including a traveling costume portrait studio, school tours, family days, and special programs for teens.

In addition, NPG’s Education Department has been creating and organizing the Teen Ambassador Program, which will be an integral part of Retratos in Washington. Local high school freshmen and sophomores who possess strong communication skills and have an interest in art, drama, photography, or history will be selected to participate in the year-long program.

These ambassadors will be exposed to a variety of museum settings, take part in docent-led and self-guided tours, attend gallery talks given by museum professionals and guest artists and receive theater training through the Arena Stage Education Department. The students will also curate their own portraiture exhibition. After exploring their own communities, students will photograph sitters with a professional studio camera and exhibit their work at the Latin American Youth Center, a community venue. In addition, the ambassadors will present an original gallery theater piece during the Family Days of the Retratos exhibition. Look for more updates in our next edition of NPG in Your Classroom.
Tia Powell Harris—mom, wife, sister, daughter, actress, arts educator—is also manager of educational outreach programs at the National Portrait Gallery.

Before arriving at the Gallery, Tia was manager of community partnerships at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. There, she coordinated performance opportunities and artist residencies for thirteen Kennedy Center/DCPS Partnerships schools, as well as managed the Dance Theatre of Harlem Residency Program and portions of the Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Residency.

Harris taught in the Washington, D.C., public school system for thirteen years, ten of them at Duke Ellington School of the Arts, where for five years she served as chairperson of the Theater Department. She holds a B.S. in secondary education (with a major in speech and drama and a minor in English) and an M.A. in speech communication/education and training from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Harris believes strongly that using the arts as a vehicle for teaching history and biography encourages diverse audiences to experience the Portrait Gallery and all it has to offer. Entertaining and educational theatrical performances, hands-on activities, and participatory exhibition tours (called “Walk, Talk, Think, and Do”) are marks of her innovative approaches to museum education.

When not at NPG or providing chauffeuring services and coordinating the social engagements of her two twenty-year-old sons and thirteen-year-old daughter, you can find Tia trying a new restaurant with her husband Bill, a visual artist, or performing on a Washington stage.

Following an international competition, renowned architect Norman Foster of Foster and Partners was selected to design the Patent Office Building’s courtyard enclosure. A hallmark of the historic building’s renovation, the glass covering over the 28,000-square-foot courtyard will transform the setting into a year-round event space for the National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The new atrium will be flexible to accommodate a variety of functions, such as performances, receptions, art installations, and special events. During the day, it will also serve as seating for the museum’s café. The dynamic area will be one of the largest event spaces in Washington, D.C.

“It was important for us that the renovation include a contemporary addition to this nineteenth-century landmark building,” said NPG Director Marc Pachter. “The covered courtyard is the Smithsonian’s twenty-first-century contribution to the building’s exuberance.”
Zitkala-Ša: Her Life in Words

Find the words listed below. They are arranged diagonally, vertically, horizontally, and backwards. Please note that two-word clues have no spaces on the puzzle. **Challenge:** Try to remember how all of the words match up with the life of Zitkala-Ša. Now write sentences about her life using these words.

**TEACHER**
**ACTIVIST**
**LOBBYIST**
**YANKTON NAKOTA**
**PINE RIDGE**
**EDITOR**

**CULTURAL BROKER**
**NATIVE AMERICAN**
**EARLHAM COLLEGE**
**WASHINGTON DC**
**SOUTH DAKOTA**
**AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

**ZITKALA SA**
**RED BIRD**
**CONGRESS**
**TRIBAL**

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Y P F A T O K A D H T U O S N
E A R L H A M C O L L E G E A
Z G N A F N R A Z Y E O I U T
Q M E K I O K G J P A M Z M I
C D N O T G N I H S A W A E V
R W E I R O T B Z G B Q C G E
B R D L Y E N R K C J I T D A
G E M V K L I N I F L M I I M
H D A X S B E I A B O S V R E
J B W C V N M K U K A B I E R
M I T S I Y B B O L O L S N I
P R R A M R E H C A E T T I C
A D S R Z I T K A L A S A P A
Y H P A R G O I B O T U A N N
C U L T U R A L B R O K E R C
Zitkala-Ša (Gertrude Bonnin Simmons) (1876–1938)
Writer, Editor, Teacher, Activist, Lobbyist, Lecturer, Cultural Broker
by Joseph T. Keiley (1869–1914), photograph, 1898

Smithsonian
National Portrait Gallery
Zitkala-Ša (Gertrude Bonnin Simmons)
February 22, 1876-January 26, 1938

Writer • Editor • Teacher • Activist • Lobbyist • Lecturer • Cultural Broker

The daughter of a white father and Yankton Nakota mother, Zitkala-Ša served as a link between the oral cultures of tribal America and the literate culture of contemporary American Indians. Born on the Pine Ridge Reservation in what is now South Dakota, Zitkala-Ša (which means Red Bird) attended a missionary school for Indians at age eight. She later graduated from Earlham College in Indiana and became a teacher, helping to assimilate other Indians into the mainstream culture by teaching them a trade. Meanwhile, she wrote many essays protesting the treatment of her people by the state and church. She fought against unjust laws that affected her people and fought for land settlements, employment, citizenship, and the preservation of Native American history. Zitkala-Ša moved to Washington, D.C., in 1916 and was elected secretary of the Society for American Indians. Here she wrote for and edited its publication, American Indian Magazine, where she discussed the government’s continued mistreatment of Indians and promoted the dignity of Indian cultures and religion. She also tirelessly supported improved education, health care, and cultural preservation for Native Americans in Congress and pushed for the investigation of government abuse toward native tribes. She was the first American Indian woman to write an autobiography—American Indian Stories—without the aid of an editor or interpreter. Her book discussed the conflict she felt living on the fringes of two cultures, as well as the pain and trauma she witnessed among her people while growing up.

A Closer Look:

The National Portrait Gallery is a museum of history and biography that celebrates the lives of famous Americans through portraiture. Using the image provided, lead students through a question-and-answer session. Sample questions might include: How would you describe her? (List the answers on the board.) What kind of expression does the person have? What is the sitter wearing? What might this tell us about her? What can the portrait tell us about the sitter that a biography could not?

Suggested Lessons:

Elementary school (grade 4 and up): Read the passage from Zitkala-Ša’s autobiography, American Indian Stories (University of Nebraska Press, 1985; see http://www.artemispress.com/gsbonnin1.html), “The Land of Red Apples,” in the chapter entitled “The School Days of an Indian Girl.” The passage is written in the first person; ask students to describe how the writing would be different if it were in the third person. Have students illustrate their favorite part of the story and write a short paragraph describing their illustration. Students can also complete the Word Find puzzle included with this newsletter.

Middle and high school: Have students read the biographical information above, as well as other research sources and the passage from Zitkala-Ša’s autobiography, American Indian Stories (University of Nebraska Press, 1985; see http://www.artemispress.com/gsbonnin1.html), “The Cutting of My Long Hair,” in the chapter entitled “The School Days of an Indian Girl.” Ask students to illustrate (in mural form) visual elements from this particular event and other elements that they recall from the biographical information. Students can also complete the Word Find puzzle included with this newsletter.