

# 'We didn't lose our culture'

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It is one thing to learn about a culture through the media, said George-Wilhelm Gallhofer, counselor for EU-Enlargement and Western Balkans at the Austrian Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels, but his understanding improved as he has met the people involved.

All of the Fellows were fluent in English and a handful of other languages.

The visiting group also included Gov. John Kitzhaber's General Counsel Liani Reeves, who was a fellow in 2012 and arranged the visit on her own time separate from the Office of the Governor, and her husband, David. Corvallis Rep. Sara Gelser, a 2011 Fellow, also attended.

Tribal Chair Reyn Leno welcomed the Fellows. He was introduced by Public Affairs Director Siobhan Taylor, who organized the event with help from acting administrative assistant, Chelsea Clark.

Leno described the Grand Ronde Tribal experience as part of the American Dream.

In Grand Ronde, he said, the American Dream means "taking care of your people first and taking care of your land."

He said that health care, Elders and education are "our dreams."

More historically, he told the group, "We didn't lose our culture. It got scattered."

Grand Ronde drummers also welcomed the group. The Tribal youth and adults sang and danced.

Tribal Cultural Outreach Specialist Bobby Mercier gave the group a "short, short history" of the Tribe, hitting the high points from time immemorial to the 1850s treaty era, to subsequent legislation that resulted in continued losses of Tribal lands, to Termination, Restoration and now rejuvenation.

An example of the latter came from Mercier's children, Kyoni and Kaikanim, and Jacob Holmes, who were among Tribal members singing and dancing as part of the Tribal welcome.

Mercier also gave a tour of the pole outside the plankhouse. This memorial to members of the Tribe lost during the Trail of Tears was made in the Tribe's Carver's Apprentice Program.

Before leaving the plankhouse for the buffet, Grand Ronde Tribal members invited the visitors to participate in the Blue Heron dance that takes off with the idea of a Blue Heron trying to pull its feet out of mud.

"It's good to see the preservation of language and the success the Tribe has built from nothing," said Spanish fellow Norberto Cuenca,



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

Joanna Mackowiak-Pandera, above left, and Monika Lenhard participate in a "Blue Heron Song" dance with the Grand Ronde Canoe Family during a visit to the Tribal plankhouse on Sunday, March 10. The women are participants of the Marshall Memorial Fellowship program who are visiting various locations across the United States for the program. The fellows are from Europe; Mackowiak-Pandera from Warsaw, Poland, and Lenhard is from Berlin, Germany.



At left, Norberto Cuenca of Madrid, Spain, gives Tribal Council Chairman Reyn Leno gifts from the Marshall Memorial Fellows at the end of their visit to the Tribal plankhouse on Sunday, March 10. Other fellows include, from left, Mustafa Kutlay, of Ankara, Turkey, Monika Lenhard, of Berlin, Germany, and Roxana Teodorci, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova.

who manages compliance obligations for the international power company Enel. Previously, he worked in Beijing, fostering the use of renewable energy.

"For me," said Roxana Teodorci, deputy chief of Party FHI 360 in Moldova, "it is impressive to see communities following their traditions, and keeping alive and passing down those traditions. I don't understand the music and the language, but I get the community spirit here."

Moldova is a landlocked country between Romania and Ukraine that declared its independence in 1991 during the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Teodorci's work has focused on highlighting the work of non-governmental organizations and increasing their capacity to serve.

"Philanthropy is not well known in Moldova," she said. "I want to see the tools used for fundraising, and how they involve people."

"The existence of different cultures is important in my country," said Mustafa Kutlay, who is a research fellow at the International Strategic Research Organization

Centre for UE Studies, one of the biggest think tanks in Turkey. "It's very important to create an environment to get people working cooperatively."

In Grand Ronde, he saw success in the balance between two worlds: the way the Grand Ronde people are passing traditional culture on to the next generation and the way the Tribe integrates with the modern world. "It's a delicate balance," he said.

Praise for the Tribe's ability to balance historical and current, cultural and civic issues came up again and again among the Fellows.

"I really admire that people are taking care of their traditions here," said Joanna Mackowiak-Pandera, a management board member and the head of the Market Development Department in an international energy company based in Warsaw. Before that, she was a deputy in the Polish Ministry of the Environment.

She arrived in the United States with the idea that "America doesn't care much about the environment," but a visit to the Portlandia wing

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of the Rose City and then Grand Ronde told her otherwise. "The first message you get is that you care very much for the environment," she said.

Diplomat Monika Lenhard, desk officer in the Personnel Development and Planning Division of the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, who will begin work in Moscow this summer, will remember the "passion that the people have, with the younger generation keeping Tribal life alive."

She observed the way the people of Grand Ronde "strike this balance," that on one hand "family connections are so strong," and on the other the people are "still so interconnected" with the larger society.

Gallhofer noted his interest in

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