

Bio of Bert Gunn

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Bert Gunn, MSW, ACSW, is a clinical social worker and handyman, living in Chaplin, CT in the USA. He assisted, traveled with, organized for, and interpreted for Tlakaheel, the Tolteka-Mexica Elder from Teotihuacan, Mexico for 22 years until his passage to the other side in July of 2012. He is the editor of Tlakaheel's book, Nahui Mitl, and was the editor and publisher of over forty issues of Another Life Newsletter, which published for over 10 years. Bert is currently writing a book on the passage of Tlakaheel from this world a year ago as well as a book on his travels on the "red road".

"I have always been a seeker, exploring the essence of many traditions, and can remember at the age of about 10, knowing that I had some mission, some message to bring to this world. I have now been learning and following the "Red Road" (the path of Native American and Mexica spirituality) for over 30 years now, learning many of the ceremonies and traditions. This earth-centered way of life consists of a different way of seeing the natural world and our place in it, using traditional ceremonies and a philosophy that sees spirit in all of creation.

"It has been my honor and pleasure to aid Tlakaheel in bringing his message of the unity of all peoples, indeed all creatures on our tiny planet, our Mother Earth, as well as the current value and gift of the indigenous traditions for our troubled modern world".

Bert is the Zihuakoatl (administrative director) of both In Kaltonal in the USA (In the House of the Sun), a Mexica spiritual association, and the International Confederation of Kalpultin. He is the Tecutli (executive director) of Kalpulli Chaplin, a (501) © (3) non profit educational organization based in Chaplin, CT with the aim of hosting traditional Elders and promoting teaching of Indigenous Wisdom. He is the author of 20 years of periodic email reports on his travels with Tlakaheel, and the chronicler and curator of a vast archive of recordings of Tlakaheel's teachings, in audio and video formats. He is also a Justice of the Peace for the town of Chaplin, CT. Bert is a board member of the World Council Wisdom Gatherings, and the Church of the Earth.

Bert has been trained and authorized by Tlakaheel and other Elders to conduct various traditional ceremonies and teachings. Among other ceremonies, has been assisting in and conducting the Four Colors Ceremony for 25 years around the world, as well as the annual Tonal Mitotianilitzli sun dance ceremony in Mexico, where he is considered a Chief. He also conducts the Temazkal sweat ceremony. He has also conducted many weddings, and a number of funerals and burial ceremonies, and is also available for individual consultation/ healing sessions when asked. He never charges for ceremonies or healing work and donations received above expenses mostly go to support the "mother Kalpulli" in Teotihuacan, Mexico.

"On his last day in this world, Tlakaheel gave me the mandate to continue traveling and bringing his message of peace and unity and the hope that the indigenous peoples of the world offer to our modern society. He also insisted that I document his last day as an example of a different way to see death and dying, and I have been giving talks on this amazing experience to many peoples both in the US and in Europe as an example of a different way to pass from this world to the next." As Tlakaheel said many times; "it is as natural to be born as it is to die"

"I believe that life is basically simple and that we can all can do our part to help leave this world a better place for the future generations. In this very troubled and troubling time, our species is destroying more than we are creating and healing. There is little time to reverse this trend, and our work does it's part to offer healing and a way to be in the world that leaves it a healthier place for all.

I try to offer a down to earth re-connection to our selves and our spiritual connection to the universe through sharing, ceremony, and seeing ourselves as an integral part of the cosmos. We are integrally connected with all of creation, and when we realize this, we will live differently. We then feel more of the great healing element of love, which is truly the basis of most spiritual teachings. This universal love is the greatest healing element in our universe. My work is more universal than tied to one specific tradition, tho I primarily practice the ceremonies and indigenous traditions of the Americas.