



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**BETH MEYERS**

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## **Bewley & Meyers Attend Ancestral Women Exhibit Reception at Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center**

MADISON – State Senator Janet Bewley and State Representative Beth Meyers attended the Ancestral Women opening reception at the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. This reception was to showcase the art exhibit: *Ancestral Women: Wisconsin's 12 Tribes*. This exhibit features hand-woven portraits by local artist Mary Burns and will be on display through October 1, 2017.

This reception was hosted by the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center. The *Ancestral Women Exhibit* honors and celebrates elder women, one from each of the 12 Native American tribes in Wisconsin. Included in the exhibit are the 12 portraits, 6 clan symbols, and 4 additional landscape pieces that speak to essential connections with the land: maple sugaring, wild ricing, birch bark canoe building, and one of a sunrise over water titled *Awakening Spirit*.

*“My goal in creating this exhibit was to honor and celebrate ancestral women. These are women who have held families and communities together. Women leaders who have kept traditions, cultures, and languages alive. They are the glue in the fabric of their communities. This tribute honors women elders from each of Wisconsin’s 12 Native American tribes,”* said Mary Burns.

*“These exquisite jacquard weavings are a beautiful and literal representation of the strength the women of Wisconsin’s native tribes continue to contribute to our way of life.”* Stated Senator Bewley.

*“The Ancestral Women exhibit helps us to remember and appreciate our unique heritage and essential connection with the land and waters of Northern Wisconsin. Exhibits like this provide us with a unique opportunity to reflect on the history we share as members of this community and this state.”* said Representative Meyers.

The *Ancestral Women* opening reception featured an Opening Drum Song and presentations by Tinker Shuman, Lac du Flambeau tribal elder, and Mary Burns, Artist/Weaver. A Closing Drum Song concluded the evening celebration.

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