



# "I Believe that Dreams Have Power"

Free online presentation by Tohono O'odham Educator Marilyn Francisco



*The Baboquivari Mountains on the Tohono O'odham Nation; the sacred Baboquivari Peak at left*

**Tuesday Evening  
September 13, 2022**



**7 to 8:30 p.m. Arizona Time  
(Same as Pacific Daylight Time)**

Thoughts as the morning sunrise greets me:

*The still morning quietness, only the birds are up, with their many sounds interrupting the quietness. Desert grasses tall and green, living and celebrating their short lives. Sun coming over the mountains, spreading its warmth with new light. The sun's rays are gracing the land. Right now, this is all that matters.*

*See next page.*

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# I Believe that Dreams have Power . . . Thoughts of Marilyn Francisco

**I believe that dreams have power. My dreams are sometimes profound, leading to self-discovery.**



The road to Baboquivari Peak on a winter's day

I learned to instill & share these strengths: Family is comfort and Community can give and receive support.

I would say I consider my community as extended family. My personal strengths motivate me to be a continuous learner of self discovery and traditional knowledge. I have had many challenges, however, important ones because I have learned life lessons from them.

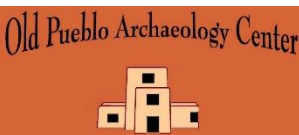
One of my priorities in life includes education. Although, I didn't realize before going back to school that I would become a teacher. I feel blessed that I can read and write in our language, and now I'm teaching it to our young

people. Our *himdag* is important and our *ni'ok* (language) is our identity. In general, what one learns is supposed to be passed along to the next generation, I am doing my best!

**As a child I lived in Sells, where my dad (Albert J. Lopez baq) worked. When our youngest sister began school, our mother (Clemencia Lopez baq) went to work too. Our parents raised 7 children.**

I started school at St. Anthony's Catholic School in Topawa, in 1958. I was 5 years old and spoke only O'odham. This was the start of undoing my language which saddens me when I think of this. In 1967 I applied and was accepted at St. John's Indian High School in Laveen, Arizona. I went to St. John's for 4 years; and when I graduated in 1971 I stayed in Phoenix. When I did return, I moved into our old traditional home; this is where home was for me.

I am married to Earl Francisco for 44 years, and we have raised 5 daughters. We live in Topawa and are co-raising 2 of our grandchildren. We have 1 great-grandson; his name is Xavier.



**Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's "Indigenous Interests" free Zoom webinar series** provides Native American presenters with a forum for discussing issues important to Indigenous peoples today.

The series is hosted by Maegan Lopez (Tohono O'odham), Martina Dawley (Hualapai-Diné), and Anabel Galindo (Yaqui), all of whom are members of Old Pueblo's board of directors. The series has received support from Arizona Humanities and many of its online viewers.



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