Hope for the Hopi

Forest Stulting
Furman University
The Hopi Reservation is in a remote area inside the Navajo Reservation in northern Arizona.
12 isolated villages on 3 mesas along one primary road
“Hope for the Hopi” found in yearly renewal ceremonies is diminishing

Subtle changes point to this

1) Less genuine and appreciative participation
2) Decreased understanding among participants
3) Changes in gender roles in the ceremony

Root causes

1) Decreasing fluency in Hopi
2) Immature initiates to Kachina cult and other related societies
3) Living off the rez leads to lack of understanding of the social values
Traditional living allows no one to go unnoticed
Ceremonial life centers around underground sacred rooms called kivas and activities in the village plaza.
Kivas serve a number of functions and are used differently at different times of year.
Spirit Beings called Katsinas use the kivas from late winter to late summer.
Katsinas—3 forms

• Spirits which are experienced through nature
• Transformed men who dance the katsina dances in late winter, spring, summer
• Dolls (Representational symbols, not images for worship)
Dolls used to teach about katsinas

Men transformed into Katsinas
The Women’s and Men’s Society ceremonies occur in the part of the year (see orange segment) when the katsinas are not in the villages but in their homes in the San Francisco Peaks located near Flagstaff Arizona.
Basket Dance is a women’s “dance” that occurs in the fall and celebrates harvest gifts. Image from a Fred Harvey postcard c. 1940.
Priest and Basket Throwers, Fewkes, 1898
Hopi Women Throwing Baskets, Kabotie, c 1920
Struggle for Baskets, from Fewkes article 1899
Hopi Pronunciation Guide

Vowels
a e i o u ö a a e e i i o o u u öö
[ɔ] [ɛ] [i] [ɔ] [i] [ø] [œ] [e] [i] [ɔ] [i]

Consonants
’h k ky kw l m n ng ngw ngy p
[ʔ] [h] [k] [k’] [kw] [l] [m] [n] [ŋ] [ŋw] [ŋ’] [p]

q qw r s t ts v w y
[q] [qw] [z] [s] [t] [ts] [β] [w] [j]
Hopi Katsina Initiation
Painted by Raymond Naha
Kiva Ceremony during Powamu painted by Waldo Mootzk
Hopi find their identity in the corn
Life and Death Kachina, Massau

Says the people may join him in his hard life.