



Seattle Clear Sky

Newsletter

Thriving Through Education. Culture and Tradition

OCTOBER 2023 ISSUE

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ELDERS DINNER

BY: LANERYAN (ASSINIBOINE)



One of the many amazing aspects of being an UNEA intern are the monthly elders' dinners. Once a month normally at Stanford's, all the youth and elders sit down for a dinner, talk to each other and bond. This past dinner was especially fun since we got to meet the new interns joining us this year. I got to sit next to Kay Fiddler, Jerri Hamley and two new interns. We normally get a prompt for the night to talk about and this time it was, "What does it mean to be Indigenous?" Our group said it was those family moments (And it doesn't matter what tribe you are) of sitting around someone's house, the smell of food in the air, toddlers running around, and some scraggly dog playing outside. That it was the experience of teaching each other traditions and passing them on to keep them alive. We then shifted our conversation towards ceremony and the importance of listening and taking every moment in to remember so you can continue the tradition when you're older. That it's okay to clarify who/what/when/where/why/how is hosting the ceremony, and it's okay to set boundaries. I then got the privilege to talk to elder Mathew Warbonnet who is one of the most amazing people I have met. I asked him about a specific ceremony, and he taught me what it was and the significance. I told him about my travels throughout Montana and we laughed at his Crow jokes and his funny stories. Getting to spend time with these elders is the highlight of my month and I am so grateful that I get to work alongside them and learn from them.

A HEARTWARMING GATHERING OF INTERGENERATIONAL WISDOM

BY: AMELIA A.

On Sunday, September 24th, an event took place at Stanford's, where elders, council members, youth leaders, and board members of the indigenous community came together for a special meal. This gathering provided a platform for intergenerational connections, fostering a sense of unity among the generations of indigenous people. During the event, the elders started the occasion by sharing captivating stories and tales that held deep cultural significance. These narratives captured the cherished traditions. The table was filled with warm as conversations flowed between the elders and the youth. Small groups engaged in lively discussions, exchanging stories and experiences that spanned across different generations at the table. This shared experience created a strong sense of community, bringing together individuals from various backgrounds and experiences, who bonded over a delicious meal.

For many attendees, including myself, this was a first-time experience, and it left a mark on our hearts. Personally connecting with the elders sitting beside me, I had the privilege of learning about the significance of Indigenous Peoples Day from their perspectives and the struggles they faced to bring about this change. It was an amazing experience, and I felt a deep appreciation for the opportunity to meet new people and be a part of this incredible program.

The event fostered an environment where generations could connect and grow closer. Even after the meal, youth and elders continued their conversations. It was a testament to the power of intergenerational bonding and the importance of preserving indigenous wisdom for future generations.

In conclusion, the gathering at Stanford's exemplified the power of intergenerational connections within indigenous communities. It served as a reminder of the richness of indigenous cultures and the importance of fostering unity and understanding across generations. Such events create spaces where wisdom is shared, stories are cherished, and a sense of community is nurtured.



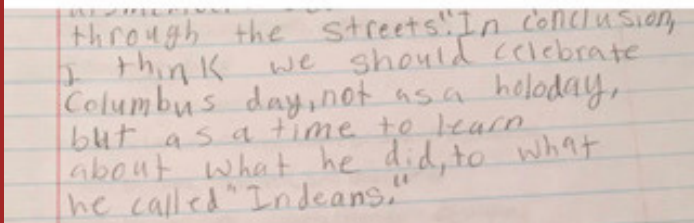
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

BY: IZZY HAAKANSON (OLD HARBOR TRIBE)

My earliest remembrance of what used to be Columbus Day was in second grade when we were learning about the day and we had to write something on if we think it should still be celebrated. Everyone in my second grade class was very against it after learning about Columbus but I remember thinking about if we just take out the whole day, who's going to remember what happened? We can't just forget about the past, we need to learn about everything he did to our people.

UNEA does a great job at not only letting people know these events are happening but also educating young people on these important dates. They also host events and tell others about events to attend on these important dates so we can be advocates. I am extremely grateful to UNEA for helping me find my voice and be willing to step up as a public speaker. I now have the courage to strongly speak out for events like these.

The essay topic for my daughter's 5th class was on why we should or shouldn't celebrate Columbus Day. Isabella said she was the only one she knew who said that we should celebrate the day, but for the following reason... so we never forget. Good job [Sven Haakanson!](#)



UNEA CORNER- INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

BY: SARAH SENSE-WILSON (OGLALA)



Indigenous Peoples Day is this coming Monday Oct 9th, 2023, a special day where Indigenous people from all corners of our greater Coast Salish territory come together to celebrate our survivance. The City of Seattle officially passed a resolution codifying Indigenous Peoples Day as a city holiday in 2014. Over the many decades activists, advocates, politicians and regular community folks past and present marched, signed petitions, co-authored the resolution, protests and participated in a counter narrative opposing the 'celebration' of the federal holiday Columbus Day. It has been long understood that Columbus Day is a symbolic erasure of our Indigenous history, culture and existence. The Columbus myth is an absolute false narrative which continues to live on due to our federal government upholding white supremacy of domination 'conquering this land'. Christopher Columbus actively engaged in slave trade, sex trade, genocide, land theft, and is the posterchild for the Doctrine of Discovery.

Indigenous Peoples Day shines a bright light on the countless contributions, history, cultural and traditional practices and a celebration of our Indigeneity. Our young people and children NOW have a holiday dedicated to honoring and spotlighting their cultural lifeways. Our children's identity is central to their ability to be seen and valued. Our cultural identity is far too often ignored, overlooked, or oppressed as part of the impact of living within Seattle's white settler colonialism systems and institutions.

UNEA will celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day by partaking in community events, singing, drumming, sharing good company with friends, family and community. We are thrilled to be part of the North Seattle Community to join together in celebrating our heritage, culture and SURVIVANCE.

UNEA LEADERSHIP INTERNSHIP

BY: SARAH SENSE-WILSON (OGLALA)

We have officially launched our Urban Native Education Alliance Leadership Internship for Indigenous youth ages 14-19. Our UNEA Leadership Internship originated from our past Licton Springs Project where 14 Indigenous youth worked conjointly with various city leaders to establish Licton Springs as a designated city of Seattle sacred landmark. The overwhelming success of this project motivated us to create a yearly Leadership program designed to compensate youth for their expertise while they are simultaneously developing personal skills and earning high school credit.

The new cohort consists of 12 Indigenous youth currently enrolled in High school or higher education. These students will participate in community building initiatives, public speaking opportunities and a wide variety of leadership and life skills training. Students will earn monthly stipends for their service, consultation and work supporting UNEA grassroots community programming. This past year UNEA was fortunate to develop partnerships with City of Seattle Neighborhoods and UIATF to assign students to onsite learning and professional skill development. Our youth will be setting individual goals and group goals for their year- long internship with the overarching mission of growing their network of support while deepening their connections with our urban Native community. We look forward to strengthening our Internship project with the support of our UNEA family and community.

TIA HILLER

BIOGRAPHY

I am Tlinkit Tribe and I am a junior at Center School. My ultimate career goal is to work somewhere in the medical field, although I am still exploring specializations in that field.

Academically, I am also pursuing my interest in Native Studies, especially my own Tlingit and Haida Tribes.

With the UNEA Youth Internship Program opportunity I would like to work on my leadership skills especially because I'm considering going into the medical field and I personally think that I need to work on that.

An extracurricular interest is volunteering at a local foodbank. My strengths include working independently, committed, hard worker, organized, and very focused when given an assignment or work to do.

One of my favorite quotes is: "The secret of our success is that we never, never give up" – Wilma Mankiller.



KATT LASARTE

I am a citizen of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Idaho on my paternal side, and I am Mandan, Hidatsa, and Cree on my maternal side. I was born in Seattle, but lived for several years in Spokane, WA, when I was younger. I have attended K-12 in Seattle Public Schools, but make trips back to my parents' reservations every year for cultural and family activities.

My Educational aspirations are to graduate with a major in Linguistics to assist in Coeur d'Alene language revitalization Meet and connect with other urban Native youth in Seattle. Improve in my art and creative writing and by extension my awareness and understanding of various communities and cultures, my own at the forefront



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

Native Warrior Athletics

Basketball program



Free

Thursdays
6:00-8:00
Sundays
5:00-7:00

**Ages
4-14**

**North Seattle College
(206) 941-0338**

www.urbannativeeducation.org

**CLEAR
SKY**

Natives on the Rise

Mentorship

OCT 10TH AT 6:00PM

**INDIAN TACOS & ICE CREAM
STATION, GAMES &
GIVEAWAYS**



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Meet and Greet