



Seattle Clear Sky

Newsletter

Thriving Through Education. Culture and Tradition

JANUARY 2023 ISSUE

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MY TIME AS AN INTERN AT CLEAR SKY BY: EVITA FUENTES

I have learned many things in my time here at Clear Sky. Before I was an intern with UNEA, I was incredibly quiet and reserved as if I was hiding in a shell. Once I started working here, I came out of my shell and was able to do things that I never thought I would be able to do. I gained confidence in public speaking and have learned how to initiate and maintain conversations with new people, something I was previously intimidated by. This newfound confidence empowered me in our recent trip to Washington D.C.

In November, we traveled to D.C and it was an amazing experience. We attended different museums where I gained knowledge on the culture and history of Natives and Black people in the United States. At the American Indian Museum, I found out that we (Indigenous People) termed treaties, "blowing leaves" since they were easily forgotten and broken. It was interesting to learn that these important treaties were not taken seriously, something I had not yet learned in my public school. Further, at the National African American museum, I learned more about Emmet Till's murder. Emmet Till was only 14 years old, when he was falsely and wrongfully accused of violating a white woman resulting in his violent torture and death. I was able to visit his memorial.

UNEA and Clear sky has made an enormous impact on my life through their ongoing projects. During the pandemic, UNEA delivered food and everyday necessities to me and my family, as well as other families. Also, they have provided tutoring for many years, and it helped me all through middle school with my studies. While I was in middle school, I learned how to play basketball and now they are currently teaching my little brother too. They have also taught me how to make a traditional drum, sew a ribbon skirt and sing Coast Salish and Lakota songs through Clear Sky Academy. I am grateful for my time as an intern here at Clear Sky.

THE SACRED ELEMENTS SONG WITH LISA MONGER

BY: JAZELL J

For our Clear Sky Academy Culture and Art class Drumming & Singing unit, we were blessed to have Lisa Monger from Tulalip joined by her beautiful granddaughter Sajali Keeline to teach our Indigenous youth "The Sacred Element Song." Lisa explained to us the importance of acknowledging the original people that created the song which for this song was Chenoa Egawa (Upper Lummi) & Alex Turtle (Dine). Especially when presenting a song at an event or in front of many introducing the song and the original creators of the song and the one you taught you the song as well, this is protocol and tradition. Lisa also mentioned that this is a Coastal Song with no words and only a melodic vocal; the meaning is to present in gratitude to the elements that give us life, and to all peoples of the world who are working together to unite, honor and uplift our voices, songs, and prayers on behalf of our beautiful Mother Earth. To honor our ancestors, Mother Earth, and all elements (fire, water, air, earth). We are endlessly grateful for this song she's gifted to the youth at Clear Sky. Lisa blessed us with one of our most beautiful-sounding songs. Lisa is a gentle and passionate teacher always with good intentions and energy, thank -you for your time, Lisa and Sajali.



DAKOTA 38 RIDE

BY: LANE RYAN

Before this year, I did not know much about the Dakota 38 + 2 ride, but I've come to learn that it is an important part of history and should not go without knowledge. The first time I was taught about the ride was when I visited my reservation in Fort Peck, Montana. My Uncle Tuffy told my sister and I the memorial ride is to commemorate 38 Dakota warriors who were hung in the largest mass execution in US history, orchestrated by Abraham Lincoln on December 26th, 1862. Uncle Tuffy showed us pictures of when he went on a ride and how he got to hold the staff.

I also learned more history of the ride itself and how it began when I watched the documentary on it for Clear Sky class. The memorial started in 2005 when a Lakota man named Jim Miller had a dream of a spiritual journey by horse, returning home to Minnesota for the Dakota People. The journey is 330 miles From Lower Brule South Dakota to Mankato Minnesota starting on December 10th and ending on the 26th. I learned of the harsh climate conditions the riders face during the journey and how they navigate getting there safely, and how local communities help out too in housing and feeding the horses and riders. Although this may be the last year the ride will take place, learning about it was significant because it shows what our people are doing to heal our generational trauma, and I hope a new generation of riders will continue the journey.

MY GRANDPA THURMAN

“BUZZ” MC LEOD JR.

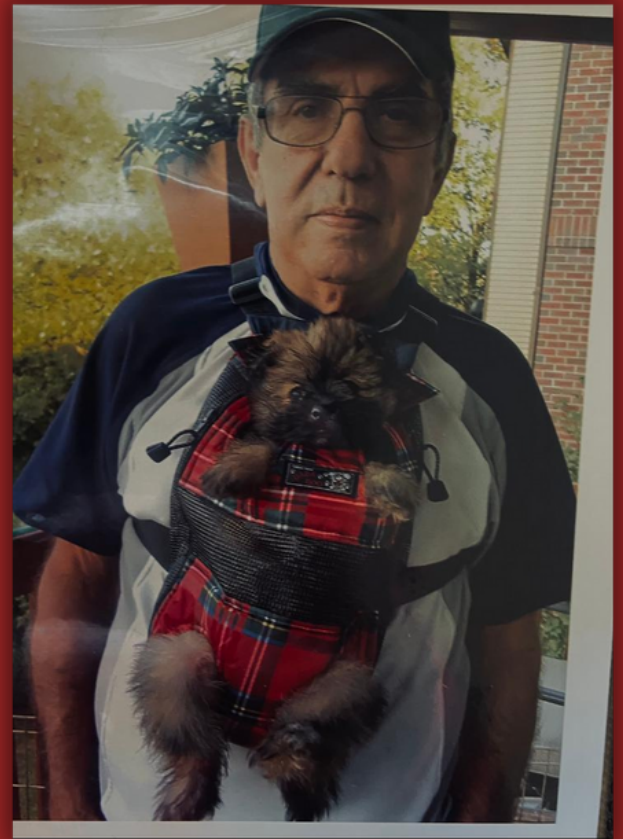
BY: LANDON BREWER

My grandfather Thurman McLeod Jr. is 84. He is the last one of his four siblings that is still alive. Unfortunately, over the past eight or so, he has been losing his memory due to Alzheimer disease. It is hard knowing that I am losing my Grandfather, but I am so grateful for the time that I have gotten to spend with him. I have been doing as much as I can to learn about my grandpa's history while I still have the chance to.

When I was younger I had heard some discussion about the boarding schools before, but I did not really know much about it and neither did the people talking about it. The victims themselves did not really talk about their boarding school experience. Sometimes, with my grandpa if I am trying to get his memory going, I will come back to a question or topic and then often he will have more information the next time that I ask.

My grandpa was born November 23rd 1938 in Arlee, Mt on the Flathead Indian reservation. A couple weeks ago I saw my grandfather, I asked him what he knows about the boarding schools and he told me he “does not know”, and then, I came back and said “what do you remember about St. Ignatious”? When I said St. Ignatious I could feel his energy shift and he looked sad. Then he said “I remember going to school there next to the church as a kid”. We started talking about how when he was a kid his parents took him away from the boarding schools and stayed at his uncles house in plains, Mt. before leaving for Washington where they lived in abandoned chicken coop. A couple summers later, they came back for his brother Marvin. As a kid, they would drive back to the rez in the summer to come visit his sisters, and to see his Cousins, the Morigeau family. Our Morigeau relatives lived just off the rez on the way back to Washington. My grandpa always knew what was happening to his sisters in the boarding schools was wrong, and he never understood why his parents only took him, and then later his brother. He always felt guilty for it. He was safe with his parents while his siblings were simultaneously violently abused physically, verbally, and sexually in those schools.

Unfortunately, a lot of my grandpa's side of my family's history was lost. Now my grandpa is slowly losing his memory, I want to learn as much as I can about my family history and my grandfather's life experiences. Our UNEA Internship 'Carrying the Medicine' project has opened the door for preserving my grandfather's life stories. 'Carrying the Medicine' project helped me learn interviewing skills, recording techniques to document stories for preserving our history and sharing with community. I decided to interview my grandpa because his story needs to be shared, and most importantly because his story is also my story.



WHAT IS FAIR?

BY: SAVANNA BRIGGS (BLACKFEET)

An unsettling question that sits with so many Indigenous people. "What is fair and what is unfair". A majority of non-indigenous people don't know, is that when an Indigenous person goes missing, there is little to no immediate response from law enforcement. However, when a non-indigenous 'White or Caucasian' person is 'missing', like a child, teenager or woman, it seems like the law enforcement will send an amber alert right away, and everyone tries to look for the person. What happen to equal rights? What happen to fairness? It seems like nobody tries to find us. Mainstream social media and media outlets are silent. Racism exists today. Mainstream society lacks awareness to the invisibility of Missing Murdered Indigenous people because they are not a person of color. I am not saying that non-natives are less important, but what I am saying is that more Indigenous and people of color are kidnapped, stolen, killed, human trafficked, and no one bats an eye.

I feel upset, sad and frustrated about this lack of collective action to address the alarming rates of MMIWP. We should protest, demonstrate or hold rallies to raise awareness to the issue of MMIW. We are human beings. There are more than hundreds of Native woman, men and children that go missing all around the world.

The Missing Person flyer on the telephone poles; the article in the local paper about the missing young woman; the Amber Alert lighting up your phone; these are all part of the reasons people who go missing each year are found. Some missing persons are found, and some never are. Natives and people of color, are abducted, kidnapped, and abused more than non-natives, and yet the news, Amber Alerts, and public awareness are seldom assisting with the searches. The result in doing less for people of color, is that missing people of color are less likely to be found. Public awareness and education and support is needed, resources are needed, and we need to recognize what influences the flow of resources: racism, politics, and economics? Whatever it is, it needs to change. Our communities deserve equal protection.



HOLIDAY HANGOUT

BY: KAYLA HARSTAD (TURTLE MOUNTAIN CHIPPEWA)

On Tuesday, December 27th, UNEA Interns and UNEA Elders gathered for a holiday hangout at in Tulalip. First, the Interns started with ice -skating at the Tulalip Amphitheatre, where members of the community joined us. This was my first time ice -skating. I thought it would be the same as roller skating, but It was very different. I quickly realized after ten minutes on the ice, that ice-skating was not for me. I would much rather be sitting and drinking hot chocolate, while my friends fall.

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After ice- skating, we met at Cedars cafe where we ate dinner and caught up with our elders. We presented gifts and surprises for both interns and elders. Eighth Generation towels, mugs, and solidarity pins, and new UNEA “merch” and Clear Sky logo beanies for everyone!

The majority of us were looking forward to the dessert part, because we all wanted the creme brulee! The anticipation of the famed Cedars Café Crème Brule was palpable, some of us would have been satisfied with crème brule as main course. A special invite to Theresa, from the ‘Carrying the Medicine’ Project, a student at University of Washington joined us too. Our night was filled with joyous laughter, and ended with full stomachs. The hour and a half wait to be seated was well worth it.

Some of the evening wait time was used to brainstorm new ideas and projects for the upcoming new year. During our conversation about upcoming projects, we reflected on past memories of our previous projects that would help us lay the foundation for future projects to come. I learned the Elders really appreciate our meetups, check-ins, and conversations. They genuinely look forward to building stronger relationships with us youth. For some Elders, our check-ins are the only interaction they have with youth. Hopefully, we can carry on with these get-togethers, so we can continue to build stronger relationships with each other. In the future, we plan on bringing back our Elders Care Project in 2023. We want to strengthen and build upon our relationships. I am beginning to realize how valuable our youth and elders connections can be for everyone. When we strengthen our relationships with one another, youth are able to seek guidance, get advice, and hear stories from the elders that are important for our generational growth. I am looking forward to this 2023 year with UNEA. Our community building projects continue to heal community.



NWA WINTER JAMBOREE

NWA had a thrilling three -day intensive basketball Jamboree this past Dec 28th, 29th and 30th. Special guest coaches and professional trainers George Hill and Dietreich Rios provided individual and team training ranging from basic to advanced conditioning, stretching and strength building drills. All skill level of ball handling, shooting, passing, rebounding and team work skills were instructed by the two talented Coaches. Players from Tulalip, Yakama, Puyallup, and all over Seattle are converged onto North Seattle College Roy Flores Wellness Center.



Each day was dedicated to specific age groups. The three day Jamboree training culminated in the final day with all ages joined together for games and competition play. The enthusiasm and level of effort displayed was met with high quality instruction and cheering from parents and fans. Day 1 was especially exciting given we experimented with adding age division 4-6 kids with 7-9 year olds. The littles learned running drills, dribbling and we managed one scrimmage game before a few kids melted down with tears and physical exhaustion. The scrimmage games were intense with great athleticism, teamwork and energy.

We also had the privilege of providing athletes, parents and coaches with professional photos to capture our youths rise to greatness. We are very appreciative to all volunteers, North Seattle College, George and Dietrich and all the parents and kids participating in our first NWA Jamboree. Our Native communities are shining brightest when we come together to encourage, cheer, and support our young Native children.



UNEA SWEET SIXTEEN CELEBRATION

Urban Native Education Alliance will be celebrating our 16 years of service to our urban Indian community on **February 16th, 2023**. This celebration will be an opportunity for us to recognize the many partners, and sister organizations and leadership throughout our 16 years of community grassroots volunteer service. UNEA has been fortunate to have many individuals and community organizations who believe in our mission and support championing our youth and families. This special event will be held at **North Seattle College 'Grove' space located at 9600 College Way N.** This is a semi-formal event and RSVP required.

We are planning to spotlight leaders and community members who have provided financial support, collaborations and resources to enhance, grow and build our organizations services to urban Indian students. Our programs continue to be responsive to the various needs and directives of student leaders and community surveys. Our Sweet sixteen milestone is going to be a sweet celebration honoring our past, present and future success of our students, families, and community. Dinner, gifts, Photo booth, drumming and singing and special guest Comedian Kasey Nicholson (Master of Ceremony) and Violinist Swil Kanim (Lummi) will provide entertainment throughout the evening. Please join us and RSVP ASAP!



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

CLEAR SKY



TUTORING

**NORTH SEATTLE COLLEGE
RM CC 1161**

FREE

**THURSDAYS
6:00-8:00PM
FOOD/SNACKS**

**VIRTUAL TUTORING
TUESDAYS 6:00-8:00PM**

UNEA (206)941-0338