



Seattle Clear Sky Newsletter

Thriving Through Education. Culture and Tradition

JUNE 2023 ISSUE

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MMIWP AWARENESS DAY MARCH

BY: LANDON BREWER (SALISH-KOOTENAI-SHAWNEE-OKANAGAN-SPOKANE)



The morning of Sunday May 6 at 10am I arrived at Westlake for the MMIW March. Hundreds of people were in the streets of Seattle supporting MMIWP Awareness Day march. Many were family members of victims. They held up signs of with photos of their missing or murdered relatives. More people started flowing into the meeting spot for the start of the march. It was the biggest turnout that I have personally witnessed show up to a march like that. People from all over the Pacific Northwest attended. Our UNEA crew gathered in one spot, all wearing the red ribbon skirts/shirts that we had made a couple weeks prior for the event.

At 11 we started getting into formation. All of the people marching lined up in rows, with our row, at first, as towards the back. We sang the women's warrior song to honor our missing women. Keeping it at the same pace was the hardest part as it got a little messy, but overall it went well. As we marched through the streets we were blocking intersections, with protest security all around us. Many of the people that walked past would stare, probably never seen so many Indians in one place before. You could really feel that we were making a presence.

Roxanne White was leading the protest, and leading our chants. She would say the name of missing or murdered family members and every one would say there names, making there voices heard in a sense. It was really crazy the way everyone was able to gather like this without nefarious activity happening in the background.

A little later in the march Roxanne White had given thanks to UNEA and had invited us up front to sing the Women's Warrior song again. In front of me were a bunch of Blackfeet, some of which I already knew, which was cool. As we started to approach the Space Needle we did a few more chants. There was an AA/PI heritage event at the Seattle Center. People were stopping to take pictures of us. It was a powerful and impactful event. At the end we got to meet a professional boxer, Kali Reis, who then gave a speech on indian identity and the Ongoing genocide of native people. The victims family members then got to go up on the stage and tell there missing or murdered relatives stories. This march was very impactful, to have this many Indian people in downtown Seattle, all there for the same cause, really made a statement. Seattle has more MMIWP cases than any other major city in the country. It was cool to see so many people come together to really raise awareness for this issue in our area, and in the country.



MARCH AND GATHERING FOR MMIWP AND FAMILIES

BY: KAYLA HARSTAD (TURTLE MOUNTAIN CHIPPEWA)

On Saturday, May 6th UNEA interns, families and volunteers made our way to downtown Seattle center. This was the 3rd annual March and Gathering for MMIWP and Families hosted by Roxanne White (Nez Perce) with the help of many other Native organizations in the Seattle area.

Days and weeks leading up to the event, UNEA interns had the opportunity to learn the Woman Warriors Song taught to us by Roxanne. We were learning this song for the event because we had the gift from Roxanne to sing it during the march. Having her ask our UNEA community directly made me feel empowered and honored to sing this for the people who are impacted from the MMIWP experience. Asking our youth was a big deal, something we wanted to do well for her to show her we care, and we can sing for a higher purpose.

The day of the event, members of all different communities and tribes made their way down to Westlake to start marching to the Seattle Center. Along the way people were singing and drumming, chanting social justice advocacy, and sharing the names of the individuals who have been impacted by MMIWP. Eventually, after our march we arrived at the Seattle Center where there were tamales, chips, and water made for the people who participated in helping with the march. We sat down on the grass with our food and began listening to people's experience with family members who have been missing. Activists and leaders flew out to speak and share the importance of acknowledging this issue and receiving justice for our community. I think it's important that we actively continue this work because it is never ending and is deeply rooted in our society. It is important that we create space for people to share their stories and traumas that they are dealing with, to offer healing, and closure that they haven't received yet. I am thankful for an event like this where we can be surrounded by community. I always look forward to working with Roxanne because I know she has devoted her entire life to her organizations for MMIWP and families. Hopefully for the years to come we can continue to grow the march with people and community to show up for one another.

REMEMBERING MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY, A CALL FOR JUSTICE

BY: SAJALI KEELINE

My name is Sajali Keeline. I am 16, and I am an enrolled Muckleshoot Tribal member. I am an UNEA intern. I had the honor of supporting MMIWP Awareness Day March event in Seattle. This day meant a lot to me, to be able to peacefully march for the memories of those we pray for. I was honored to attend the MMIPW March with Roxanne White on May 6th in Seattle. The march started at the West Lake Center and ended with presentations by family members and advocates for MMIWP at the Seattle Center.

As a 16 yr old Native girl I am concerned about this matter and believe WE must raise awareness and fight for justice for these missing loved ones. This day brings awareness to the rate of violence on our indigenous sister and brothers at alarming rate.

This day honors the memory of those lost and keeps the stories alive and celebrate their lives and remember them as more than a face on a poster. Listening to their families share story's, share their pain of loss and also continues hope.

One of the highlights of the morning was to sing and drum along side the other Clear sky and UNEA youth, those ones I call my friends and family, another very exciting part is, We were in the Seattle Times paper representing ourselves, our Tribes and UNEA. Proud young Native Warrior Women and Men having a voice for those without a voice anymore, creating a future where missing and murdered indigenous people are no longer forgotten but remembered and justice served.



M.M.I.W.P & G, TWO SPIRIT MARCH

BY: SAVANNA BRIGGS-VIELLE (BLACKFEET TRIBE)

I am proud to say that I participated in the M.M.I.P., M.M.I.W, M.M.I.W.G., M.M.I.G., Two spirit 3rd annual march taking place on May 6 in downtown Seattle. This was my first time that I ever participated in the march. As a member of UNEA's Youth Leadership Council, it was an honor and truly an empowering experience to be invited to participate. Roxanne White (Nez Perce, Yakama, Nooksack, and Aaniiih), our fearless and passionate leader, guided us through the streets of downtown Seattle. Roxanne led our rallies and chanted names of those who were missing or murdered so everyone could hear our voices as we marched down streets. UNEA took the lead in drumming, chanting and singing.

For those of you who do not know Roxanne, I will share, she is very strong and outspoken with her words, and bluntly speaks the hard truth that no one wants to hear but needs to. What is the truth, you may ask? Well the truth is that recent data report 393 indigenous people went missing, and currently 134 actively missing indigenous people (58 male, 76 female). Whereas, we need more natives to stand up for what is right, additionally not only do we need natives, we need co-society recognition and a nationwide database amber alert.

I personally noticed people who we're watching, either cheered us on or remained in silence. I could tell by some of their faces, those who were quiet, were sad after they looked at every poster and they could see why we were fighting for justice. Once we ended, we stopped at the Mural Amphitheater at Seattle Center, where we heard the family's stories and sang two last songs, which were sung with fighting voices and strong hearts.



THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR ELDERS

BY: JAZELL JENKINS

One of the ways our youth and elders connect with one another at UNEA is through dinner's spent together, to have conversation with one another and enjoy a meal together. I find these dinners to be impactful and an important experience to ground myself back to traditional Indigenous knowledge with the conversations shared with our elders.

At this dinner hosted at Stanford's Grill I got the blessing to sit by our elders John Romero (Eastern Shoshone) and Florence "Kay" Fiddler (Turtle Mt. Chippewa). One of the questions I asked was "what would you do if you were the very last person on earth?" John imminently replied well that's a good question I'd think I'd go find every book from my favorite author, he elaborated on why he enjoys this authors literature style and although he is a non-native author, he wrote majority of his stories about Natives and the poor treatment of our people. John then goes on to tell us that there are people everyday that feel so alone, like they're the last person on earth this very moment, elders being neglected, leaders uncared for in our own communities, but that's why it's so important to reach out to people in your life especially if they've been distant, you never know what a person is truly going through.

Kay later asks us a question that I've lately been reflecting on because of the many big choices I've had to make in the past couple months, she asks "what do not want in life, what is the very last thing you'd want the outcome of your life to be", something that would essentially make you feel like you've lost yourself.

She talks about how important it is to prioritize what's important to you and figuring out what you don't want in life, and the importance of taking time to reflect on your goals and values helping you to identify your priorities and what you need to do to achieve them. We all have goals and dreams, but sometimes it can be difficult to prioritize what's most important to us. With so many distractions and competing priorities in our lives, it's easy to lose sight of what really matters. That's why it's important to take time to reflect on your goals and values and figure out what you don't want in life.

I talked about how I would truly be unhappy if I worked in a toxic environment or be in a relationship with someone who doesn't respect me or treat me exactly how I want to be treated.

Taking a step back to notice are there any conflicts or contradictions between your goals and what you don't want? Teaching us that by taking time to reflect on your priorities and values, you can focus your time and energy on the things that matter most and avoid the things that don't.

I thank my elders for these grounding lessons that bring us back to our roots.

NWA BASKETBALL

NWA is now offering bi-weekly open gym basketball every Thursday 6:00-8:00pm and Sundays 5:00-7:00pm at North Seattle College Roy Flores Wellness Center. We require parent supervision and trainers, and gym supervisors are on site to provide assistance or training but we are not a childcare program. We are excited to have the opportunity to provide a safe space for children ages 5-15 to practice, play and enjoy basketball through the spring and summer seasons. We hope to offer a pre-season Basketball Camp in the fall and more info on this effort will be posted soon. If you have questions about the NWA program, please contact us at (206) 941-0338



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

UNEA
Rite of Passage Graduation Ceremony

Sunday June 25th 5:00

KEYNOTE
ROXANNE WHITE (NEZ PERCE)

MC Ryan Wilson (Oglala)

206 Singers



STANDING IN OUR POWER

Essay Contest
Scholarship Awards
Student Speakers
Drumming/Singing
Gifts for Graduates

UNEACHAIR@GMAIL.COM

North Seattle College Courtyard

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

Two Spirit Family Joy

Free Event

Facilitators Jesse Gand Jay

Two Spirit Elders Recognition

Thursday June 29th

6:00-8:00pm



Guest Speakers

Felipa De Leon Mousseau/Monique 'Muffie' Mousseau

Co-Founders 'Uniting Resilience'

North Seattle College CC1161 (206) 941-0338

UNEA is committed to providing safe spaces, discussions, learning opportunities for our youth and community.



Clear Sky

Reiki

With
Michelle Brewer

Reiki is a form of Japanese energy healing where the practitioner uses their hands to move life force energy in the body. Reiki can reduce stress and anxiety, treats depression and connects you to your intuitive awareness.

6:00-7:30PM

UNEACHAIR@gmail.com
Youth, Elders and Volunteers have priority

(first 2 Tuesdays)
Drop-in first come first serve
FREE

North Seattle College
CC1161

20 minute sessions