



Seattle Clear Sky Newsletter

Thriving Through Education. Culture and Tradition

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Healing, Renewal and Elders Wisdom: A Reflection by Joseph Aleck

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About Us!

Seattle Clear Sky Native Youth Council (SCSNYC) provides:

- **Academic Support:** Instructional tutoring and mentoring.
- **Cultural Learning Activities:** Song and drum instruction, beading, talking circle, mural painting, storytelling, and art projects.
- **Individual Recognition:** Student of the month, monthly birthdays, and Native graduation acknowledgments.
- **Community Involvement:** Spirit Walk, social justice rallies, and field trips.
- **Leadership Opportunities:** Circle discussions, fundraisers, community organizing, and leadership building projects.
- **Basketball Program.**
- **Student Service Learning.**



I decided to join this event because through my experience in Clear Sky Academy, I know my interests are held and would likely be reflected in this event. When I saw the name, Healing, Renewal and Elders Wisdom, I became interested in it a bit more than just, "oh an event, those seem to help me understand stuff." The title stuck out to me because I was thinking about how healing by itself means quite a bit to me since I have been learning to do more of it throughout the pandemic.

I enjoyed learning about healing and the other topics from each of the panelists. It especially struck me when Itai shared about how we all have our own process of dealing with traumas and that the process we choose is no less "Native" than what would be considered a traditional form of dealing with things because we are, as they said, the embodiment of our people. It stuck out to me because this felt relevant to what I have been somewhat worried about in what I have been doing on my own time and within my own processing, such as journaling.

Overall, I feel it was particularly worth the time to think about what the Elders and other panelists had to say about these important subjects. Their teachings provided a healing process for all of the traumas that have either already been dealt or ones to look out for. For me personally, when I heard the story of sassafras, I felt as if it was breathing motion into all my ties to the two spirit identity, which were almost torn from me in a relationship that taught me to look at it as unnatural. So when I heard the story, it helped me not to look at it as unnatural within myself.

I am grateful for all the healing words and wisdom shared within this event.



In-person Acrylic Painted Bracelet and Earrings Instruction Article

By Jazell Jenkins



At the in-person bracelet and earring making event hosted by UNEA at North Seattle College, me & my little brother Elijah each made our own indigenous leather bracelets, although we didn't have enough time to make our earrings we brought back the materials given to us to make back at our house (paints, a fine paint brush, an example design on paper, extra leather, and UNEA bag). Many people joined us at the event including John Romero, Jessie Cook, Raven Fuentes, Brooke, and Sarah, everyone at the event all took safe precautions including social distancing, wearing masks, and taking temperatures before entering. We started with a blessing given by

John Romero and a land acknowledgment given by Gia Tran, we then broke out into smaller groups going to either the bracelet or earring acrylic making table. My little brother wanted to make his own bracelet first so that's where we decided to start at, we then were instructed to take a bag full of materials to use to make the bracelets and earrings. John Romero was guiding the bracelet making helping us to create our very best bracelet creation. Me and my brother are both perfectionists so we both took longer than others to finish painting ours but, in the end, we are both happy with what we made. At the end of the workshop we were given a delicious fry bread meal that we each got to enjoy at home.



In-Person Bracelet/Earring Workshop

By Ava Westre

I thought the Bracelet and Earring Workshop was interesting and pretty fun. I enjoyed working with John and listening to all his tips on the creative things we could do with our bracelets. It was a tie for me between the earrings and the bracelet as to what was my favorite. I just enjoyed it all! It was fun to be able to take the projects home and continue to create different designs. I really liked learning from Raven online but I enjoyed the in-person workshop better because it was more hands-on. They are both so talented and gave me so much inspiration. Thank you for providing me the opportunity.

Participating in the Robert Eagle Staff and Licton Springs Tour

By Kayla Harstad

The Licton Springs Tour first took place at Robert Eagle Staff where we got to learn about the legends who live on the mural walls of the school. As we learned about the sacred land of where we live and the history behind their actions as heroes, it helped me develop a new perspective on how important it is that those natural resources are protected and restored. Being a part of the Licton Springs Tour, I got to share about the life and legacy of Robert Eagle Staff. I learned more about his achievements not only within the Native community, but through his basketball career and how great of an athlete he was. He was a leader and activist on and off the court. When we arrived at the sacred site of Licton Springs, I enjoyed hearing Matt Remle talk about the whole process of the springs being restored and protected and hearing the other youth share their experience and what roles they played. I believe the tour should continue to be given annually for others to learn about the sacrifices that were made for them to be there and experience being in this sacred space.



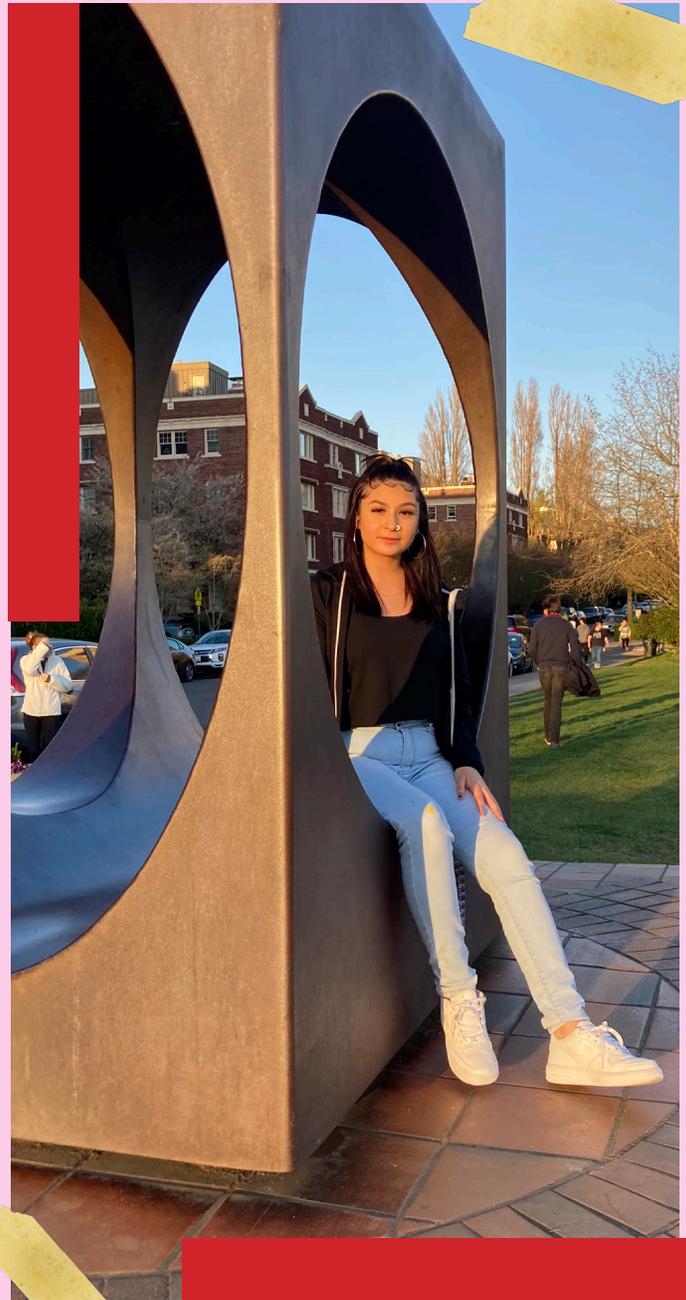
Clear Sky Academy Student in the Spotlight!



I'm Aujanique Star, I am Arikara from MHA Nation and Tsimshian from Ketchikan. I am 16, I go to Mount Rainier High School as a 10th grader. I love to play basketball. I love Math and Science. In the future I aspire to be a Nurse, to minor in law and to own my own business. On my own time, I work hard in school and have enough time to have fun with my siblings. This particular Class is extraordinary. It gives me a chance to learn things out of the ordinary, that I wouldn't learn in regular history, which is the more watered down version. This gives me an insight on real history through guest speakers who have experienced it themselves. This class also helps get my credits and the extra access I need for high school! Special thanks to Sarah and the committee for running this program and other programs like the Elders Care Project!

STUDENT OF THE MONTH!

Ohki Nitaniho Khistowa OhtskoiEniskmimaki Niimahtokhtoh UmSkapi Pikuni! Hello my name is Yellow Buffalo Stone Women and I'm from the Blackfeet Nation in Browning Montana! I am currently in Seattle, Washington and am a Sophomore at Chief Sealth Highschool. From being born into a traditional and spiritual family I have been taught and have been learning how my Indigenous cultures and spiritual lessons are important and how I need to continue those teachings. Sometimes it is very different being connected to these traditional interactions in this city. However, I have never let that get to me or affect me and I continue keeping my culture alive for my Ancestors, Elders, and my community. My goal in life is to learn about my Indigenous teachings, empower those around me and teach my community what I have been taught and how important it is. Clear Sky Native Youth program, and UNEA has been a very uplifting and supportive program that helps myself and other Native youth understand the importance of keeping our cultures alive and standing up for them and ourselves. I am highly thankful for my mentors/elders that have been teaching me how to use my voice and keep going to persevere. It has been a long journey for me using my voice. I remember how scared and nervous I would always be to use my voice, but now I don't let anything get in the way, I use my confidence and remember what I'm here for!





13th Annual Rite of Passage Graduation Ceremony

By Sarah Sense-Wilson

Our 13th Annual Rite of Passage Graduation Ceremony marks a unique milestone worthy of our focused attention honoring Indigenous students, families and community for our remarkable success in thriving and achieving, while in the throes of a difficult era. We want our ceremony to shine a light on the hope, inspiration and excellence of our community in lifting up our youth through difficult, unprecedented upheavals in everyday life. The incredible adaptability demonstrated by our collective gives way to celebrating life and honoring one another for our contributions to the overall well-being of our intertribal urban community. UNEA for example, has grown exponentially as an organization to meet the needs of our youth and families through partnerships and coalition building to broaden our reach, while balancing multigenerational considerations during a unique time in history. Our youth and families will forever remember the support, nurturing, assistance and kindness shared by our volunteers, and community members.

The slogan, "Celebrating Our Collective Resilience," for our 13th Annual Rite of Passage Graduation Ceremony reflects our desire to share joy, happiness and excitement as we stand witness to our students' success. Our volunteer graduation planning committee members agreed on the slogan, "Celebrating Our Collective Resilience," as a statement highlighting our strength, unity and solidarity. Our graduation will take place in-person at North Seattle College on Saturday June 19th, 2021 5:30-8:00pm. The specifics will be shared as soon as we have clearance from NSC and any COVID-19 restrictions considered. We will livestream the event for community wide participation and we will feature a keynote speaker; student speakers: Asia G., Joseph A., and Isaac H. Off the Rez food truck will be providing food for those in attendance and our M.C entertainer will be 'Hailey Tayathy'. In addition, Ms. Mel Ponder, professional photographer, will be on hand for event photos along with graduate and family pictures. There will be performances by Haan Dei I Jin dance group and other special appearances from performers and drummers/Singers to spread prayer, and love to lift our spirits. This year we are welcoming all Seattle area 8th graders and seniors affiliated with NWA and Clear Sky to join us in a special day honoring, recognizing and celebrating each student graduate. If you are interested in donating or volunteering please contact us AND if you want your youth to participate in the ceremony please send us your information. We can be reached at uneaprogramcord@gmail.com or blainemparce@outlook.com. We do need to register each graduate and will send you the link.

A Conversation with Aujanique Star

By Gia Tran

The Indigenous Students Alliance of North Seattle College and Clear Sky Academy student Aujanique Star, collaborated to host a wonderful virtual event. The event was held in the weekly Indigenous Students Virtual Zoom Lounge, which occurs every Tuesday 3:00-4:00pm. It had participants from both the Clear Sky community as well as North Seattle College students and staff.

Aujanique Star is a bright student in Clear Sky Academy. She joined ISA as a guest speaker to present live on the Takeover of Fort Lawton as well as her own experience with Day Break Star Native Cultural Center. We felt it was important to tell the history of the Takeover of Fort Lawton and Bernie Whitebear's leadership as this event took place in Seattle. It was a successful non-violent protest that involved many diverse groups that came to support.

Aujanique Star was a great point person to share as her family has been involved with Day Break Star for generations as well as attending the previous preschool program. Following the historical presentation, Aujanique shared about how she gained her title as Miss Seafair Princess 2020. The event participants were able to do Q&A to ask further questions on the presentation and about Clear Sky Academy. It was a phenomenal learning opportunity, and a wonderful bridging between the communities North and Clear Sky Academy.

NORTH SEATTLE COLLEGE | INDIGENOUS STUDENT ALLIANCE

A CONVERSATION WITH: AUJANIQUE STAR CLEAR SKY ACADEMY STUDENT & MISS SEAFAIR INDIAN DAYS 2019-PRESENT

In partnership with NSC Student Leadership & EDI

LIVE ON FACEBOOK!

Presentation/Q&A with Aujanique Star to learn about Clear Sky Academy and the Seattle historic event- 'Takeover of Fort Lawton' which is now Day Break Star Native Cultural Heritage Center!



(Arikara/Tsimshian/Black)

f Indigenous Students Alliance Page

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH!

This month we would like to lift up Sprout Hochberg as our Volunteer of the Month! Sprout has been a critical member of the Outreach Team since September. Every Saturday she gives 110% to ensure each family she shops for has everything they requested and as much as possible within the price limit. She also provides invaluable logistical support to keep the process running smoothly. Thank you for your consistency, dedication and care, Sprout!

1. How did you first get connected with Clear Sky and UNEA?

I first got connected to Clear Sky and UNEA when I was trying to find appropriate cultural activities for Isaac to participate in. He was at first hesitant because he didn't know anybody, but I really wanted him to be connected to his heritage and once we got involved -- the mentors/the role models/the opportunities --- everything about Clear Sky is what I want for my son. And I am grateful that I have found a way that I can contribute to the community as well through our outreach efforts.

2. Why did you want to begin volunteering with the Outreach Program in the first place?

I wanted to be involved in the Outreach program for a couple reasons -- a) to give back to Clear Sky which has given my son so many incredible opportunities and experiences (and continues to provide opportunities which help his growth) and b) to serve the larger Native community in Seattle. My family has been very fortunate and blessed even during the time of this pandemic and I know not everyone has had my good fortune - so I want to be able to support our brothers and sisters in need. One other reason is that my parents live far away - I was raised in Pennsylvania and they still live there. As they age if they need help I know their local community will support them; I need to do that in the community I live in. We are all connected.

3. What has your experience been like as a part of the Outreach Team?

I have loved being part of the Outreach Team. We have a great crew of volunteers, I look forward to seeing at Fred Meyer each week. And I especially love having brief connections with the families I deliver to. There have been a couple conversations and connections that have just been so memorable and wonderful. Again - it feels like a privilege to get to be involved and support our community.



Elder's Care Project Progress

by Jazell Jenkins

The Elders Care Project has been a valuable learning experience and enjoyable process that I am thankful to be a part of. The project started in November of 2020 and has continued throughout the year. Other than weekly calls with my two Elders, I participate in monthly check-in meetings via zoom as well as every other month meeting with the leadership team for the project. In these check-in meetings, we discuss things such as difficulties we're having with contacting our elders, if we'd be interested in other opportunities like creating an article about the Elders Care Project, having a weekly question to ask your Elders, and having a future meet up in the summer. We all discuss what our monthly gift drop offs will look like and if we have any ideas that we think would be a good/useful gift to be given to our Elders. Some ideas we've brought up are gardening tools, plants, candles, body care products, jewelry, sun hats, etc. When the opportunity is given, I also make cards for both my Elders depending on the holiday coming up. Some difficulties I've struggled with during this project are being consistent at times because of travel and other events, showing emotion through the phone and not being able to express myself in the way I would like to, and having a consistent conversation without a pause of awkward silence. A way to help myself stay consistent with my weekly calls, which my Elder Sweetwater recommended, is to text the day before confirming that we're still going to call the next day and then texting the day of about 5 to 1 minute before our scheduled time to call with one another. This has been a helpful strategy!



UNEA Community Outreach

By Akichita TakenAlive

I first became a part of the outreach team back in May of 2020 and continue to participate today. The main reason why I have continued to take part in this work is because the families I have delivered to have all been so nice and just great people all around. Also, I know this quarantine unfortunately will likely continue and people still need our support. Our deliveries vary week to week, but there are always families in need of groceries. As long as the orders keep coming, I feel obligated to help my community in any way I can. I also really enjoy working/shopping with my friends. It's a nice way to get out of the house and just talk and interact with people.

Sometimes it can get pretty hectic with the amount of groceries we have to push through a tiny checkout line, but for the most part we have that part down pat. Everyone who volunteers is a huge contributing factor to the success of Outreach, and I thank you all who have and will continue to volunteer your time for our community.



Restorative Community Pathways

By Cat Tetrick

The Restorative Community Pathways project is a group of individuals and collectives working to establish a program that seeks to alter the current Washington state juvenile legal system and invest in community-driven support systems for our state's youth. I first became a part of this project in March, after RCP leadership reached out to UNEA to see if any of the youth in their programs would be interested in participating. They were adamant about including Indigenous voices in the planning stages of this important project.

Joining the RCP workgroup has expanded my awareness and understanding of the criminal justice system in regards to the restorative justice approach for youth charged with any minor offense. Restorative justice is an approach to justice that focuses on the needs of those harmed by the offender. We focus on who was harmed, what they need, and whose obligation it is to meet those needs. Unlike the traditional criminal justice approach that often focuses on punishment and labeling conduct, restorative justice achieves accountability by offenders taking responsibility for their actions, understanding the harm they have caused, and providing an opportunity for redemption.

Decisions in regards to what offenses would be considered minor are still yet to be determined. However, most crimes involving drugs/ alcohol fall into this category due to its overall high statistics in incarcerated youth. Prosecutors hope to divert about 400 cases to the Restorative Community Pathways project when it gets up and running in 2021 and between 700-800 cases in 2022. The King County Council also approved funding for a similar program for adults that will handle about 1,000 cases a year. RCP focuses on providing the restorative programs that allow victims and offenders the opportunity to encounter one another and reconcile and create a sentencing priority for non-dangerous offenders with community based sentences instead of prison, as well as rethinking the concepts of crime and victimization.

Restorative Community Pathways focuses on healing and rehabilitation, as well as incorporating a strong human rights analysis that emphasizes the factors of race and class in the over incarceration of people. It supports the belief and concept around allowing the victim and offender a chance to resolve the conflict, as well as allowing prisoners to take responsibility for their actions. Restorative justice sees crime as a breakdown of society and human relationships and attempts to mend these relationships through dialogue, community support, involvement, and inclusion.

RCP's next steps include, writing a letter of demands to the prosecuting attorney's office, finalizing budget and request proposals, developing how we want to build new healing processes for our communities and form relationships between the different organizations and individuals doing healing work, and getting broader youth, families and communities feedback to support RCP.

RCP is an important project because its initiatives will determine our state's juvenile rates and provide healing based centers and communities surrounding our youth. I believe it is our obligation as a society to provide support, beneficial services and alternatives regarding juvenile detention and I am grateful to play a role in a project which is working to do just that.