



Seattle Clear Sky

Newsletter

Thriving Through Education. Culture and Tradition

June 2021 Issue

UNEA | P.O. Box 25142 Seattle, WA 98165
Ph: 206-941-0338 | E: markseattl3@aol.com

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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, fund-raisers, community organizing, and leadership building projects.
- **Basketball Program.**
- **Student Service Learning.**



Reflections on Indigenous and Asian Allyship: Cross Cultural Dialogue

By Asia Gellein

On Sunday, May 23rd, UNEA held the event, Indigenous and Asian Allyship: Cross Cultural Dialogue. This event was led by the UNEA interns and leadership as a first step for building allyship and solidarity between our communities. We were joined by panelists, Che Sehyun, Gwen Lee, Councilmember Kshama Sawant and Frank Irigon who shared their thoughts and insights about a number of questions we had developed. They provided both reflections from their own personal experiences and a wealth of information regarding historical background and what is going on today.

As a youth who is both urban Native and Japanese, I really appreciated this allyship event because I don't see the different communities that are a part of my identity come together often. Being mixed heritage, there are many times where it's hard to feel completely represented. But while observing how devoted the interns and panelists were in communicating how our communities can come together and help one another, I felt excited and optimistic for the future. I also learned so much from hearing from the panelists and how important it is to establish a background for an understanding of the Asian experience in America.

One of my biggest takeaways was how important it is to establish a background





for an understanding of the Asian experience in America. Learning American and Asian history gives us context to Asian American identity today and how the long-standing system of oppression in America has dehumanized and exploited Asian people. An example of this that was brought up by the panelists is the model minority myth where Asian people have been placed into a position where their own identity of solidarity is used against them. This has created a specific identity based on white standards, which are inherently racist, unfair and exploitative. Unity against these common threads of exploitation, regardless of race, is crucial because the model minority myth,

among many other “divide and conquer” tactics, has created a wedge between different communities of color. These effects of colonialism don't allow us to define ourselves or create a relationship that goes past identities and politics. The panelists emphasized that we must build solidarity and maintain a real investment in taking care of each other. One way we can do this is by taking over media that revolves around American culture

(capitalism, patriarchy, genocide, and oppression) and learn the necessary skills to read mainstream news with a critical eye.

Overall, I was very grateful to learn from each of the panelists and have the chance to further develop my thinking and understanding around these topics. I look forward to continuing this work building allyship and solidarity between our communities.

Istapatipio (the other side)

By: Lailani Norman



No thank you, I got to go.
 No, I don't have a number.
 I don't have social media. And no you don't need my phone.
 Just leave me alone.
 The anger, the rage that's lingering in my brain
 when I'm trying to walk away and how I'm slowly running out of things to say
 to just be alone and to be safe.
 So I just say you're not my type.
 I see the anger in flames in your eyes.
 You grab me in the first thing I think is am I going to die?
 I scream but it seems nobody can hear me, why can't anyone hear me?
 You pull me in, you drive us far, on and on we go...
 Then you stop... I wonder where we are.
 You push me in, force me down, You rip my clothes,
 I scream but no one can hear the sound.
 The pain, the sorrow.
 Praying to the creator that I will make it to tomorrow.
 I strike out and fight back but it's hard to get my words out
 while I take in the violation cast upon my soul and my body.
 You stab me once, twice, three times, now four.
 Then I fall to the floor and call out to the creator no more!
 Then I see my body on the floor.
 I am soaring so high like an eagle in the sky.
 I feel the wind in my wings oh my god did I die?
 So now I'm flying above and below I see the ones that I love.
 Just know that I am here and no one needs to fear.
 I know you're scared just know that I'm near.
 I hear you calling my name, I'm trying to answer but it just isn't the same,
 You'll find a way to get to me someday.
 I am in istapatipio the other side, with the creator once again.

This poem was shared at the MMIP Prayer and Solidarity Walk.



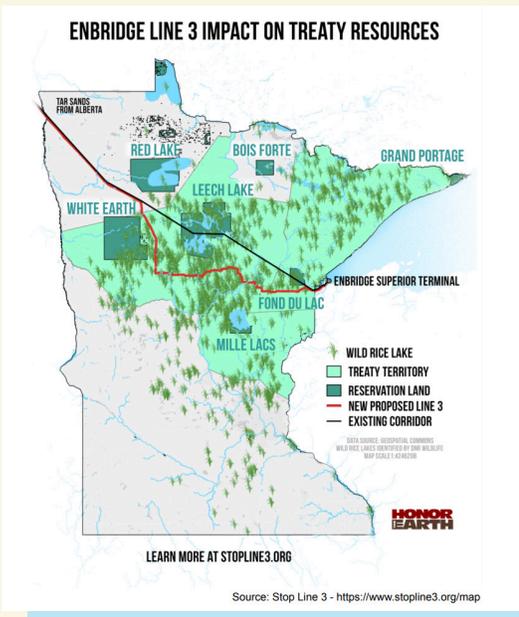
My Experience at the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Event By Jazell Jenkins

On May 15, 2021 I joined the MMIP & Families Solidarity Prayer Walk with other students from UNEA and Clear Sky Academy. I wanted to join in solidarity with my brothers and sisters and to demand justice for missing and murdered women, men and children because it sickens me that my people are being killed or going missing at such a high rate and getting absolutely no justice at all. I also wanted to listen to the families' stories and feelings as well as to immerse myself within my community and connect with other Indigenous people. Additionally, I wanted to attend to support Lailani who shared an outstanding poem that touched me in the deepest way.

We started with a blessing and a prayer circle at Be'er Sheva Park with only the families of MMIP, and it was extremely emotional to see the faces of Native families affected. I was grateful and honored to be in the presence of everyone who came out to support each other. Hearing all the stories of the families of MMIP broke my heart completely. You could feel the anger and sorrow and hear it in their voices. It brought me overwhelming sadness and indignation to hear and see so many families of this epidemic. One thing that stood out to me was when one of the speakers said that we should be here gathered for a powwow, not because our people are being killed and taken, no one here deserves to go through this, it's sad that it has gotten to the point.

I helped at the event/rally by holding a MMIP banner with Jah'lene from Be'er Sheva Park to Othello Park. We also handed out water which was enjoyable because I was able to meet and greet everyone and it made me happy to see everyone's faces for once since everything has been online.

Overall, this event felt so sacred to my heart and I want to be a part of more conversations and events like this one. I also encourage others to take part in events for MMIP to show support and love for the movement, you can also possibly meet a new friend! I met Jah'Lene, a beautiful Eskimo and Cherokee girl with a kind heart who helped me pass out waters and made sure I was doing okay throughout the event. The next MMIP event I hope that I can share a poem and talk with more families one-on-one. Ukuḡaan iḡamnakuḡ.



LINE 3

By Akichita Takenalive

Line 3 was a project proposed in 2014 to replace an aging pipeline that was built back in the 1960's. According to Honor the Earth, Enbridge has reported that the current Line 3 has had 900+ leaks and cracks. The new Line 3 that is being built would transport 800,000 barrels of tar sands per day. This is nearly double that of the current line. Enbridge wants to simply abandon the current Line 3 and build a new line because they aren't obligated to take the aged pipeline out of the ground, and there are very few federal and state regulations. Winona LaDuke (Ojibwe), executive director of Honor the Earth, stated, "It is not clear if there is any liability from the Enbridge corporation."

According to David Hasemyer of Inside Climate News, Line 3 would cross over 800 wetlands, 200 bodies of water, and through treaty land. Treaty land that people's very lives depend upon, and which they are fighting right now to protect. The Kalamazoo incident, where 800,000+ barrels of toxic oil spilled out in the Michigan river over the course of 17 hours marked one of the worst inland oil spills in history. The spill spread over a 30 mile stretch of the river and floodplains, spread to Lake Michigan and Morrow Lake, and another 80 miles of river. It took years and cost 1.1 billion to clean up, and caused untold damages to the ecosystem. This is just one example of

the detrimental impact these pipelines can have on our waterways.

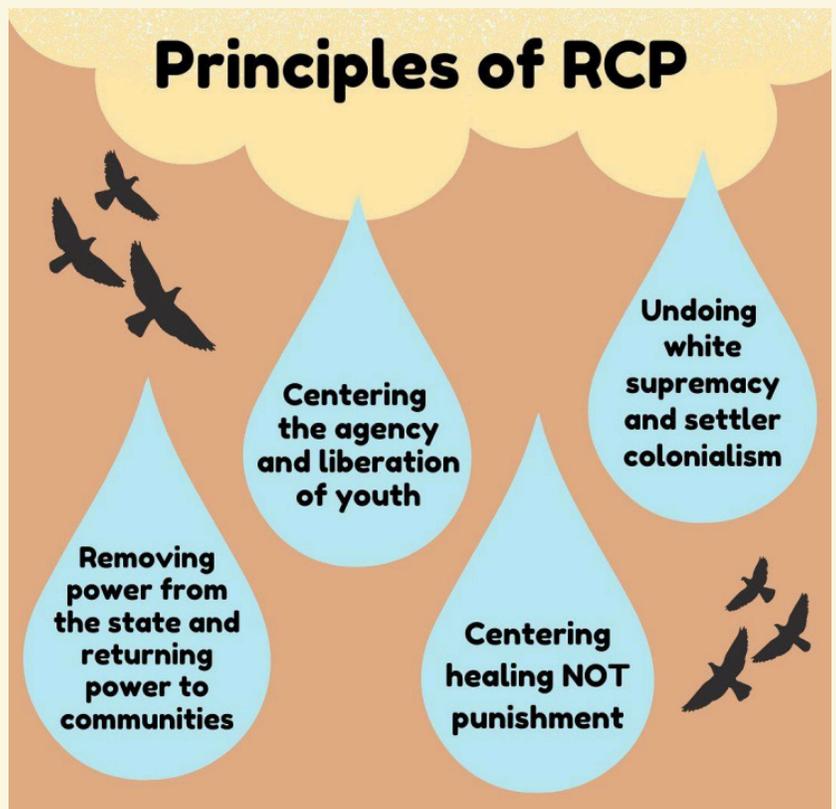
Additionally, tar sands are very difficult to remove from the environment, and affect everything living negatively. Brant Phillips of Auburn University explains, "Tar sand sinks into water, making the cleanup extraordinarily expensive. When tar sand is exposed to air, the harmful chemicals that are added as diluents evaporate into the air forming heavy toxic clouds close to ground level!" This directly threatens the watersheds and wet marshlands that the Ojibwe and Anishinaabe depend upon for rice, fish, and traditional medicine. The Treaty of Washington from 1855 stated that the Ojibwe have hunting, fishing, and farm rights on reservation land. This pipeline is not only a direct threat to the way of life for Indigenous people but also their treaty rights.

Indigenous people have always had to face overwhelming odds, and whether that was fighting the US Army or fighting for our treaty rights, we have always stuck together. We are all at risk of losing our way of life if companies like Enbridge continue to build and use these dangerous pipelines. We need to collectively make our voice loud enough for Joe Biden to hear our call to stop this pipeline.

Reflecting on Restorative Community Pathways

By Tim Shay

Restorative Community Pathways is a project that is developing an alternative to the current juvenile justice system that is focused on supporting youth, their families and the victims involved. I decided to become a part of the Restorative Community Pathways project because it seemed like something interesting to learn more about and possibly have an effect on. I got involved by going to the class every week and helping share my opinions and ideas. The role I play in this project is helping by contributing my opinion of how I think it should be done and sharing my thoughts and questions. What I have learned from being a part of this project is a lot more about the legal system and how it works. I think the work we are doing in RCP is important because I think it would be more effective and less harmful than the current juvenile justice system and could possibly provide more jobs. My hopes for the program's future are that everything goes smoothly without any setbacks.



UNEA CORNER



BY
SARAH SENSE-WILSON

We are quickly approaching the end of the school year and what a wild ride. We have learned so many lessons and gained a tremendous amount of sheer grit discovering collective aptitude and strength from one another. I anticipate a bounce back summer marked by a return to Native Warrior Athletics and expansion of Clear Sky Academy course offerings. We continue to build on our partnerships with North Seattle College through our consultation support, collaborations, and cross cultural learning and sharing of resources. We do plan on providing summer long academic, cultural and traditional learning opportunities

It is also important to note UNEA is one of the 12 members of the Seattle Urban Native Non-Profit collaborative (SUNN). As a member of SUNN and specifically committee members to Communication and Leadership development we grow our relationships with other Seattle area community leaders. SUNN provides a critical and unprecedented space for community leadership to share ideas, programming activities, resources and goals. SUNN promotes organizational accountability,

transparency and open dialogue among members. One of the upcoming exciting SUNN hosted and sponsored events is the City of Seattle Mayoral Candidate Forum. The Mayoral Candidate forum is a non-partisan and non-endorsement initiative to bring forward our urban Native voice and voting power to candidates hoping to become the next Mayor of Seattle. The mayoral candidate forum is an opportunity to assess whether candidates are knowing or interested in serving our urban Native community interests and addressing issues where Natives are disproportionately impacted such as; Education, housing, mental health and environmental concerns. As many of you know, UNEA cannot endorse and cannot campaign or show favor to any candidate it is our responsibility to join SUNN to lift elevate our community concerns, issues and ideas to a mainstream electoral platform. We are proud to be the originators of this idea and hope the end results will have huge benefits towards helping our community realize a step towards true authentic equity and inclusion.

We invite everyone to this civic event.

NONPARTISAN

Seattle Mayoral Primary

CANDIDATE FORUM

on Native Issues

JUNE 23, 2021

4:00-6:00 pm PDT

ZOOM/FACEBOOK LIVE



SEATTLE
URBAN NATIVE
NONPROFITS



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH!

For the month of June we would like to acknowledge and celebrate one of our most dedicated Community Outreach team members, Ashley Ryerse! Her flexibility, reliability and commitment to this program have been so appreciated!

1. How did you first hear about UNEA?

Back in 2019 I was living in the North Seattle area and saw the UNEA yard signs advertising a Native afterschool program. I looked into it for a few clients of mine as I worked as a case manager in the city and saw they had a volunteer sign-up page. I inquired and was asked to come in and help on Tuesday and Thursday nights! I helped set up, serve food, and be a mentor:

2. Why did you start volunteering with the Community Outreach Program?

I moved to Seattle a year prior to finding UNEA, and was always active in my own Native community back where I'm from, so I wanted to get involved here as well and get to know other community members to feel the Native presence around me. I started volunteering in community outreach and Saturday morning grocery shopping when I saw a call out on Facebook for a few drivers needed to deliver groceries back in October 2020, and I've helped almost every weekend ever since!

3. What has your experience been like volunteering with this program and what have you found to be most fulfilling about it?

I've always really liked volunteering with UNEA. They made me feel welcome immediately, and everyone who volunteers seems very passionate about really wanting to help their community and make a difference, and it's hard not to want to be a part of that! I find it fulfilling that we get to be a part of something that delivers something tangible, you get to see the immediate thankfulness and smiles on their faces when we deliver. It is rewarding to know we're helping Native families and elders across Seattle in a concrete and impactful way.



STUDENT OF THE MONTH!

We are excited to lift up Akichita, or AK, as Student of the Month! Akichita Takenalive is 18 years old and is enrolled in Standing Rock. He is currently going to North Seattle College and is both an intern with UNEA and Mazaska Talks. He enjoys playing basketball and reading in his spare time.

AK has been an Intern with UNEA since 2019. He is the kind of student that always has insightful ideas/thoughts to contribute and is not afraid to speak up. He is also highly generous with his time and loves to give back to his community. He has been an essential part of the Community Outreach team since the program first began. He has joined at 8:00AM on countless Saturdays to help ensure families have the groceries they need. His support, help and positive attitude have been so appreciated by all and we are truly grateful to have him be a part of the UNEA Intern team.

"Helping the community is important. It makes me feel complete and fulfilled." - Akichita Takenalive



CSA STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

My name is Mackenzie Tetrick, but everyone calls me Cat. I am Otoe-Missouria on my mother's side and Scandinavian on my father's and I am a junior at Middle College High School. I am passionate about helping people and using my experiences, stories and lessons as medicine to youth dealing with similar trauma. I joined Clear Sky because I was interested in learning more about my cultural identity and expanding my knowledge in cultural survival, health and resources for Indigenous youth. I have learned a great amount about the Seattle Duwamish tribe, as well as extended my knowledge regarding MMIP, and learned about new topics like Licton Springs and Billy Frank Jr. Aspects of the class like the different work groups, guest speakers, group discussions and in person events provide a variety of learning experiences and abilities to build personal relations.



UNEA & NWA GREEN LAKE RUN/ WALK & BASKETBALL PROGRAM UPDATE

By Dupree Kness

In the age of COVID-19, the necessity for taking healthy safety precautions in order to get physical activity is more important than ever. Following safety guidelines, the Native Warrior Athletic program is excited to reintroduce the run/walk event held at Green Lake for families in the Seattle urban Native community on Sunday afternoons 3:00PM-4:30PM. We are also looking forward to getting the Basketball program restarted in June at North Seattle College. The exact dates and times for this will be shared soon!

Since the beginning of May, NWA has been able to hold the NWA Run/Walk at Green Lake Park. This family friendly event includes a raffle after the run/walk with items including bikes, water bottles, frisbees, etc. for the youth members of attending families. Also we're excited to have partnered with the organization Running For Shoes Vision Leader, Scott Sowle, and his associates, who have been able to provide dynamic warm-up techniques for participants to ensure a healthy workout. Not only are we reintroducing the event at Green Lake, we're happy to be revitalizing basketball practices for youth participants, ages 9-18. Practices are to be held at the North Seattle College Gymnasium with new Coach Dupree Kness on Thursdays and Sundays for an estimated two hours. An exact time table will be released in the near future so stay tuned for updates!

We are grateful to have the ability to revamp these physical activities for the youth and families coming out of the pandemic and feel they are extremely beneficial for our wellbeing. Native American Athlete and Olympic Gold Medalist, Jim Thorpe, once said, "I was never content unless I was trying my skill... or testing my endurance." Let's take this as inspiration as we get back to developing our own unique skills and chasing our dreams.

