

## Whidbey Native Connections Initiative Newsletter April 5, 2024

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 6:30 PM: NEXT NCI MEETING

We have invited Michelle Cladusbid (Adopted Tlingit) and Tony Cladusbid (Swinomish Tribal Member and descendant of the Lower Skagit) to speak during our April meeting. They will share about the Indigenous presence on Central and North Whidbey, and tell us about opening Beaver Tales Coffee on the Coupeville Wharf. They have an inspiring vision to create an Indigenous Cultural Hub and Nature Preserve on the wharf.

### BEAVER TALES COFFEE ARRIVES IN COUPEVILLE



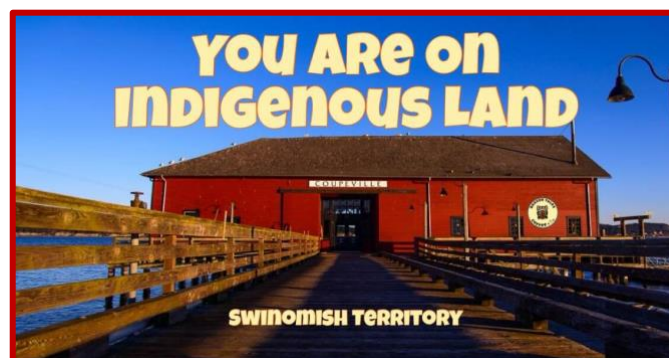
Beaver Tales Coffee is “a Woman/Native Owned Coffee Roaster, Coffee Shop and Cultural Gift Shop” that has locations in La Conner and Oak Harbor, and now Coupeville. The owners are Michelle Cladusbid (Ah Dah Néik - Adopted Tlingit) & Tony Cladusbid (Spah Kia Kud - Swinomish Tribal Member). Their tagline is “*Coffee Roasted with Love and Served Fresh in the Usual & Accustomed Area of the Swinomish Tribal Community.*”

This winter Michelle and Tony bought the restaurant on the Coupeville Wharf that was formerly occupied by The Cove. Beaver Tales Coffee on the Wharf opened for business on Friday, March 1, 2024, with a grand opening planned for May 18<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the Penn Cove Water Festival.

Michelle and Tony envision developing **swədəbš Cultural Center and Natural History Preserve: An Indigenous Cultural Center Connecting the Rich Past to the Vibrant Future.** “We propose the creation of an Indigenous Cultural Hub in Coupeville, WA, integrating a restaurant/coffee shop, gift shop, gallery, and educational spaces into a comprehensive center. This multifaceted approach aims to provide an immersive and educational experience for visitors while supporting, preserving, and celebrating the rich heritage of our indigenous communities.”

For more on the vision for a cultural center, click here:

<https://www.beavertalescoffee.com/visionwho-we-are>



**SPRING BOOK DISCUSSIONS: [Register here](#)**

Frances Wood will continue the online discussion sessions on books by Native authors. You can attend one or all sessions. Copies of each book are available in the Sno-Isle Library system and in the UUCWI library. **Registration gets you the Zoom link** for all sessions and Frances' study questions that you can keep close as you read or review.

**Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 pm on Zoom: *Red Paint: The Ancestral Autobiography of a Coast Salish Punk*, by Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe**



LaPointe is from the Nooksack and Upper Skagit Tribes and grew up moving around the Pacific Northwest with her family, developing a passion for the punk scene and keeping alive her responsibility of being the namesake of her beloved great-grandmother, Vi taqʷšəblu Hilbert -- a linguist who helped preserve Lushootseed.

Listen to Sasha LaPointe read from *Red Paint*:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7IBHwuDLto>

**Wednesday, May 22, 6:30 PM on Zoom: *Jesintel: Living Wisdom from Coast Salish Elders*, (essays and photographs), published by Children of the Setting Sun**



**YAI PODCAST: SASHA LAPOINTE**

Young and Indigenous Podcast interviews local author, musician, and professor, Sasha taqʷšəblu LaPointe. Her memoir *Red Paint: The Autobiography of a Coast Salish Punk*, is the topic of discussion and is our UUCWI book read for April. [Listen here](#).

**DAWNLAND SCREENING: APRIL 27, 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM**



Join us at [Beaver Tales Coffee](#) on the Coupeville Wharf for a film screening, Q&A, and community dinner with facilitator Rebecca Black, anti-racism trainer, educator, Indian Child Welfare advocate, state-licensed tribal foster parent, and Second-Generation Scoop Survivor.

This film event includes a small meal of fish soup, fry bread, and berries. [Tickets available for \\$35](#).

For decades, child welfare authorities have been removing Native American children from their homes to “save them from being Indian.” In Maine, the first official Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the United States began a historic investigation. *Dawnland* goes behind the scenes as this historic body grapples with difficult truths, redefines reconciliation, and charts a new course for state and tribal relations.

## PENN COVE WATER FESTIVAL: MAY 18, 11 AM –5 PM

[The Penn Cove Water Festival](#) features annual tribal canoe races, native arts & crafts vendors, storytelling, musical and dance performances, artist demonstrations, authentic Native foods, youth activities, exhibits, and displays.

[Sign up here](#) for specific volunteer jobs and time slots



## LYLA JUNE: ARCHITECTS OF ABUNDANCE

If you missed Lyla June Johnson's lecture on March 22, you can view the recording [here](#) on YouTube, courtesy of the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation.

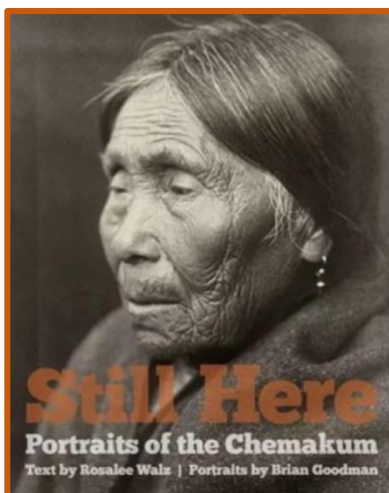
### Indigenous Regenerative Food Systems & the Excavation of Hidden History

Trudy Sundberg Lecture Series, this free public event was sponsored by the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation.

Dr. Lyla June Johnston, Indigenous musician, poet, scholar, and community organizer of Diné (Navajo), Tsétséhestáhesé (Cheyenne), and European lineages, spoke on what can be learned from pre-colonial Indigenous food and land management techniques to combat our current climate crisis.



## STILL HERE: PORTRAITS OF THE CHEMAKUM EXHIBIT



An exhibit of 4' x 5' black and white portraits of the Chemakum People will run March 1—April 28 in Port Townsend. The public is welcome to view the portraits in the foyer, fellowship hall, and sanctuary at the Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2333 San Juan Avenue, PT on **Fridays March 8 to April 19** from noon to 3 pm. Questions: [ncagquuf@gmail.com](mailto:ncagquuf@gmail.com)

Chemakum people, who lived in the Chimacum Creek watershed, have been widely considered extinct and written out of history. In fact, they are still here. At their annual family gathering in 2021, the League of Extraordinary Observers (LEO) was invited to photograph the families, and the result is this book and exhibit.

### JULY 6—12: BLUE HERON CANOE LANDING ON WHIDBEY

Save the dates for the annual visit of the Blue Heron Canoe Family. Once again, we will provide some meals for them, and everyone is welcome to participate in classes and cultural events that they will be offering. They will be camped at the South Whidbey Fairgrounds near the Fiddle Faddle Farm.



[Sign up to volunteer](#) to make dinner soups, salads, bread, and desserts, or donate food for breakfasts and lunches. Other volunteer roles are available too.

**Saturday, July 6, ~5:00 PM:** Landing and official protocol at Seawall Park in Langley  
**Sunday, July 7: Potluck dinner** at the Fairgrounds

### MAY 5-9: PALOUSE HEALING CANOE JOURNEY

In December, we were honored to have our colleague from Port Townsend, Debra Ellers, join us with her PowerPoint presentation on removing the Lower Snake River Dams. She has been supporting the Palouse Tribe in these efforts, who originally inhabited most of the area along the Lower Snake River in Eastern WA. Debra brings us information about two events coming up this spring. Both events are open to everyone.

The Palouse Tribe (WOW-YICK-MA NAH-KHEE-UM NUSHWA), is much like the Snohomish and Chemakum Tribes, in that they signed a treaty and were a major tribe in their traditional area, yet have been dispossessed from their culture and lands. Palouse Tribe descendants are working for their land to be returned and reviving their culture along the lower Snake River.

**April 19, Sacajawea Park:** Ceremony with stories, drumming, arts and crafts and more

**May 5-9: Healing Canoe Journey** on the Lower Snake River.

For more about the Palouse people, details about these events, and to register to attend, go to their [KHIMSTONIK website](#).



## DONATIONS OF PADDLING AND CAMPING GEAR NEEDED FOR THE PALOUSE CANOE JOURNEY

Debra Ellers is collecting donations of water shoes, kayak gear, dry bags, quick-dry clothing, and camping gear including tents, sleeping bags and mats. Food donations and funds are also welcome. Contact Debra to arrange for picking up donations: [debra4stuff@gmail.com](mailto:debra4stuff@gmail.com)

## PROTECTING ORCA BY RESTORING SALMON



We can continue to put pressure on our legislators to follow the Biden Administration’s [ten-year plan](#) to restore salmon, tackle the climate challenge, and modernize the Columbia River Treaties. Follow the news at [Save Our Wild Salmon](#) and join their virtual “[Snake River Dinner Hour](#)” webinar series on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of each month through May, during dinner hour.

**April 9, 6:00 pm:** Clean energy + a restored lower Snake River = a more vibrant PNW

**May 14:, 6:00 pm:** Getting grain to ocean ports by rail

## SUNDAY, MAY 19 – MONDAY, MAY 27: GATHERING OF THE EAGLES (GOTE)

The Indigenous-led group from Lhaq'temish (Lummi) territory once again will conduct a mini-canoe journey through their ancestral lands and waters. This gathering is led by Sul ka dub (Phreddie Xwenang Lane) and the Alliance of Earth, Sky & Water Protectors.

Their bridge-building 'Celebration of Intergenerational Cultural Heritage' begins on May 19 with a 7-island canoe journey through the San Juan Islands with five canoes. As they camp on various islands, they will offer cultural exchanges, storytelling, meditation, prayer circles, traditional song & dances with some arts & crafts vendors, and gift-making.

**Saturday, May 25,** they plan to paddle to Bellingham from Lummi Stommish grounds for Coast Salish Day at Whatcom Creek for the Official Canoe Welcoming Ceremony at Waypoint Park. Take in the Native Art Market and street fair at Maritime Heritage Park. The canoe journey concludes with the Alliance of Earth, Sky & Water Protectors event on **Sunday, May 26,** including a Cedar Ceremony and Clam & Oyster Bake, at the Lummi Stommish Grounds (Wexliem House.)

**All events are free and open to the public.** Updated information and details are available on their [Facebook Page](#). Sign up on the form to participate and volunteer.



Image from the GOTE Facebook Page

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**INDIGENOUS NEWS SOURCES:** If you'd like to stay current on the news from Indigenous people and their communities, here are some excellent sources:

[Native News Online](#)

[Indian Country Today](#)

[High Country News, Indigenous Affairs](#)

[Seattle Crosscut, Indigenous Affairs](#)

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*The UUCWI and WIFM convene on the traditional lands of the sduhubs (Snohomish People), the Lower Skagit People, Swinomish, and Samish. Many other people of Coast Salish Nations utilized the coast and nearby waters, and we acknowledge the significant ways the Indigenous People are still here, continuing to steward this island that is known in Lushootseed as Ts'a-kol-chey, in ways physical, spiritual, political, and social.*

*We honor the elders of the past, present, and future, with profound gratitude.*

### **Whidbey Native Connections Initiative**

is a justice initiative of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island, (UUCWI) and is supported by UU infrastructure, visionary foundations, and regional and national social-justice sister organizations, such as JUUsticeWA.

We are also supported by Whidbey Island Friends Meeting (WIFM) in ways too numerous to count.

Contact us at [nciwhidbey@gmail.com](mailto:nciwhidbey@gmail.com)