

## Whidbey Native Connections Initiative Newsletter May 3, 2024

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 6:30 PM: NEXT NCI MEETING

Join us on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, for our monthly NCI meeting at 6:30 PM. We meet online via Zoom to include those who live off-island, and to minimize driving and use of fossil fuels. You will receive the Zoom link if you are on our email list. [Join our email list.](#)

There are numerous opportunities in the next several months to participate in meals and ceremonies and form respectful and healing relationships with Indigenous people. It's an exciting time, and during our meeting we will discuss some principles for developing what is known as "Right Relationship" with Native people.

We'll also let you know about opportunities to volunteer and be part of events coming up. Mark your calendars!

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

When the Lower Snake River Dams were built, the Palouse Tribe was forcibly removed. They continue to honor and protect their ancestral lands. The Healing Canoe Journey and Camp represents an opportunity for cultural resilience, building dialogue and collaboration to protect the Snake River and promoting environmental justice.

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.

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

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



## THURSDAY, MAY 9: HUMANITIES WASHINGTON SPEAKERS BUREAU: HUNTING, FISHING AND NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY

The Treaty of 1855 between the United States and the Yakama Indian Nation is a document signed by Native American leaders, Washington Territory's Governor Isaac Stevens, and Oregon Territory's Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Joel Palmer. Palmer and Stevens pushed for "exploitative treaties" by "cajoling and threatening the delegates," according to historians at the National Park Service. Despite resistance from Yakama Chief Kamiakin, Nations were confined to reservations and other areas were opened for white settlement, including "ceded land." .....

Northwest treaty rights continue to be frequently discussed in communities and courtrooms. In his talk, Yakama hunter and fisherman Aaron Paul Whitefoot discusses the history and tensions that linger from this treaty. Learn how this struggle is emblematic of the larger history of colonialism, sovereignty, the value of nature, and traditional cultures. <https://www.humanities.org/event/hybrid-hunting-fishing-and-native-sovereignty/>

## THURSDAY, MAY 16, 4:30 PM: INTERTRIBAL CAMAS BAKE AT PRI

### Invitation to provide a meal on May 16<sup>th</sup> for the opening night of the Intertribal Camas Bake south of Coupeville



From May 16 to May 19, the [Coast Salish Youth Coalition](#) (CSYC) will be hosting their 6<sup>th</sup> annual Intertribal Camas Bake on the land at [Pacific Rim Institute for Environmental Stewardship](#) (PRI) south of Coupeville. The Qwlhó7el Camas Bake is one of several events organized by the CSYC to reconnect Indigenous youth with the lifeways and lands of their ancestors. Last year about 65 children and teens from seven tribes camped and learned on the land for three days. You can read an *Indian Country Today* article about the 2023 gathering [here](#).

**We, the Native Connections Initiative, have been invited to provide a meal** for the first night of the gathering. It will be a simple and informal opportunity to eat and visit together. We are organizing volunteers to bring soups, bread, and salads -- we will provide recipes for the soups.

We need people to sign up in advance to know we have enough food. **To volunteer to prepare food and come to PRI at 4:30pm on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> to serve and to join in the meal, please contact Sarah Schmidt by email at [4bats@ixoreus.com](mailto:4bats@ixoreus.com) or by phone or text at 360-929-3592.**

**SNAKE RIVER DINNER HOUR: MAY 14, 6:00 PM**

**PROTECTING ORCA BY RESTORING SALMON**

**Topic: Getting grain to ocean ports by rail**



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> Tuesday of each month through May, during dinner hour.

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

[The Penn Cove Water Festival](#) in Coupeville 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.



**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 6:30 PM on ZOOM: BOOK DISCUSSION: [Register here](#)**



Frances Wood will continue the online discussion sessions on books by Native authors. You are welcome to attend this last session even if you haven't made the first two. Copies of this book are available in the Sno-Isle Library system and 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.

***Jesintel: Living Wisdom from Coast Salish Elders*, (essays and photographs), published by Children of the Setting Sun.**

## 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**, Coast Salish Day at

Squalicum Creek -- noted as the Paddle to Bellingham, our team received permission to coordinate an event to coincide with Ski to Sea festivities on Saturday, May 25, 2024. We added an 8-mile pull from the Lummi Stommish grounds to downtown Bellingham. We will have an arts & culture street fair, two-stages starting at 10AM with a 12-noon Welcoming Ceremony, protocol (cultural exchanges), food, story-telling, music, sla-hal and a coastal jam at Maritime Heritage Park. Logistical details of this event are still being hashed out, but volunteers & vendors can email [phreddielane@gmail.com](mailto:phreddielane@gmail.com) for inquiries.

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.) We will conclude with a speaker series of tribal and community leader discussions on indigenous knowledge, climate change and end with our strategy talks on how to be a better protector of these lands & waters, most importantly for our 'Schelangen' Our way of Life.

**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.



Photo from FB Page of Gathering of the Eagles; Phreddie Xwenang Lane

## 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.  
We will be providing dinner on this evening.

**Sunday, July 7: Potluck dinner** at the Fairgrounds

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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 JUJusticeWA. 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)