

Whidbey Native Connections Newsletter June 7, 2024

WEDNESDAY, June 12, 6:30 PM: NEXT NCI MEETING

COAST SALISH CANOE CULTURE

Mike Evans (waq'usqideb) chair of the sduhubs (Snohomish Tribe of Indians) Council and Father of the Blue Heron Canoe Family is our speaker for this special event

Join us on Wednesday, June 12th, 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.



Have you wondered why there is a cedar wreath on the bow of the canoe?
What is the significance of the protocols enacted when a canoe approaches the shore?
How to be respectful as a non-Native when engaging with the canoe families?
What are the different kinds of canoes, and how are they used traditionally?
Who were the tribes who traditionally used the shores of what we call Whidbey Island?
What is meant by "Canoe Culture," and how is it related to language?

Mike Evans (waq'usqideb), sduhubs, has graciously agreed to join our next NCI meeting and speak to these questions and more! Come with your curiosity and open minds. This is a rare opportunity and an excellent way to inform ourselves about Canoe Culture before the Blue Heron Canoe Family arrives on our shores again.

JULY 6—12: BLUE HERON CANOE LANDING ON WHIDBEY

Save the dates for the annual visit of the Blue Heron Canoe Family.



Saturday, July 6, about 5:00: Formal landing of the canoe with protocols at Seawall Park in Langley.

Saturday, July 6, dinner: for the 3rd year, the NCI community has been invited to provide dinner for the canoe family and other Snohomish Tribal members on their arrival day. They will be camping at the **Island County Fairgrounds** this year, and we can use the kitchen and dining hall in the Coffman Building.

We are fortunate that one of our members, Michelle Munro, is joining us to coordinate volunteers. **For now, please [contact us by email](#) to volunteer.**

Sunday, July 7, Community Potluck Meal at the Fairgrounds. Stay tuned for whether the meal is lunch or dinner. Last year the potluck community dinner hosted by the BHC Family was a fabulous opportunity to get to know the Blue Heron Canoe Family and feel the significance of the teachings of the canoe.

This year the Blue Heron Canoe Family invites everyone to visit their encampment throughout the week and participate in teachings, songs, craft-making, ceremony, and informal discussions. More information about their schedule as July rolls around.

They will have crafts and fundraising items for sale.

NATIVE AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: MAY 2024

[The Friends Committee on National Legislation](#) (FCNL) advocates for legislation that will protect tribal sovereignty and treaty rights. You can sign up for monthly updates. This group makes it easy to take appropriate action. They include many links to articles.

Through the FCNL, you can support the establishment of a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools by writing Congress, and stand in solidarity with Indian Country as justice is sought for Murdered and Missing Indigenous People.

CHILDREN OF THE SETTING SUN PRODUCTIONS

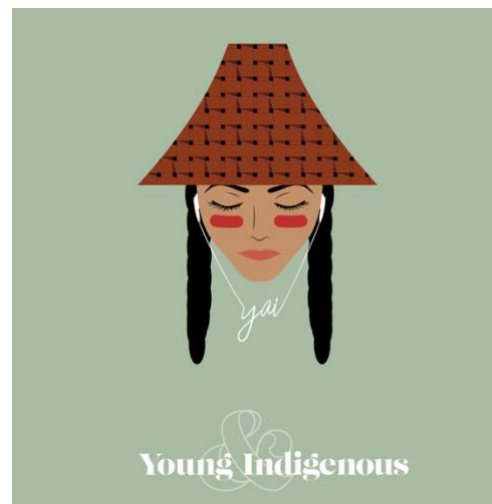
Children of the Setting Sun is a Native-led organization from the Lummi people. They see their responsibility is to create and share Indigenous stories of gratitude, generosity, and respect. They empower the minds and hearts of future generations and endeavor to provide leadership fueled by Science and Spirit. They are taking an integrated approach to expand and deepen the reach of traditional knowledge. They Create Share and Educate in order to influence academia, activism, and policy development.

Explore their website for articles, videos, and inspiring podcasts, including a podcast called [Young and Indigenous \(YAI\)](#) which is created by the youth in their own voices.

<https://settingsunproductions.org/>

INSPIRING VIDEO:

<https://youtu.be/tKx7ExLht9w>



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](#)



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

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