

Whidbey Native Connections Newsletter

September 22, 2024

NEXT NCI MEETING. We are not going to have an NCI meeting on the second Wednesday in October. Instead, we invite you to attend the event on **Friday, October 11, 12:00-2:00pm** on Zoom: **“Understanding the Impacts of the United States Indian Boarding Schools”**. We have been wanting to bring the issue of Indian Boarding Schools to our NCI meetings, with a local focus, and this webinar is exactly that. See the announcement on page 3; also the poster attached to the email with this newsletter..

FOLLOW UP TO NCI’S SEPTEMBER 11TH PROGRAM on the visit of a delegation from the Organized Village of Kake (Tlingit) to Coupeville

We are most grateful to Michael Ferri for sharing his personal experience hosting descendants of the Kake people who killed Colonel Eby in 1857 in retaliation for the killing of 27 of their tribal members in 1856.

For a **recording** of the whole presentation, recounting the events of 1856 and 1857 followed by Michael’s personal experience hosting the Kake delegation to Coupeville in 2014, **click here**, <https://youtu.be/LELhWuleeKE>. The recording includes the Q&A and discussion that followed the presentation. **To view just the story of the Kake delegation’s visit in 2014, begin at minute 29:35.**

Several people shared their desire to hear more from the Kake people directly. **Much more about the Kake people today, in their own voices, can be found in the separate document accompanying the email that brought this newsletter.**

DATED EVENTS and ACTIONS

SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 31: CYNTHIA CAMPBELL (SNOHOMISH) “HOME” ART SHOW in the UUCWI Foyer.

Cynthia Campbell has been a stalwart member of our Native Connections Initiative from the beginning. She is a Snohomish descendant, grew up on Whidbey, and still lives here. Her show is called **“HOME”**. See her Artists’ statement in our [NCI September 2nd Newsletter](#).

SEPTEMBER 23, 25, and 26, 6:00-7:30 PDT (on Zoom): Blue Jay Wisdom – A Week of Webinars, in celebration of the Power of Vision - pay as led (by the Na’ah Illahee Fund, an Indigenous women-led organization)

<https://naahillahee.org/our-blog/feature-stories/nifs-bluejayweekofwebinars/>

9/23: A Night of Traditional Storytelling and Poetry

9/25: Indigenous Innovation: Energy, Climate and Education

9/26: Sharing the Power of Vision Across Generations

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: 10:00-11:30am: Hidden Epidemics in Indian Boarding Schools

Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) Research Webinar

Series: This webinar will explore hidden epidemics within the U.S. Indian boarding school system. This event will feature guest speaker Dr. Preston McBride (Comanche by descent) and will be moderated by NABS Research Assistant Joe Tahdooahnippah (Comanche).

<https://boardingschoolhealing.org/nabs-research-webinar-series-hidden-epidemics/>

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: Deadline for comments on Cama Beach State Park

CALL FOR ACTION

-- Our Indigenous neighbors with ancestral connections with Camano Island have requested our support, and the **public comment period ends September 25, 2024**. The park's resort is much cherished by some in the local settler community and their voices are loud, advocating to re-open and refurbish facilities that were closed to the public in February of this year. The cabins and resort were built in the 1930's on top of sacred burial grounds, and the Tulalip Tribes have been leading efforts to protect this place and restore cultural humility for land and people since well before 2005, which is when human remains were archaeologically documented.

Please urge the State Department of Parks and Recreation to prioritize and sustain their efforts to work with local tribes in planning a future for Cama Beach Historical State Park.

Comment here: <https://parks.wa.gov/public-comment>

Parks presentation here: (For support of grave sites see pages 27-29, 33, 38)

<https://parks.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/Cama%20Beach%20State%20Park%20Planning%20for%20the%20Future%20Presentation.pdf>

Note that Preliminary staff recommendation is to

---Not reopen the cabins where they currently sit.

---Plan instead for a sustainable park that is in harmony with the site conditions.”

Everett Herald article: <https://www.heraldnet.com/news/tulalips-continue-fight-for-cama-beach/https://www.heraldnet.com/news/state-commission-weighs-permanent-closure-of-cama-beach-cabins/>

“...the cultural significance of this area to the Tulalip Tribes cannot be overstated. The Tulalip Tribes shares the environmental concerns conveyed by Washington State Parks and opposes any ground disturbing activities in this culturally rich and sensitive area.”

SEPTEMBER 30: ORANGE SHIRT DAY (National Day of Remembrance of Indigenous Boarding Schools)

Also **deadline for action: [Act by September 30!](#)** Remind your members of Congress of their responsibility to survivors and urge them to start the healing process by passing the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act (H.R. 7227, S.1723).

Click here to take action: <https://fcnل.quorum.us/campaign/44488/>

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 12:00-2:00, on Zoom: Understanding the Impacts of the United States Indian Boarding Schools. (NOTE: NCI invites you to attend this presentation in lieu of our regular monthly program in October)

Sponsored by Interfaith Network for Indigenous Communities. **[Click here to register.](#)**

Beginning in 1801, the United States implemented a colonized school system mandating Native children, as young as 3 years old to 16 years old, attend boarding schools. In 1819, the U.S. federal government began funding religious organizations to run these schools. They operated for almost 200 years.

We will be hearing from:

- Theresa Sheldon, National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS), Tulalip Tribes
- Edward Arlen Washines, WA State Truth and Reconciliation Advisory Committee, Yakama Nation
- Jewell Preying Wolf James, Elder and Boarding School Survivor, Lummi Nation

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, Indigenous Peoples Day
2024 Indigenous Peoples' Day Citywide Celebration**

<https://www.seattleurbannatives.org/events-calendar/2024-indigenous-peoples-day-citywide-celebration>

Keep your eyes open for additional events honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day rather than Columbus Day

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 5:30-7:00 PM PT: Webinar: The Healing Wisdom of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers

<https://friendspeacetteams.org/grandmother-mona-2024/>

In October, the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers is celebrating their 20th anniversary at a conference called, "We Are All Related: Unearthing the Roots of our Shared Humanity." In this webinar, we will be honored to hear from one of the Grandmothers, Mona Polacca, whose Native identities are Havasupai, Hopi and Tewa.

TUESDAY, OCT. 22, 7:00-9:30 PM, Children of the Setting Sun Presents Netse Mot: One Heart|One Mind One People Gathering, THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE.

<https://settingsunproductions.org/netse-mot-one-people-gathering>

One People Gathering is a movement toward healing and unity, inviting everyone to engage with Indigenous voices. “Netse Mot,” or “One heart, one mind,” reflects our commitment to shared humanity and values of gratitude, generosity, and respect in a divided world.

In the face of threats like war, political unrest, climate change, and cultural differences, it’s time to confront these challenges and rise above them as one united force—One People. We invite you to join us; your presence is essential. Speakers and performers include Dallas GoldTooth, Amy Bowers Cordalis, Sasha taqwšəblu LaPointe, Delbert Anderson, Notorious Cree, Black Lodge Singers, Fawn Wood, Tia Wood, and WestShore Canoe Family.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 10:00 AM, at the UUCWI Sunday service

Dancing to the Ticking of the Doomsday Clock: A Talk and Poetry Reading with Rena Priest



The contemporary concept of doomsday comes from Christianity and foretells the end of the world. Conversely, a famous Indigenous prophecy made in 1889 by a Paiute spiritual man named Wokova foretells liberation from the evils of colonization if the people would dance the Ghost Dance. The dance was so powerful that the government outlawed all Indigenous spiritual practices until the Native American Religious Freedoms Act was enacted in 1978. In this talk, Priest proposes dancing to the ticking of the

doomsday clock as a solution to our current dire moment, outlining how Indigenous songs and dances often celebrate the natural world and situate us in time and space in special patterns meant to release us from harmful patterns and restore us to beauty.

Rena Priest is an enrolled member of the Lhaq’temish (Lummi) Nation. She served as the 6th Washington State Poet Laureate (2021-2023) and is the editor of the anthology *I Sing the Salmon Home: poems from Washington State*. Her most recent book, *Northwest Know-How: Beaches*, includes poems, retellings of legends, and fun descriptions of 29 of the most beloved beaches in the Pacific Northwest. She currently serves as a judge for the 2024 National Book Award in Poetry. Learn more at renapriest.com

NEWS

Apache Stronghold appeals to the Supreme Court

Native American non-profit appeals to US supreme court to block Arizona mine:

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/sep/11/arizona-copper-mine-supreme-court-apache-stronghold>

“The dispute centers on the federally owned Oak Flat Campground, known as Chi’chil Bi’dagoteel in the Apache language, a location where many Apache worship their deities. The site sits atop a reserve of more than 40bn lbs (18.1m metric tonnes) of copper, a crucial component of electric vehicles and nearly every electronic device.

“If a mine is built, it would create a crater 2 miles (3km) wide and 1,000ft (304m) deep that would destroy that worship site.”

Columbia River Treaty

Canada and the United States have reached an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) to modernize the Columbia River Treaty. Join representatives from the Canadian negotiation delegation as they explain what is included in the AIP and next steps towards modernizing the Treaty. Learn more and watch a 30-minute Overview video or recording of a 2-hour Information Session here:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/columbiarivertreaty/agreement-in-principle/>

New bilingual children’s book about Ska’liCh’elh-tenaut (also known as Tokitae)

Our Hearts Beat as One / Sa’le Q’ewet Netse’lh is written in English and Xwlemi Chosen — the Lummi language — and includes a pronunciation guide for Xwlemi Chosen words and phrases that appear in the English text.

<https://salish-current.org/2024/09/13/lummi-nation-to-honor-orca-and-community-with-launch-of-our-hearts-beat-as-one/>

Published by Village Books:

<https://www.villagebooks.com/our-hearts-beat-as-one>

<https://www.villagebooks.com/book/9780999527887>



Tlingit artist Preston Singletary, a Seattle-based glass artist, creates the theatrical scenic design for Pacific Northwest Ballet’s new production of ‘Sleeping Beauty’ – due on stage in January 2025

<https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/dance/acclaimed-artist-preston-singletary-designs-pnbs-sleeping-beauty/>

Video of Salmon People Gathering 2024 – Ashland, OR (4:03 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lEL8fkMelc8>

Children of the Setting Sun recording from a Gathering of Indigenous peoples living along Elwha, Columbia, and Klamath Rivers to learn from each other about dam removal

NCI MONTHLY NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER 2, 2024

[Click here](#) for the newsletter.

[Click here](#) to access the UUCWI archive of past newsletters.

To receive our informative newsletters directly via email, please [join our email list](#).

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](#)

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 to some tribes 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