

Whidbey Native Connections Initiative Newsletter September-October 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 26, 2026, 11:30am-2:00pm, Guemes Island

Forest Feast & Fundraiser to benefit the Coast Salish Youth Coalition

at Dog Woods Preserve on Guemes Island (1.4-mile walk from Guemes ferry landing)

Free & Open to All

<https://www.coastsalishyouth.org/registration>



**COAST SALISH
YOUTH COALITION**

Nettle pesto pasta, smoked salmon, fry bread, and other tasty treats while supplies last. Bring a dish to share if you'd like.

- Learn about the Coast Salish Youth Coalition and our community-oriented work
- Silent auction of Coast Salish crafts & art – carvings, paintings, jewelry, weaving
- Self-guided walk of the preserve

While this event is a fundraiser for the Coast Salish Youth Coalition, there is no charge to attend. This feast will be open to all. Come join us!

Sunday, September 27, 2026, 3:00pm, St. Hubert Catholic Church, Langley

Care for creation through Indigenous Lens with Jill LaPoint (Upper Skagit) and John

LaPoint (Swinomish), offered by St. Hubert Catholic Church's Green Team. Reception to follow in Read Hall. [Click here for flyer](#)

Monday, October 12, 2026, 1:00pm, Organic Farm School, 6390 Maxwellton Rd, Clinton

Indigenous People's Day: Join us for storytelling and a potluck with the Snohomish Tribe of Indians. (More details in a later email.)

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Beginning October 10th for Six Saturdays—

First America, The Course

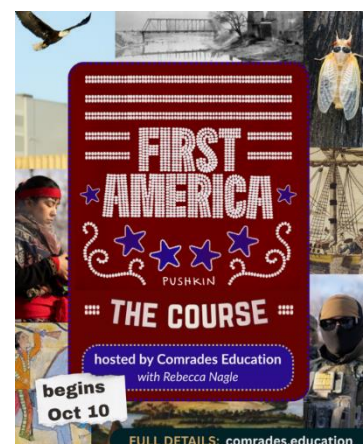
INDIGENOUS HISTORY FOR COLLECTIVE LIBERATION

NEW online course from Comrades Education

with special guest Rebecca Nagle, author & host of the

First America Podcast

"US democracy and empire were built together. If we do not know the Native history of this country, we cannot understand



the present moment we are in. With knowledge comes the power to act. Decolonization is a precondition for all life on earth ... including yours, whether you are Indigenous or not.”

Six live Saturday sessions:

Oct 10, 17, 24 and Nov 7, 14, 21

3-5:30pm eastern / 12-2:30pm pacific

Live attendance is not mandatory.

Sessions will be recorded.

Learn more and register: <https://www.comrades.education/first-america-the-course>

Rebecca Nagle's *First America* Podcast – [Click here](#)

[We highly recommend this six-episode podcast, whether or not you take *First America, The Course* described above]

Hosted and reported by Rebecca Nagle and featuring leading Native historians, *First America* unveils how the founders' treatment of Indigenous nations—and their resistance—shaped US democracy. The show ... reveals the real story of why the colonists rebelled, what kind of government they created, and, crucially, **how our current political moment was 250 years in the making.**

“The true story of the founding of the United States actually explains our current political crisis and the chaos that we're all watching.”

(<https://www.kosu.org/rebecca-nagle-first-america-podcast>)

October 13-15: Rise Up Northwest in Unity 2026 at The Spokane Tribe Resort & Casino **and online**

Rise Up Northwest (R.U.N.) in Unity is a gathering of Tribal leaders, scientists, policy experts, anglers, youth leaders, and community members from across the region to learn, connect, and turn ideas into action for a thriving Northwest.

Through expert-led conversations, we'll explore the challenges facing the region's water, wildlife, and communities. We'll learn from Indigenous leaders and Snake River users whose knowledge, experience, and connection to these ecosystems span generations. Most importantly, we'll come together to identify actionable solutions which can move us forward to a future where salmon, orca, rivers, and communities can thrive together.

Under this year's theme, "Inspiring Action at the Speed of Trust," we will unite around the restoration and protection of our lands, waters, and precious life sources and relatives.

Registration is free but space is limited. Reserve your spot today. Register here:

<https://columbiasnakeriver.com/run>



ARTICLES TO READ

“Chinook Indian Nation carries history forward at Tansy Point,” The Astorian, August 11, 2026. <https://dailyastorian.com/2026/08/11/chinook-indian-nation-carries-history-forward-at-tansy-point/>

“What Standing Rock’s propaganda war means today,” High Country News, August 24, 2026. <https://www.hcn.org/issues/58-8/inside-standing-rocks-propaganda-war/>

“Twilight fandom helps fund Quileute Tribe’s move to higher ground,” Underscore Native News, September 2, 2026
<https://www.underscore.news/land/climate-change/twilight-fandom-helps-fund-quileute-tribes-move-to-higher-ground/>

“Lummi Nation says burial grounds were dug through at Point Roberts.” Lummi Nation has accused **Whidbey Telecom** of trenching through ancestral burial grounds at Point Roberts, with lax oversight by county and federal officials. The Seattle Times, September 6, 2026. <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/lummi-nation-says-trenches-desecrated-burial-grounds-at-point-roberts/>

“Samish Indian Nation Makes Strides Toward Bull Kelp Restoration in Multi-Year Project,” Underscore Native News, September 10, 2026.
<https://www.underscore.news/land/climate-change/samish-indian-nation-makes-strides-toward-bull-kelp-restoration-in-multi-year-project/>

“City of Seattle Hosts Special Forum for Urban Natives,” Underscore Native News, September 17, 2026. <https://www.underscore.news/justice/city-government/city-of-seattle-hosts-special-forum-for-urban-natives/>

“Tribes Hit Hard by Wildfires Face Health Effects, Cultural Losses,” Indian Country Today, September 20, 2026. <https://ictnews.org/news/tribes-hit-hard-by-wildfires-face-health-effects-cultural-losses/>

[Reflections on this year’s Tribal Canoe Journey:](#)

“Stormy seas, history, songs and tradition on this year’s tribal canoe journey,” The Bellingham Herald, August 6, 2026
<https://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/state/washington/article316767122.html>

“Tell Your Story – Canoe Journey Beginnings,” Podcast, with elders Jean Sanders, Allen Frazier, and Marcy Ford. Experiences of the Tribal Canoe Journeys, protocols, cultural teachings, mannerisms, gift giving, water way travels, and history. Stories brought to you by the Nisqually Indian Tribe. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVMQM_BhJsQ

“Community mourns Nisqually Tribal Chairman Ken Choke,” Thurston Chronicle, August 11, 2026. <https://www.yelmonline.com/stories/community-mourns-nisqually-tribal-chairman-ken-choke,406592>

MOON OF THE ELK MATING CRY from the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Thirteen Moons Curriculum

“Late September to early October is the Moon of the Elk Mating Cry. This moon signals autumn. This moon is a very busy time because all salmon runs are fished. Hunting begins for larger game such as deer and elk during this moon.”
[Watch a short video](#), created in collaboration with Children of the Setting Sun.



MOON OF THE COHO (September) & MOON OF THE CHUMS (October) from the Samish Nation 13 Moons Calendar

Explore the Samish 13 Moons Story Map: [Read more here](#).



NEWS ORGANIZATIONS TO FOLLOW

Now more than ever, it’s essential that we keep our eyes on how Tribes and Native communities are faring in their centuries-long struggle, under the current administration. Here are some links to several sources of Native News by Native journalists.

UNDERScore NATIVE NEWS: [Read here](#)

This news source highlights issues concerning Culture, Justice, Land, and People in the PNW.

NATIVE NEWS ONLINE: [Read here](#)

For up-to-date national news coverage by and about Native communities

HIGH COUNTRY NEWS: INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS: [Read here](#)

High Country News reports on issues concerning the West. Their Indigenous Affairs desk has archived articles worthy of reading.

INDIGENOUS COUNTRY TODAY (ICT NEWS): [Read here](#)

ICT brings you Indigenous journalism that uplifts Native communities, supported by members, donors, and partners through the non-profit IndigPublicMedia.

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS:

News, Resources and Actions from Native Organizations

[Sign up to receive monthly news](#) from Friends Peace Teams

ACTIONS TO TAKE:

Stay informed on legislative actions by the [Friends Committee on National Legislation](#) (FCNL) FCNL focuses on Indigenous issues. You can sign up with FCNL for monthly justice updates. This group makes it easy to take appropriate action. “The federal government has a trust responsibility to protect and enhance tribal self-determination and prosperity. FCNL advocates for legislation that will protect tribal sovereignty and treaty

*The UUCWI and WIFM convene on the traditional lands
of the sduhubs (Snohomish People), the Lower Skagit People, Swinomish, and Samish.
Descendants of these Tribes have lived here continuously since time immemorial.
Many other people of Coast Salish Nations utilized the coast and nearby waters, and still do.
We acknowledge the significant ways the Native People, their families and their communities **are still here**,
continuing to steward this island 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 in numerous ways by Whidbey Island Friends Meeting (WIFM) and the broader Quaker justice work.

Contact us at nciwhidbey@gmail.com • Let us know if you'd like to [unsubscribe](#).