

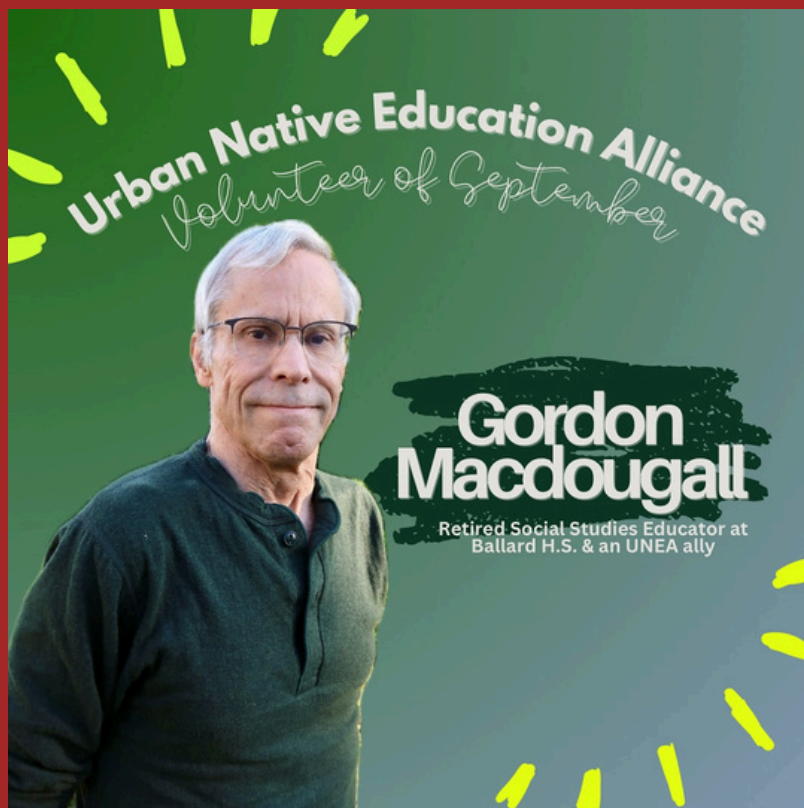


Seattle Clear Sky Newsletter

Thriving Through Education. Culture and Tradition

OCTOBER 2024 ISSUE

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SEPTEMBER ELDERS DINNER

BY KAYLA HARSTAD (TURTLE MOUNTAIN CHIPPEWA)

On Sunday, September 22nd, the new UNEA Leadership interns and our Elders Advisory Council met for our monthly Elders Dinner at North Seattle College. This much-anticipated event always warms my heart. The interns were tasked with baking desserts to share, but in the end, we all brought store-bought treats instead! We had the opportunity to share our summer experiences with the Elders Advisory Council, showcasing the exciting events we participated in, such as screen printing, cultural field trips, and various training sessions. We also discussed our upcoming events and expressed our hopes for the Elders Advisory Council to participate. It was enjoyable to recount these experiences and highlight the skills we developed over the summer.



A highlight of the evening was a group discussion activity where we paired off for five minutes, allowing for engaging conversations between elders and youth. The questions prompted us to share stories, wisdom, hobbies, and teachings. Interestingly, the youth had the chance to share their own experiences and knowledge, creating a beautiful exchange of perspectives.

To end the night, we presented our elders with thoughtful closing gifts, which included soap, stickers, magnets, and smudge kits. These small gestures are cherished dearly by our elders. I always look forward to these Elders Dinners—not just for the delicious food, but for the opportunity to strengthen the bonds between our youth and elders. For our next Elders Dinner, I truly hope that all of our UNEA interns can join us, along with our entire Elders Advisory Council. Our best moments happen when everyone is together. I'm excited for the meaningful connections and stories we'll share at our next event and throughout the year to come.



YOUTH GONA ARTICLE

BY JOSHUA MUNSON FROM THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF WARM SPRINGS)

I made a medicine bag. The bag was a nice thing to do. Making the medicine bag i felt more peaceful. The medicine bag was not as stressful as I thought it'd be, it helped my creative confidence by doing it

The next thing we did was play a team building game that was nice to do. Doing it was fun because I got to trust more people and have a good time with them. getting to know the other people was a good thing. The people there were nice, they helped me with my social confidence

I also talked to the elders a lot. They were nice, they were also nice in ways I didn't understand. One of the elders said "don't hide your face" which was nice to hear.which helped me with my overall confidence

EVERY CHILD MATTERS: HONORING TRUTH, RECONCILIATION, AND THE LEGACY OF ORANGE SHIRT DAY

On September 30th, Canada and Indigenous communities worldwide observe Orange Shirt Day, a day dedicated to recognizing the legacy of the Indian Residential Schools and the profound impact they had on Indigenous peoples. This day, also known as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, holds immense significance in acknowledging the painful history while committing to healing, education, and justice for Indigenous communities.

The Origins of Orange Shirt Day The movement began in 2013, inspired by the powerful story of Phyllis Webstad, a residential school survivor. As a child, Phyllis was excited to attend school, wearing a brand new orange shirt gifted by her grandmother. Upon arriving at the school, however, the shirt was taken from her symbolizing the systemic erasure of Indigenous identity, culture, and pride. This day has since grown into a national movement, reminding us that Every Child Matters. It highlights the atrocities that thousands of Indigenous children faced, with many never returning home. Orange Shirt Day brings these stories to light and is a call to action for justice, reconciliation, and the rebuilding of Indigenous communities.

The Importance of Truth and Reconciliation the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation acknowledges not only the past harm caused by residential schools but also the enduring legacy of this system, which continues to affect generations of Indigenous people. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, formed in 2008, brought to the surface stories of residential school survivors and issued calls to action to address these historical wrongs. While the day is rooted in painful history, it is also a symbol of resilience and survival. Indigenous peoples and their cultures endure despite generations of harm, and now, more than ever, there is a growing commitment to healing.

How We Can Support As we reflect on Orange Shirt Day and the call for truth and reconciliation, there are meaningful actions each of us can take to support Indigenous communities and honor the memory of those affected by residential schools; Wear orange, wearing an orange shirt is a simple yet impactful way to show solidarity. It honors survivors, those who never returned home, and their families. Learn and listen, educate yourself about the history of residential schools, the impact they have had, and the ongoing challenges Indigenous communities face. Listen to the stories of survivors and their families to truly understand the depth of this history. Support Indigenous-led organizations, organizations like the Urban Native Education Alliance (UNEA), a Native youth-led nonprofit, focus on empowering Indigenous youth through education, culture, and community. Supporting organizations that uplift Indigenous voices is critical to fostering positive change. Advocate for change, use your voice to advocate for policies and initiatives that prioritize truth and reconciliation, Indigenous rights, and the restoration of Indigenous cultures. Attend events and commemorations, join Indigenous-led events or discussions on truth and reconciliation. Many communities hold gatherings, art exhibitions, and storytelling sessions to honor this day.

CULTURAL SHARING WITH COMMUNITY

BY AMELIA ANDRESS (SENECA HAUDENOSUNNE)

Last week, we hosted a two-night community event centered around a dentilium earring-making class. The class was taught by Lauren Nahbhe, an incredibly talented artist of Paiute-Shoshone, Navajo, and Mono descent. I had previously met Lauren on the Powwow circuit, where she is a jingle dress dancer and well-known vendor, selling her stunning handcrafted earrings. When I was given the task of finding an instructor, Lauren immediately came to mind, and I was thrilled when she agreed to teach the class.

I'm extremely grateful to the Urban Native Education Alliance (UNEA) for allowing me the opportunity to plan events like this. In collaboration with Lauren, we designed the two-night workshop to offer participants two different earring styles: one for beginners and one for those with more advanced skills. It was exciting to see so many community members interested in learning both styles of dentilium earrings.



What I enjoyed most was watching each participant express their creativity. Everyone selected different colors and bead patterns, making each earring unique to its creator. As the workshop progressed, it was inspiring to see how people overcame challenges in their designs, supporting one another through any difficulties they encountered." I had a lot of fun being around people of different ages. It was fun to exchange confused looks and laughs with elders that were also trying to learn this new skill. It was a very comfortable space that made it easy to get creative"

-Megan Castillo said when I asked her what she thought about the night. The sense of community was strong, with participants often lending a hand to help their neighbors. The smiles that spread across people's faces as they completed their earrings showed how rewarding the process was.

This event wasn't just about learning a craft; it was about creating a space where people could come together, share stories, and celebrate each other's accomplishments. The combination of creativity, collaboration, and community made this workshop truly special, and I'm honored to have been a part of it.

UNITY 2024

BY: ALEX ESPANA

UNEA interns went to Portland for the first time for UNITY, a native youth conference with various workshops to teach us. For the first day that we were in Portland our group went to do the ice breaks for the people that haven't been to a UNITY conference before, after that we went to the bookstore Powell's then we went to go get pho for dinner because it was mine and my brothers' birthday then after dinner when we got back to the hotel we had a little cupcake party for us and to celebrate our birthday. For the first official day of the conference the theme was where as much red that you can in support for MMIWP (Missing Murdered Indigenous women and peoples) to start off the day with the UNITY opening fire ceremony.

After the opening fire we had the keynote speaker then broke off into the break out room with the representative from our region and I really enjoyed what she had to say and how she made me get out of my comfort zone, which was a struggle for me, but I did appreciate it. Orange shirt day in honor of every child matters was the theme for the second day of UNITY, for this day someone gave a performance which then he followed up with a speech to all of the youth talking about his past and struggles that he had gone through in his life and how the youth are "you are not the future you are the now" and after he was done talking I reflected and really appreciated what he had to say and the advice that he was giving to us youth. T

To start off, on the third day of the conference we went to Nike headquarters and got to learn more about N7 and how it got started and the work that went into it then after that we got to tour Nike headquarters and learn different facts about athletes and got to do fun activities along with that and were able to do a round dance later and to end our day at Nike headquarters, we got a 40% off voucher to the Nike outlet. For the final and last day of UNITY the theme was to wear your Ribbon skirt or shirts, and that day was full of fun and good memories that I had made with other interns and that was also the day that Taboo performed and the night of the gala. I really enjoyed the gala because I really got out of my comfort zone and while doing so, I got to meet some new people and to be able to grow and learn new experiences with getting outside of my comfort zone and overall, I would say that UNITY was a really good experience for me to really step outside of my comfort zone and to learn more about myself and I would say that it was a challenge, but a good challenge that I would say that I needed.

MEDICINE MAKING

BY: TIA HILLER

On July 16th UNEA had a medicine and cedar bundle making workshop at north Seattle college (nsc), and we decided to do the Cedar bundles because cedar is one of the four great medicines, and we were also going to use some of the bundles to give to the people that helped us and looked out for us in Wyoming as a thank you. I got to UNEA a little early that day to help set up before the cedar bundle and medicine making, after all of the set up was done what is when we started the night of activities. After our opening prayer and the clear sky land acknowledgment was read, we broke off into dinner and instruction then the instructors were done explaining everything to everyone some people started working on the cedar bundles and others were finishing eating. I first started with making the cedar bundles, the supplies that we needed to make the cedar bundles were Cedar, Yarn, and Scissors for me this time it was a lot easier because I had done this the year prior, so I had gotten mine done in a decent amount of time so I was also able to make some for UNEA but the biggest difference this year is that I was able to help other people with making their cedar bundles which made me happy that I was able to help other people with this activity.

When I was done with helping people and making some cedar bundles for UNEA I when and started the next activity which was medicine making and for that we were making rose and cedar oil and cedar smudge spry. To make the rose and cedar oil we had to add the coconut oil and essential oil into our little glass containers then we could add either the rose or cedar scents into the oil. To make the smudge spry we used witch hazel, distilled water, essential oil, and cedar oil and then we put all of that into little spry bottles and I gave it a little shake. After everyone was done with making their cedar bundles and rose or cedar oils, we were ready to start cleaning up for the night, so the interns started to put everything away where it needed to be and that was it for the night. I will say as this was my second year making medicine with UNEA it does get better each year, which I really enjoy each time as well and enjoy being in community and being able to experience this and make new memories with community members so I cannot wait for next time we do medicine making.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 NATIVES ON RISE MENTORSHIP 6-8PM	2	5 NATIVES ON RISE MENTORSHIP 6-8PM	4 EDMONDS DISTRICT PRESENTATION 6-8PM	5 PALESTINIAN RALLY
6	7	8 NATIVES ON RISE MENTORSHIP 6-8PM	9 CALL TO ACTION SPS TESTIMONY & RALLY @ JOHN STANDFORD 4PM	10 SCREEN PROMOTING IPD T-SHIRTS NATIVES ON RISE MENTORSHIP 6-8PM	11	12
15	IPD @ WESTLAKE PARK 1:30PM	15 IPD EVENT W/ NSC LEADERSHIP NATIVES ON RISE MENTORSHIP 6-8PM	16	17 DOCUMENTARY VIDEO/ POPCORN BAR NATIVES ON RISE MENTORSHIP 6-8PM	18 VERA PRESENTATION 6-8PM	19
EVERY 2ND MATTERS & PMLUP & FAMILIES VIGIL 4PM-7PM	21	22 SCREEN PRINTING & NOR (6-8PM) NATIVES ON RISE MENTORSHIP 6-8PM	25	24 MEDICINE BAG MAKING! PREVENTION SEXUAL HARASSMENT & ABUSE TRAINING NATIVES ON RISE MENTORSHIP 6-8PM	25	26
27	28	29 MEDICINE BAG MAKING! STUDENT/VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH & BDAY CELEBRATION NATIVES ON RISE MENTORSHIP 6-8PM	50	51 HAPPY HALLOWEEN!		

Natives on the Rise Mentorship

Incentives
Food
Tutoring/ Reading and
cultural activities

Tuesdays / Thursdays

6:00-8:00pm

Ages 5-19

Now
accepting
registration!

North Seattle College
9600 College Way N

Contact us
(206) 941-0338
UNEACHAIR@gmail.com



Urban Native Education Alliance



EVERY CHILD MATTERS & MMIWP REMEMBRANCE VIGIL



Save THE Date!

Please join us in an evening of remembering our Missing, Murdered, Residential School Victims & Survivors.

The Grove at North Seattle College



October, 20 2024



04:00PM - 7:00PM



9600 College Way N, Seattle, WA

More Information:



Kaylaharstad@gmail.com



Roxanne@mimiwppfamilies.org

open mic

Candlelight Vigil

Wellness activities & Cultural Healers & medicines. Light refreshments & snacks. Drums & Rattles Welcome!.

Guest Drum:
206 Singers