



Seattle Clear Sky Newsletter

Thriving Through Education. Culture and Tradition

BILLY MILLS CHAMPION FOR YOUTH

By Sarah SW

SEPTEMBER 2022 ISSUE

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This past weekend August 27th and 28th UNEA hosted our annual Billy Mills Run/Walk for Life events. The Saturday Youth Leadership Dinner was especially engaging due to our small gathering of interested and motivated youth and family members. We began the evening with Elder Mathew Jr. Warbonnett singing a blessing song, followed by a brief Welcome and introduction to Olympic Gold Medalist Billy Mills. Billy Mills presentation was capped off by a question and answer facilitated by UNEA Intern Kayla Harstad (Turtle Mt. Chippewa). Students asked questions about Hobbies, and reflections on how his life has been influenced by the generation he grew up in. Billy shared about an exchange he had as a child with his dad when seeing Black Elk, and considering Jim Thorpe "a God, a Titan". Billy went on to share about his passion for reading, learning, golf and time with grandchildren. He noted in his International travels people speak about looking to the Indigenous youth and Women for guidance and answers. Billy Mills shared most poignantly about his life being a 'Giveaway'. Billy recognizes his success is determined by practicing cultural values and principals in his daily life.

Billy Mills Run/Walk for life event was held for the first time at North Seattle College on Sunday August 28th, 2022. This event attracted over 130 participants including professional and amateur runners and athletes of all ages. The event was to promote health and wellness and Suicide prevention. We were fortunate to have Comedian and Wellness educator Kasey Nicholson as Master of Ceremony and keynote Billy Mills (Lakota). Several Native led non- profits joined our effort and co-sponsored the event with fiscal support, and by providing school supply giveaways,

BBQ, and First aid station. We want to thank the following organizations; Scott Sowell 'Running for Shoes', Unkitiwa, UIATF, SIHB, North Seattle College, and Urban Indian Health Institute. We appreciate all the volunteers and supporters of this event. The enthusiasm, and the collaboration along with the caliber of speakers was truly powerful and most importantly Inspirational.





INGRAHAM LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT MURAL PROJECT

By Kayla H

Over the past couple of months UNEA and Ingraham High schools Urban Native American Club have been working on a special mural project that would be placed inside the school this upcoming year. We had two artists in our community to help us create our overall vision and guide us in detail with our mural. Our art instructors are John Ramero and Megan McDermitt. Before painting our mural, I knew I wanted some type of physical representation inside Ingraham when I first started UNAC. It was important to us to have other Indigenous youth included, represented, and have safety in our Ingraham school community. A mural would help raise visibility of Indigenous representation at Ingraham and acknowledge Indigenous presence, not only in a past context but now, and in the future.

During the process of painting our mural, we all worked very well together. John would help us in finding a meaning to symbols and images we included on our mural, and why telling a story is important to whoever is looking at it, and Megan taught us how important it is to incorporate detail. We included culturally relevant symbols that we found were meaningful and would highlight and bring awareness to certain movements that we support. This process has been a beautiful journey, and has been community involved, which is the best part! I loved working with our younger youth and seeing how their creativity showed through on this amazing work of art, and I can't wait for our unveiling ceremony, and for it to finally be inside Ingraham, where it belongs.

UNEA AND UNKITIWA EVENT

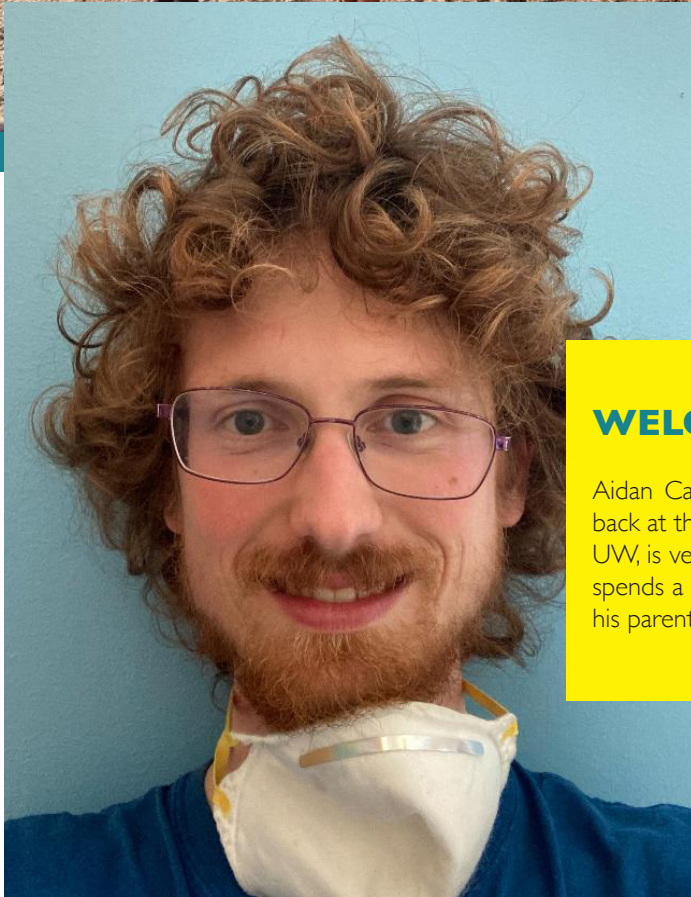
By Gia Tran

On August 19 2022, Unkitiwa held an amazing event 'Before America: Traditional Foods and Traditional Medicines' in Kent, WA. The event went from 1pm-11pm, a full day for the community to join in. Jason Vickers (Wamponoag) interacted with all the guests both at our tables and by the grill. The recipes featured Indigenous ingredients such as salmon and wild rice, both were pre-formed into patties and cooked on a cast iron skillet. The purpose of this event was to gather, enjoy a delicious meal supporting a purpose to revitalize, educate and empower us to 'Food Sovereignty'. The community shared their own experiences on sustainable systems, such as schools with gardens and cooking the harvested produce for Elders. Another strong theme was the project to create an Indigenous Farmer's Market, further strengthening Native small business owners and promoting connection with traditional uses of the edible foods. In the meal served, there were fascinating stories behind the ingredients and encouraged cultivating knowledge on the foods/herbs in the lands they grow. This event shined the beauty in traditional methods and how we can bring them into our lives today.

GONE TO GONA

For 3 days Clear Sky youth and chaperones attended GONA (Gathering of Native Youth) at the Clear Water Resort in Suquamish, WA, August 8th-11th 2022. Our hosts Seattle Indian Health Board and UIHI planned and executed a wonderful 3 day intensive team building, cultural learning and sharing experience. Co-Facilitators Gene Tagaban (Tlingit) and Theda Newbreast (Blackfeet) engaged the youth in intensive cultural learning and team building activities. UNEA chaperoned 7 youth ages 14-18 for a summer adventure away from Seattle and we were fortunate to stay in a wonderful, sacred place of the Suquamish people. We interviewed Aiden about his GONA experience.

Aiden (Apache) age 16 Ingraham student shared about his thoughts about GONA. "I had a good feeling about going to GONA, Also it was an opportunity to get out of Seattle and interact with my peers". Aiden shared about the highlights of the event, including; Ropes Course activities, trust building initiatives and games to build trust and work as a team" I learned we could rely on one another, everyone bonded and trust was formed quickly. Aiden noted "I especially felt good when Gene Tagaban acknowledged me for not letting go of the rope". Aiden further shared "Strengths I learned I had was being able to adapt, and build friendships and have closeness in a relatively short amount of time with my peers. I felt accepted. Cultural lessons learned "Give back to the environment and to those who support you". Aiden's advise for other youth considering GONA or other youth opportunities is "join, participate, talk , don't be afraid and learn and grow".



WELCOME BACK AIDEN!

Aidan Carroll (he/him) is returning to UNEA as administrative assistant, back at the role he held from 2016 to 2020. He went to Ingraham HS and UW, is very passionate about social justice, enjoys bicycling and guitar, and spends a lot of time volunteering in homeless encampments. He lives with his parents in Green Lake and is glad to be involved with UNEA.

SEATTLE

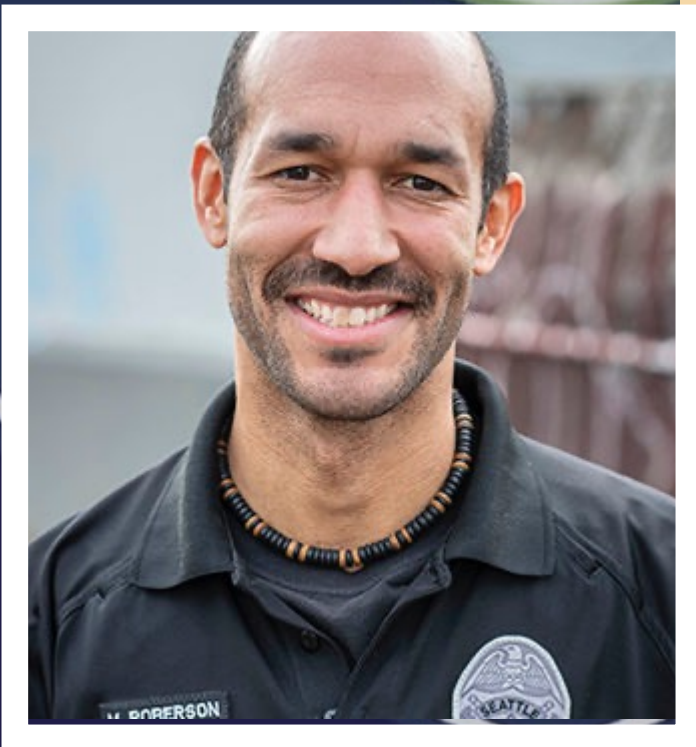
BUILDING TRUSTING RELATIONS

By Sarah SW

Relationship Building with Seattle Police – UNEA recently initiated a meeting with SPD Leadership to discuss concerns and issues related to students experiencing increased targeted violence and crime in North Seattle region. The meeting resulted in a commitment from SPD to advance their efforts to establish a Native Liaison, plan for Native Community Listening sessions and the start to a partnership with UNEA for 'Before the Badge' training support. We welcome the initiatives to create healthy relationships with police officers, police leadership and our urban Native community and youth. Our hope is for our youth to feel safe coming and going from Clear Sky/NWA, their safety is a real issue. We want to strengthen our relationship with SPD to foster increased support and resources for preventing violence, crime and harm targeted at our youth and families. For now SPD has dedicated a police officer to serve as our connection to SPD and to support our events, activities and programs. UNEA would like to introduce Officer Mathew Roberson as our support to ensure our volunteers and community experience a stronger sense of safety.

MATTHEW ROBERSON

Officer Matthew Roberson started working for the City of Seattle in 2007 as a teen program leader at South Park Community Center. At the end of 2012, he joined the Seattle Police Department and worked patrol in the South Precinct for 4 years before he started his current position as a Youth Outreach Officer in the Collaborative Policing Bureau. He focuses on violence prevention, intervention, and relationship building activities with young people often working in collaboration with various youth serving agencies. He leads talking and education programs, mentors youth, participates in community events, and organizes a wide variety of Seattle Police Activities League (SEAPAL) activities. <https://seattlepal.org/>



Urban Native Education Alliance Leadership Internship Application

UNEA Leadership Internship is a culture-based, Indigenous-focused leadership opportunity designed to empower Indigenous scholars through skills training and community-building experiences. Interns will gain valuable knowledge and connections with Elders, culture keepers, professionals, and tribal leaders.

Youth Intern Information

Name: *(please print)* _____

Tribal Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

School: _____

Pronouns: _____

Grade: _____

Age: _____

Please also submit

- W-9
- Resume
- Letter of Interest
- Biography (including your Goals, Interests, Strengths and favorite quote)

For additional questions, contact us today!

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THE AMAZING BILLY MILLS

By Ava

My experience with Billy Mills was amazing! He had a wonderful story that many should know and feel would be very much cherished. Since the first time I met Billy Mills, everytime I hear his name I think of someone who persevered and is also an amazing person. I heard a quote by him that really stood out to me. He said, "When I was running, the way I pushed myself was "one more lap". When I hear this quote, I think of the baby steps and preserving to the finish line. Even if you go slow, it's about the end result. The accomplishment, knowing that you did it, and that you made it. That is what made this quote stick with me.

BILLY'S SPARKLE

By Stacie Williams

Being able to meet Billy Mills, the pleasure will forever be mine. A moment in time I will never forget. Billy Mills is a phenomenal man. I am inspired by him. His love for his wife, his pride in who he is and the struggles he fought to get there. Something magical happens when he enters the room. His eyes sparkle brightly, his smile lights up the room. Billy exudes a kindness so engaging you don't want it to end. Hours feel like minutes as he shares remarkable stories of his journey. A beautiful life, that wasn't easy, but shares so openly, making you feel not alone.

UNEA COMMUNITY VOICE SURVEY

We continue to work towards improving UNEA programs and we are launching our 'UNEA Community Voice' survey to solicit constructive suggestions to strengthen and respond to our youth and community needs and interests. The survey is available online using QR code and all participants 12 up will receive a gift and be automatically entered into a drawing for items valued at \$25.00-\$300.00. We also plan to start offering \$25.00 gas cards for all 'regular' attending traveling participants at both Clear Sky and NWA. Regular attendance is at least twice a month. We want to find ways to enrich youths experiences in cultural learning, academic achievement and in health and fitness through basketball and other wellness initiatives. Please take 5-10 minutes to complete the survey we sure appreciate knowing how to best support you, your children and community.



About Us!

Seattle Clear Sky Native Youth Council (SCSNYC) provides:

- **Academic Support:**
Instructional tutoring and mentoring.
- **Cultural Learning Activities:**
Song and drum instruction, beading, talking circle, mural painting, storytelling, and art projects.
- **Individual Recognition:** Student of the month, monthly birthdays, and Native graduation acknowledgments.
- **Community Involvement:**
Spirit Walk, social justice rallies, and field trips.
- **Leadership Opportunities:**
Circle discussions, fund-raisers, community organizing, and leadership building projects.
- **Basketball Program.**
- **Student Service Learning.**



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