



Seattle Clear Sky Newsletter

Thriving Through Education. Culture and Tradition



MMIWP MEMORIAL PRAYER WALK

By Angel G. (Oglala)

MAY 2022 ISSUE

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When UNEA went to Missing Murdered Indigenous Women memorial prayer walk I felt saddened to hear the stories from the people who lost their family and friends but also proud that they were able to stay strong for that long. I always grew up with stories from my family about missing family members and friends. When I hear these other stories it makes me think wow this is not just my family, other families are going through stuff like this.

There are those who tell us to give up on our missing or murdered family and friends. And I am proud of the people who will never give up hope, and are still standing strong. They are still fighting to get their family members back and find out what happened to them.

My mom told me these stories to protect me from people who would hurt native women or men. It is very scary to think that there are people out there fighting for their life and trying to hang on for their families. There are people out there who have made it out of that danger and survived. Survivors tell their stories afterwards to warn others that those type of monsters do exist and to watch out for them. One of the people who survived is Roxanne White, who survived alcohol and drugs and kept strong to tell her story and teach us a women's warrior song and teach us about MMIWP.





WOMEN'S WARRIOR SONG WITH ROXANNE WHITE

By Jazell J

This past April 5th and 7th at Clear Sky, youth and community members learned the Women's Warrior song with Instructor Roxanne White (Yakama), a family member of MMIW, as well a survivor of human trafficking, domestic violence, childhood abduction, and sexual abuse. Roxanne is one of the most prominent activist voices of MMIWP in Seattle and a member of the Yakama and Nez Perce Tribe. During our first evening at Clear Sky, she told us her story, as well as the background of the Women's Warrior Song, a song created by Martina Pier and the 13 grandmothers of the first nations to honor our indigenous woman/girls and a call to bring them back to their loved ones. We were all provided a dinner from Clear Sky and later taught the words and melody to the Women's Warrior Song. Roxanne led instruction and we practiced and went live on Facebook to perform the song. In the end, Roxanne asked each one of us that had joined what the Women's Warrior song meant to us, I said that the song to me was a song to express the strength and courage of all our woman especially Indigenous women experiencing violence and hate. In the following session, Roxanne guided us in drumming beat to the Women's warrior song, and we continued to practice it in harmony and unity.

Kayla and Asia and I took a step forward to team lead in this song to present at the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women/People Prayer Walk. Roxanne finished off our day with practicing the song outside while it was nice warm weather. At the MMIWP Prayer Walk, we sung 13 verses of the song in remembrance of the 13 grandmothers. We thank Roxanne White for her time to teach us this beautiful song and hope to see her once again at Clear Sky.



THE JOURNEY TO MMIWP PRAYER WALK

By Kayla H. (Turtle Mt. Chippewa)

On Sunday April 2nd at NSC, Clear Sky youth started preparing for the MMIW prayer walk hosted by Tina Ma'shell. The prayer walk wasn't only for MMIWP and families, but it was also for Tina Ma'shells niece, Alyssa McLemore, who went missing from Kent WA, in 2009. It was held at a park on the corner of the Kent Police Station. Tina chose this location to heighten attention and promote further awareness with the Kent Police Department (KPD). The hope was for the KPD to look more closely into Alyssa McLemore's cold case and provide the necessary resources for investigators to find Alyssa. Historically, police enforcement misidentify or cold case missing Indiegnous people. Our community gathered there because yes we can search, but there also needs to be more support offered from the Kent legal system in order to restore justice for our people, one case at a time.

For the Prayer walk, Clear sky youth were invited to drum and sing a few songs. We sang the Eagle Spirit Song, the Crying song, and the Woman's Warrior song. We also designed posters, and brought food and water. These posters represented bringing awareness to MMIWP families, and Alyssa McLemore.

On Tuesday and Thursday of April 5th and 7th, we had the opportunity to have Roxanne White (Yakama/Nez perce) come to Clear sky and teach us the Woman's Warrior song that we planned on singing at the Prayer walk. During our final presentation of the Woman's Warrior song, I had many feelings that resonated with me. At first, I was sad and angry for the families and the people who had personal experience with MMIW and not receiving the right justice, and then I started feeling empowered because we were surrounded by community sharing love, prayer, and strength. This song holds deep meaning; we sing this song for the ones who are unable to, we sing this song for those who are not with us, we sing this song to speak to our ancestors and hold strength for them, and we sing this song to show we are here and we are not done fighting for our missing children and families. We were honored to sing the Women Warrior song and have Roxanne White be the person to teach it to us. We will now continue to honor those who are still missing, and continue singing this song in hopes of them finally being able to be found and come home to their families



MY MIXED BLOOD STORY

By Lailani Norman Big Spring

Am I Native today or am I white? this is a deep question that I feel any mixed-race person can relate to. I am a Proud Mixed Blood Indigenous Woman who has family here in Seattle and back on my Reservation in Browning Mt. I have advantages to understanding how I am accepted or not accepted from both areas of where I live.

I currently live my life, with various Radical Racial Biased judgements that comes from many various people to working situations and even relations that cast or have biased judgements of cultural backing/Genealogy. Living either in a diverse metropolitan area or in a smaller town/Reservation with my Umskapiikunni People, (Blackfeet), it is not so easy facing the issues of Genocide on our 1st nations people impacted by the Federal Government and now adopted by some of our own people today. Some are understanding and kind and some not, no matter which place this biased Genocide is coming from.

With a large amount of "full blood" indigenous people and the reservation being the root and place where many cultural practices/ events are held that this city can't provide in relation to my plains Blackfeet Culture, I can tend to be looked upon as "too white" or "I don't look Native enough, or they often take it that I don't know anything about being native or my Blackfeet Culture;" When I am in a reservation, I will get treated as if I have no idea on what I am doing when it comes to cultural practices. Then often when I prove that I do have knowledge, people will feel surprised because that's not something that they would normally expect from a native that lives in the city. This is where this makes me feel like I am "not native enough" to be able to participate fully with my cultural practices without having to suffer radical Racist judgments from either side.

Alongside with being treated as not native enough, When I am in the city it is the total opposite where I must be worried about being discriminated by a white racist society for being "too native" or just worrying about not being treated equally because I am native. This is where I struggle with being called racial slurs, getting asked racist questions, feeling like I need to fight for indigenous rights, or being peoples "native Encyclopedia" in a room full of nonnatives. This is where these problems drive me to feel like I can't even express my true indigenous self without getting ignorant questions and comments about being indigenous.

Ways I change my disappointment from all of this, is that I have learned as I get older is realizing that that I don't need to be given any rights or need to have any validation from anyone to be myself and to be able to flourish as a mixed indigenous woman and participate in my cultural practices. I get to a understand that this is a way to continue our culture as an indigenous person and I recognize how my ancestors were killed and put in prison for just being native. So, it is my natural obligation to continue my traditional teachings to stand for not just for myself but also for my elders and ancestors.

Therefore, for here on out I stand strong, use my activism, use my voice, and use my actions to fight this colonialism mind set of having to "choose a side". It's me vs. the question... Am I Native today, or am I White?



CPR TRAINING

By Junior

On April 12, 2022, Tahle Patton came to Clear Sky to train us on CPR/First Aid certification. Training consisted of what to do in a situation when you need to provide CPR. When she first came into Clear Sky, she had stuff prepared to do the CPR training. It was nice to see the mannequins and all the equipment all set out on the floor. Here are the important steps she has taught us.

WHAT DOES CPR MEAN? Well CPR means Cardio-Pulmonary- Resuscitation. CPR is a lifesaving technique that is useful in many emergencies, such as a heart attack or near drowning, in which someone's breathing, or heartbeat has stopped. The American Heart Association recommends starting CPR with hard and fast chest compressions. Here are the 7 steps of CPR training.

The seven steps of CPR involve; 1. checking the scene so you can make sure you won't get injured yourself and the person, 2. calling 911 for assistance and asking a person that's close if there is an AED nearby, 3. checking for breathing by putting your ear near the persons mouth to check for breaths and 4. also checking the chest to rise, 5. chest compressions at least 30 times, 6. delivering rescue breaths by tilting the head and closing the nose, and 7. repeating CPR steps till the medics arrive.

This critical training and certification was so important because if there is a life and death situation, I am confident I can do CPR on someone. I would know what to do and the actions I need to take. It was good having Tahle Patton at Clear Sky teaching us youth about CPR and first training.



ROXANNE WHITE AND TEACHINGS

By Joseph Aleck

UNEA welcomed the opportunity to join a MMIWP prayer walk for Allysa Mclemore. This MMIW event was planned, organized and hosted by her Aunt Tina Mclemore. As part of Tina's invite she requested we assist with offering prayer songs to lift up the families and community in attendance. We respectfully accepted the responsibilities and agreed to offer three songs for the event. At the time we only had two songs to offer, so we reached out to Roxanne White (Yakama/Nez Perce) to teach us the Woman's Warrior song. Roxanne provided Clear Sky youth with instruction on this particular MMIW theme song several years ago, however, we now have all new youth (at clear sky) and, different community members wanting to learn.

So I learned about the importance of women taking leadership in drumming/singing this particular song. 'Women's Warrior Song' should be led by women because we want to hold space for our women who are our; caretakers, nurturers, mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, ancestors. Another thing I learned or was brought to our attention was that the song was a gift and that it was gifted to her (Roxanne) at a time when she did not have a song. I learned that the song is a strong prayer. The medicine in the song is something which I didn't understand well. One of the interesting things I had not known about was that on the last verse of the song we hold up our fists in solidarity.

I really appreciated the song personally because I heard my mother sing in a prayer walk alongside others. Which helped me feel at home with my ancestors and loved ones. So, with that I feel my mother's love but also her pain, since we know the purpose and reason we sing the Women's Warrior song. Roxanne's teachings helped us all to understand the deeper meaning, purpose and origin of the prayer for those who are victims of MMIWP and their families.



NWA BASKETBALL & EASTER

By Sarah Sense-Wilson (Oglala)

On Easter Sunday UNEA took the time to celebrate NWA families by showering everyone with beautiful bouquets of colorful seasonal flowers donated by Friendly Hmong Farms. In addition, each NWA athlete received a bag of Easter themed candy and every family was gifted a \$50.00 gift card to a restaurant. Two fully loaded Easter baskets were raffled and a spirited plastic egg hunt was a highlight of our end of practice activity. All athletes had an opportunity to do photos at our 'Easter table' a brightly decorated table with holiday décor curtesy of NWA parent volunteer Tonia. The mood, energy and excitement was palpable throughout the Easter NWA event and we want to express our sincerest gratitude to the parents and volunteers; Stacy, Tonia, Mark, Asia, JJ and Cheyne for placing heart and spirit into a special day. Reminder we always need volunteers for our Thursday and Sunday practices. Please help with setting up, cleaning up, supervising littles, and fundraising or sending us info on Basketball opportunities.





UNEA CORNER

By Sarah Sense-Wilson (Oglala)

UNEA is venturing into a new approach with our communication and connection with our community. We are now holding UNEA Board of Directors Business meetings (every other month) and quarterly Community Sessions starting Tuesday May 3rd, 2022 6:30-8pm at North Seattle College CC1161. Our UNEA Business meetings are focused on HR and contractor related topics as well as other regular finance and minutes approvals and emerging issues related governance, legal and finance decisions. Our Community sessions will be facilitated by UNEA BOD members, Elders and Youth Leadership in rotation for sake of building leadership experience and skills development. We want to continue to provide families, youth, elders and community members with transparency and responsiveness as possible while also maintaining our responsibility to hold confidentiality related to contractors, volunteers and staff. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns related to our new format for meetings.

I can be reached at (206) 941-0338.

On another note, UNEA is excited to announce our upcoming 15th Annual Rite of Passage Graduation Ceremony happening on Sunday June 19th for Seattle area Indigenous students graduating 8th and 12th grade. Our ceremony theme is 'Transformative. Indigenous. Brilliance'. Location will be at North Seattle College (Courtyard space), Keynote, MC, Student speakers and Professional photos along with gifts and essay contest presentations. We are excited to yet again offer this special ceremony for all family, community and student graduates. Please contact us for more info or if you have a student eligible to participate in the honoring.

15TH ANNUAL RITE OF PASSAGE GRADUATION CEREMONY 2022

Transformative Indigenous Brilliance

June 19th, 2022 4:00 pm

CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS GRADUATING 8TH/12TH GRADE STUDENTS

MC- ITAI JEFFRIES (YESAH/OCCANEECHI)

KEYNOTE- K.O. REIL (SEACONKE WAMPANOAG)

FEATURING STUDENT SPEAKERS, SOUTHERN EXPRESS, SCHOLARSHIP, ESSAY CONTEST AWARDS, GIFTS, FEAST & GRADUATE RECOGNITIONS

REGISTER WITH MARKSEATTL3@AOL.COM
9600 COLLEGE WAY N, SEATTLE, WA 98103

NORTH SEATTLE COLLEGE

Jayell '22

Native-led nonprofits are best positioned to address the issues our communities face.

Invest in Native-led solutions.

#GiveNative
#SupportNativeLed
#NativeNonprofitDay

NATIVE WAYS FEDERATION

Ribbon Skirt & Ribbon Shirt's Workshop **FREE**

Instructors: Alice Oligario and Lenelle Jenkins

May 24th & 26th
Tues/Thurs 6-8pm

Indigenous youth ages 12-19.
Please register by emailing contact below.

North Seattle College
Room: CC1161

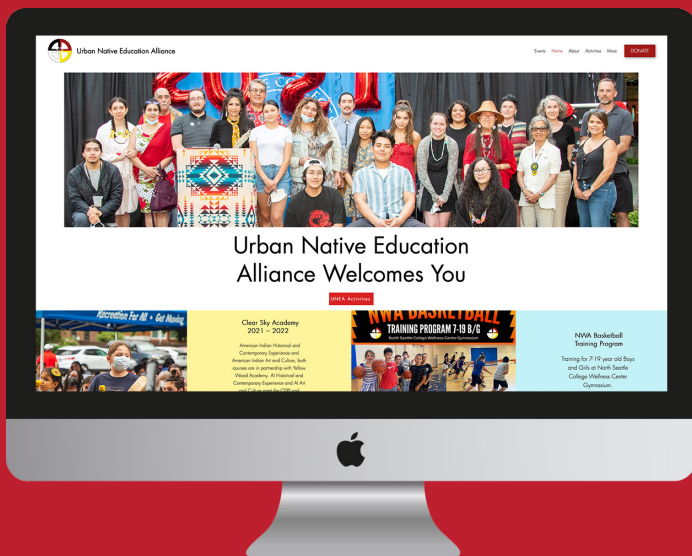
Contact: **Gia Tran**
Gia.trn@outlook.com
(206)-460-8409

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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UNEA Volunteer of the Month

Eric Blumhagen

Eric learned about Clear Sky when the program was in the midst of being evicted from Robert Eagle Staff Middle School in 2019. He started volunteering that year. He delivered Elders Care baskets during COVID and returned to in-person volunteering in 2022. Eric is at Clear Sky most Thursday evenings, helping with whatever needs to be done, from tutoring to serving food to clean up.

“What I love about volunteering at Clear Sky is learning something new every event, whether it’s the story behind a song, the history they didn’t teach us in school, or connecting with a student. I’m also inspired by Clear Sky’s focus on student needs. Lots of organizations claim to be student-centered, but Clear Sky walks the walk.” Please take time to thank Eric for his ongoing support and dedication to our urban Indian youth. We appreciate you Eric and we are always inspired by your upbeat attitude, smile and generosity.



March Student of the Month

Kayla Harstad

Kayla Harstad is a senior at Ingraham H.S. Kayla is co-founder of Ingraham Urban Native Club, UNEA Internship, and captain of Ingraham Girl’s Basketball team (4 year varsity letter). Kayla has grown her leadership in a variety of expansive and change maker ways. Planning, organizing and creating space for teaching Indigenous perspective and life experience to both students and staff at Ingraham. Kayla has also dedicated personal time to co-author Ingraham’s first Land Acknowledgment. The heavy lift and time sacrificed to co-create a Land Acknowledgment, and develop presentations and planning for Multi-cultural assembly and other Ingraham events is remarkable. Under the co- leadership of Kayla, Urban Native Club is now both visible and a reliable and accurate voice of Indigenous students.

Kayla recently committed to attending Santa Clara University in the fall 2022, and she plans to major in Education. Kayla is always active in discussions, showing curiosity and respectfully leading in critical thinking and productive planning and problem solving. I consider Kayla the “glue” of UNEA Internship as she is a great communicator, and practices inclusivity in her words and actions. Congrats Kayla for being recognized as Student of the Month.