

# Seattle Clear Sky

## Newsletter

Thriving Through Education. Culture and Tradition

### A WALK THROUGH CHINATOWN

BY AKICHITA TAKENALIVE

This August all of the UNEA interns toured the Wing Luke museum. The Wing Luke museum is dedicated to Wing Luke, a man who has inspired many throughout his career. The Wing Luke museum shows a lot about Asian history and culture, along with history about Chinatown, Japantown, and Little Saigon.

Before the guided tour started we got to explore the museum. One of the displays I was able to read was about the Japanese internment camps. In 1942 president Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order to mass incarcerate all Japanese citizens, forcing them to get rid of whatever they couldn't take with them to the camps. One of the consequences was that it severely reduced the size of Japantown, and of course the Japanese population, but after the camps ended in 1946 and some reparations were made Japan town was able to make a comeback.

During the tour through Chinatown we learned about how old the buildings were, and what they were used for, like how the Wing Luke museum used to house Chinese immigrant workers and was abandoned until they built the museum. We learned about how Chinatown has had to rebuild and struggle throughout the years, and how they have still managed to keep their culture alive and take care of themselves. They have managed to keep their traditions alive, through community centers and schools that they built and run, even though the heavy discrimination and racism.

Although we did learn a little bit about the history and culture of Chinatown, and Japantown. I wish we could learn more so I could take some notes while on the tour, because there was so much that I was not prepared for. I really enjoyed all the museum had to offer and I hope we get to go again soon.



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### MY WING LUKE MUSEUM TOUR EXPERIENCE

BY TIM SHAY

I really liked this tour because growing up around Seattle I would always pass through Chinatown and thought it was an interesting place and wondered about the history of it. Going on the Wing Luke Museum tour helped me learn a lot more about the culture and experience for Chinese and Japanese families coming to Seattle and what it was like for them.

I also liked being able to walk through different parts of the Wing Luke Museum learning more about the Chinese culture and seeing a lot of the older objects they had and learning from them. I also took a lot away from walking around Chinatown and learning more about the history of the buildings and what they were used for.

I thought it was cool seeing that the Wing Luke Museum was built off of an older hotel building, and how a lot of Chinatown was older buildings from back then.

During this tour I learned a lot more about the segregation of Chinatown and how the police would often not help back then in the area so a lot of them had to rely on each other, especially if there were fires after learning about how the first Chinatown had burned down. I found this interesting because I had never heard about there being a first Chinatown and didn't know about a lot of the segregation that had taken place.

Overall I think this was a good tour that helped me take away a lot more about the history and the area of Chinatown and what it was like to experience life as a Chinese person in Seattle.



## THE WORK OF AN INTERN

Mackenzie Tetrick

Personally, my favorite aspects of working with Clear Sky have been learning about Licton Springs, learning about cultural food preparation, being able to experience listening and learning from all of the amazing guest speakers we have had and being surrounded by other indigenous youth my age. When first hearing about Clear Sky I did not realize how hands on it would be. Although we learn traditional aspects of our culture, the work we do it is quite relevant and has a large impact on our current community.

As an intern, we are the foundation of our organizations strategic planning. We organize and participate in events, protests, cultural gatherings, fundraisers and more. Each class contains a key component to further our education of cultural awareness. We are responsible for making the commitment to work each week for a set amount of hours. It is important that individuals make this commitment in order for us to all work collaboratively on upcoming projects and be up to date with both individual work and progress with the group.

Clear Sky provides support, resources, education and cultural grounding to native youth in our communities. Clear Sky has provided its youth with many opportunities and opened doors for future career paths. It is important to be involved because Native youth are the root of our cultural identities and what they can become. Supporting Native youth with the tools and skills they need to succeed is fundamental. Our program would not be sustainable without our youth, nor the astounding dedication of our volunteers who give their time to educate and work with us.



## RETURNING TO MY UNEA FAMILY

Kayla Harstad

As a student, athlete, employee, and intern I was struggling to balance everything going on in my life. I didn't know how to step back, allow myself to take the time that I needed, and space that was necessary for me to heal. I took a month off from the internship and never missed it more. As I was gone, I got to travel and find new hobbies and interests. I was lucky enough to spend my break putting in work on and off the court. I picked up a few books and started doing more things for myself. What I mean by this, is that I wanted to get myself to a place we're I could be happy, and satisfied without feeling guilty of letting anyone down. I wanted to remind myself that it was okay to not be okay and it's perfectly normal to feel exactly what I felt.

During my break I got to spend more time with my family and loved ones and I noticed how happy it made me. It feels good to know that you matter, and I finally got the reminder I was looking for. The space was well needed, but I felt like a part of me was missing. After many basketball games and plane rides I knew I had to get back to work. I missed my peers and the friendships that I'dve created, but most importantly I missed my community through UNEA. I realized I was spending a lot of time with my loved ones and little did I know there was a family that's always there for me no matter what.

If I were to think about UNEA, all I could think about was how much everyone is constantly giving back and doing things to help one another. I loved that. So, a month later I'm feeling better than ever, and I'm coming right off the bench looking forward to how far my ideas get me and the work we have left to do. I'm excited to see what we come up with and the opportunities that we have coming our way.

## NWA BASKETBALL

KAREN WEST

My family first learned about NWA Basketball from Coach Dupree and Coach Chandler while attending one of the NWA's Greenlake Run/Walk events. My oldest son, London, seemed hesitant about joining it at first but when I asked him again about it, closer to the start of the season, he said he'd try it. His younger brother, Lincoln, wanted to participate too!

The boys love NWA Basketball! I really can't say enough about how great of an experience it has been so far for my kids. London had attended a community center basketball program several years ago and they really didn't teach the skills needed to play the game. I think this previous experience was why he was initially hesitant to join NWA Basketball.

After the first practice they were both exhausted but full of energy and enthusiasm for the sport. They both said they had a lot of fun. The coaches, Dupree, Chandler, Greg and his son Max, and Sarah are excellent and very supportive of everyone. I love that they are teaching the kids real skills, the fundamentals and rules of the game, and instilling a love for the sport. I also appreciate the teamwork and supportive community created by the coaches and kids.

As a parent, it has been a pleasure to watch each week as the kids improve their skills, gain confidence and make new friends. After last week's practice, as we were leaving the building, London said to me, "I can't wait until practice next week, I'm really getting better!" Thank you NWA!



## THREE YEARS OF BASKETBALL

JOE JACKSON

Daniel Jackson is a regular youth at all our NWA events. We often see him giving his best and having fun with all the other youth. This month, we reached out to his father, Joe, and asked how NWA has been for Daniel. He had this to say:

Elena, Daniel and I discovered the basketball program three years ago. He loves to play just for the fun of it with other kids. Through the program we received so many more benefits such as school supplies, shoes and groceries. Assistance we really appreciate from these good people, who we're happy to be involved with.





## UNEA CORNER

We are quickly approaching the launch of Clear Sky Academy on September 7th 2021. This year we are offering our high school students two courses in partnership with Yellow Wood Academy. Students have the opportunity to enroll in one or both course titled 'American Indian Historical and Contemporary Experience (social studies .5 credit) and American Indian Art and Culture (Fine arts .5 credit). The additional course offering was inspired by feedback from our CSA student surveys and requests for a class on arts and culture. UNEA's ability to be flexible, and nibble has allowed us to pilot our first AI Arts and Culture course and provides each high school student a fine arts elective credit. Our responsiveness to our youth and community is a hallmark of UNEA's grassroots origins and our enduring commitment to remain an organization both representative of our community and responsive to the needs of our intertribal community.

The AI Historical and Contemporary Experience course will focus on Federal AI Policies and Laws with guest speakers and project presentations and activities centering Indigenous perspectives. AI Arts and Culture course will feature unit studies on Photography, Storytelling, Cedar Weaving, Ribbon Skirts/Shirts and other experiential project based learning. Both courses are hybrid model and we will accommodate all learning styles and abilities as needed. In addition, UNEA will be funding materials, supplies, field trips, and kits for each student enrolled. Classes officially kick off on Tuesday Sept. 7th 4:00-6:00pm (History course) and 6:00-8:00pm (Art and Culture Course). Located at North Seattle College 9600 College Way N. Seattle. Room CCI 161. Dinner provided for in-person attendees.

If you are interested in enrolling your student please contact us for the enrollment forms and instructions.

Email Sarah Sense-Wilson at [markseatt13@aol.com](mailto:markseatt13@aol.com) or Chris Bishop at [uneaprogramcord@gmail.com](mailto:uneaprogramcord@gmail.com)



# TUTORING RETURNS!

CHRIS BISHOP

Clear Sky tutoring will be back to its weekly schedule on Thursday, September 9th, 5 – 7:45 PM. It's an amazing opportunity for any student to spend extra time in a learning environment. Teachers are often overwhelmed with too many students in one class to offer 1:1 support to each student. Additionally, with the pandemic setting, this direct support has become even more difficult. Clear Sky tutoring provides a free, volunteer-based tutoring center where students can find that 1:1 support. We will be holding tutoring sessions in-person only at first, with virtual tutoring joining soon after.

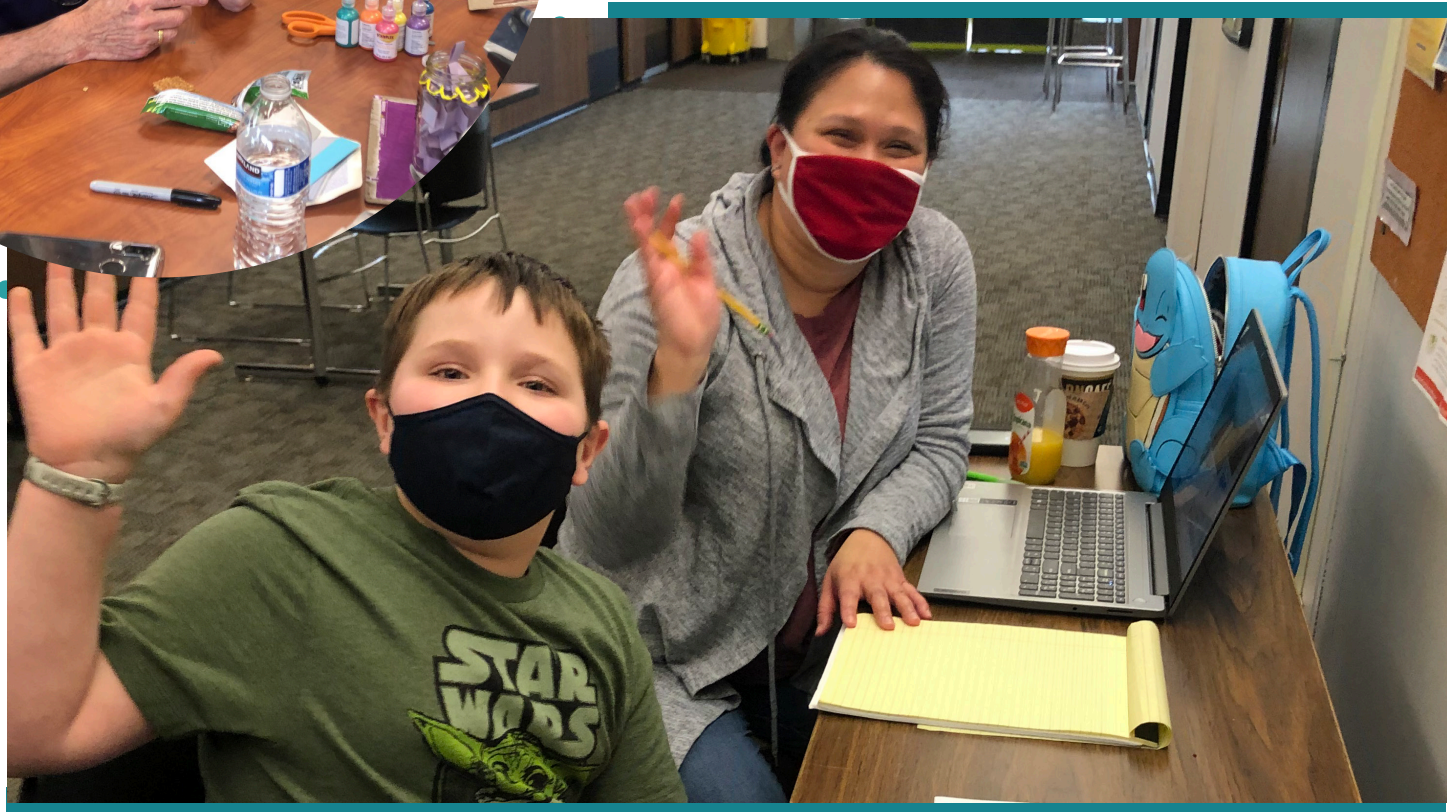
Tutoring will be at North Seattle College, in our previous classroom from last year, room CCI 161. The room is much larger and better equipped to socially distance, hold discussions, and learn. We have also been so lucky with all our tutors, who provide incredible guidance and teaching.

Before my taking on the position of administrative assistant, I was a volunteer tutor for Clear Sky. From experience in the program, and my tutoring outside of the program, I have found that any student can benefit greatly from a little extra support. Whether a student is lost or just in need of a little motivation, a tutor helps accelerate a student toward their goals. My favorite part about tutoring our Clear Sky youth was seeing the array of different personalities. Some students came to tutoring with an energy almost too much to contain, while others were more comfortable keeping quiet. No matter how different the personalities though, I watched students grow, learn, and benefit from the supportive space and volunteers of Clear Sky.

I am beyond excited to have our tutoring center back, to see familiar and unfamiliar faces, to hear the "ah!" of understanding, and to be a small part of Clear Sky's educational assistance.

If you know of or are a student considering tutoring, I highly recommend a visit—you'll always come away with something precious. I also encourage anyone considering to be a tutor to do so—whether you know a lot or a little, your help never goes unappreciated.

Thank you tutors and students! And I hope everyone's school year starts off on the right foot. Even if it doesn't, we're here to help.





## In Memory of Dr. Jim Simmons

It is with a heavy heart and sadness I share with you all the unexpected passing of Dr. Jim Simmons.

As you all know Dr. Jim was very important member of our leadership team. Dr. Jim would ask the tough questions and always keep our kids at the heart of everything related to UNEA work. He was also a historian and could draw on his experiences with relevancy and genuineness, always helpful and always lending assistance.

Jim also attended nearly every event and special ceremonies of UNEA. It will be hard to look out come Tuesday event and not see him attentively joining as a significant supporter, ally, and most of all friend and relative.

Please take a moment to express yourself and share any words of comfort to support Dr. Carol and her family.

### 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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