

Nakani Native Program

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Annual Report of Activities, 2018 CE

The Nakani Native Program Committee, in its first full year of operation, has conducted substantial activities in all of its areas of focus.

Supporting the Tribal Canoe Journey

Director Jeff Smith attended all but one of the monthly meetings that coordinate the Tribal Canoe Journey. Ann Bates substituted for him at the June meeting. At these meetings, representatives of the canoe families and the hosting tribe share information that is critical to the success of the event and make decisions that affect all participants.

Jeff Smith drafted key elements of the Canoe Journey Hosting Guide, which will assist hosting tribes and their supporters in providing welcoming accommodations for Canoe Journey participants.

Jeff, Ellany Kayce and Jonathan Betz-Zall conducted some planning for a possible merger with the [Canoe Nations Support Consortium](#), a mostly-Canadian organization. Jeff handled most of the correspondence, and he, Ellany and Jonathan attended two meetings with CNSC people at the Canoe Journey campground at Puyallup in July. Jeff also attended a meeting with the Klahoose Band in British Columbia that ran for several days.

Advocating for Tribal Sovereignty and Treaty Rights

In December 2017, the Board adopted a resolution supporting the Port Gamble S’Klallam in their struggle against a resort development on the Hood Canal. [December 2017]

“The Native Program Committee supports the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe in their efforts to defend their treaty-protected rights to hunt and fish in their usual and accustomed places.

We call upon all interested parties to conduct meaningful and effective consultation with the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe.”

However, in February 2018 we learned that the Skokomish Tribe opposed the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe’s position so we decided not to take sides in the dispute.

In January, we sent a comment to the Seattle Times about an article on Columbia River Treaty Negotiations

“The Native Program Committee, a nonprofit organization supporting Native Americans’ treaty rights, strongly supports the views presented in the editorial “Columbia River Treaty talks offer hope for river, native peoples” [Seattle Times, January 8]. We agree that the negotiations should be based on ethics—justice for the

indigenous people and their resources--especially the salmon--displaced by industrial development and restoration of the living environment.”

Jeff Smith, Director, attended all three conventions of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians [ATNI] to learn which issues are of most concern to tribal governments. After the conventions, he notified the Board of the resolutions adopted by ATNI: <http://atnitribes.org/resolutions>
Ann and Jonathan also attended the January meeting, and Ellany attended the May meeting.

Dove John, Board member, participated in a conference “Quakers Seeking Right Relationships with Indigenous Peoples”, held May 4 - 6, at the Pendle Hill conference center in Wallingford PA. The Board provided financial and moral support for her journey. Dove reported on her experience to the Quarterly Meeting of Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends and intends to make reports to other groups.

Jonathan Betz-Zall, Board member, [testified](#) at a meeting of the Seattle Public School Board in support of the Clear Sky Native Youth program, in July. He called on the School Board to continue to provide meeting and storage space for Clear Sky’s cultural programs. Ann also attended this meeting.

The Board monitored the [“Culvert Case”](#), and prepared to explain its complexities to other people.

Building Bridges Between Cultures

The Board participated in a nationwide network of [People’s State of the Union](#) with our own Story Circle Gathering on Jan 27 at North Seattle Friends Church. The event drew about six people who told some compelling stories from their own lives.

Ellany Kayce and Jonathan Betz-Zall conducted a major workshop “Indigenous Equity & Social Justice” for Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation’s annual conference at Seabeck in July. Attended by about thirty people, this workshop drew on Ellany’s previous presentations for the Na’ah Illahee Fund and garnered positive responses. We also participated in several other workshops, contributing Nakani’s perspectives at each one.

Jeff Smith and Jonathan Betz-Zall presented a report on Nakani & American Friends Service Committee support for Indigenous activism at the annual session of the North Pacific Yearly Meeting of Friends in July at University of Puget Sound in Tacoma WA. We reported on the transition of our work from AFSC’s Northwest Indian Program to the Nakani Native Program.

Ellany Kayce and Jonathan Betz-Zall gave the plenary presentation “A New Values Basis for Justice” for the Pacific Northwest Quarterly Meeting of Friends at Lazy F Ranch, near Ellensburg WA, on September 22. The meeting’s theme was prison reform; we contrasted the mainstream emphasis on punishment and rehabilitation with indigenous ideas about community

social health and repair of relationships. We also conducted two small group discussions, one for adults and one for teenagers.

Jeff Smith and Jonathan Betz-Zall presented “Indigenous Communities and Earthcare” for the fall board meeting of Quaker Earthcare Witness at the Dumas Bay Center in Federal Way WA on October 13. We connected QEW’s past solidarity actions with indigenous peoples with our present work and discussed Friends’ repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, concluding with opportunities for collaboration. We followed up the next week in a conference call with QEW staff on prospects for joint publicity and resource sharing.

Ellany Kayce and Jonathan Betz-Zall presented a workshop “Indigenous Equity & Social Justice” for Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation’s fall retreat in Olympia WA on November 17. This was an improved version of the workshop for the Seabeck conference.

Other Activities:

Jeff Smith, Ellany Kayce and Jonathan Betz-Zall organized the new office in January.

Ann and Jonathan attended the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration, workshop, rally and march in the Central District of Seattle.

Ann attended the annual Treaty Days celebration at the Tulalip Reservation in January.

Ann attended the bimonthly meetings of the Western Washington Native American Education Consortium as well as its two-day Educators Conference at the Emerald Queen Casino in February.

Jeff Smith and Jonathan Betz-Zall gave a brief presentation for University Friends Meeting, our “landlord”, on February 22 at the UFM Meeting House in Seattle. Other tenants also presented on their work.

The Board changed our organization name on March 12 from “Native Program Committee” to “Nakani Native Program”.

Ann attended the Since Time Immemorial Tribal Sovereignty Curriculum Training in March in the Lake Washington School District.

Ann attended one Puget Sound Cohort meeting and listened, by telephone, to part of another meeting.

Ann attended two Indian Education Program meetings in the Edmonds School District.

Jonathan attended the American Friends Service Committee Corporation Meeting, April 13-14, in Philadelphia PA. There was no opportunity for a formal presentation but Nakani was discussed in a meeting of regional groups.

Ellany and Jonathan attended the “Living Breath of Wethlabalt” Native Food Security Conference, May 4 - 5, Intellectual House, University of Washington, Seattle.

Ellany, Jeff, Jonathan and Ann participated in the Circle of Indigenous Peoples Celebration, May 25-27, Northwest Folklife Festival, Seattle WA. They spoke on the work of Nakani and important contemporary Indigenous issues.

Jonathan established the Website in June.

Ellany and Jonathan attended the “Salmon Stories & Environmental Justice” presentation, August 14, Seattle Public Library.

Ann attended the annual Makah Days Celebration in August

Ann attended the University of Washington’s School of Law’s two-day Indian Law Symposium in September.

Jeff and Jonathan held an online meeting with leaders of Quaker Earthcare Witness on Oct 24. We agreed on some joint publications.

Jonathan attended “How to Stop a Dam with Indigenous Resistance”, a presentation by a Guatemala network of indigenous activists on a national tour on November 3 at the Duwamish Longhouse. Ann attended the same presentation at the University of Washington.

Ellany attended the Potlatch Fund Gala on November 8

Jonathan attended “Honoring the Wisdom of Our Ancestors” on November 8 at the Seattle Public Library

Jonathan attended the installation of a “peace pole” sponsored by the Rotary Club at the Duwamish Longhouse on December 1

At Seattle Public Library, Ellany created the Native Advisory Committee to indigenize the Library. They created a committee and produced numerous public events. This connected her to the Friends of the Waterfront for 2020, which will produce numerous events next year.

Ellany is also on the Metro King County Mobility Equity Cabinet.

Ellany served on the King County Open Space Equity Cohort, which produced a report with recommendations to the County Council. .

Potential Future Activities:

Connect with Native People's Connection Action Group, a group of Unitarian Church people

Connect with the Seattle Police Department's Native American Advisory Council