Learning Right Relations – Indians of the Pacific Northwest

Fall of 2017 Series of Gatherings: October 1, November 5, and December 3; 1 – 4 pm
First United Methodist Church of Olympia - The Gathering Place
1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia, WA 98501
Field Trip to Squaxin Island Museum: November 7; 1 - 4pm
Fees are based upon individual's ability to pay*: The visit to the Squaxin Island Museum is $3

The Readings:

Indians of the Pacific Northwest - Vine Deloria, Jr
Please read Mr. Deloria’s book by November.

From the Forward by Billy Frank Jr.:

It seems that he (Vine Deloria) was always there fighting for us; Whenever we got in trouble exercising our sovereign rights, we would call him and he would help.

It was a powerful thing, a sacred thing. That's what Vine did--he brought us together.;

Wherever we go, Vine is still there--still watching over us;
We have 29 tribes in the State of Washington, and nobody knows our true story; He tried to rectify all the lies that were told about Indians;

But most important, it is a book that needs to be read by our own people, and especially our young people.

Please read Ms. Rasmussen’s report by October.

The greater interfaith community of South Puget Sound is invited to join the continuing search for appropriate expressions of right relationships with the original people of the Salish Sea. During three 3-hour gatherings the class will meet with members of the Nisqually, Puyallup and Squaxin Island Tribes to come to know the path of right relations and to nurture the growing interest of non-tribal people in becoming involved with the Tribes in useful ways. Each gathering includes a break to share food prepared by classmates, including salmon from one of the local tribes. Please share your healthy snack.

October 1, 2017 Class: Robert and Elizabeth Satiacum will share Robert’s 2007 film - The Canoe Way, The Sacred Journey - that shares a cultural story of the Tribal way of living through the voices of canoe family members of the tribes of the Salish Sea (Greater Puget Sound). Robert and Liz will also share their personal experiences as Indians living in our general neighborhood, and their views about the ways non-Indians assist in building right relations with Tribes.

November 5 and December 3 classes: presentations are being finalized with native presenters to cover the topics of tribal history, tribal sovereignty, and the many topics related to tribal-non-tribal relationships. Presenters for these sessions are on the LRR Class Contributor list, below.

Special Events - Field Trip to Squaxin Island Museum: November 7; 1 – 4 pm (for carpooling, meet in the Methodist Church parking lot). Other events will be posted at the LRR website.

Register at the Learning Right Relations website: LearningRightRelations.org

*$5 is respectfully requested per session to assure that all LRR expenses are covered. A collection box is available during the break.
LRR Class Contributors (partial list):
Willy Frank (II): Nisqually Tribal Council Member, Nisqually fisherman, son of Billy Frank Jr.,
Cynthia Iyll: descendent of Chief Leschi’s family, former Nisqually Tribal Council Chair, and major contributor to Leschi’s "exoneration of murder."
Gordon James: Director of Education for the Squaxin Island Tribe, former Tribal Council Chairman of that Skokomish Tribe, and principal teacher of the Government-To-Government Class offered by the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs.
Kyle Taylor Lucas: member Tulalip Tribes, an Olympia area leader of actions for social justice and peace, former tribal liaison for DNR and Executive Director of Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs.
Laura Lynn, PhD, trainer, and Joan Banker, administrator, staff of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Office of Indian Education - coordinators of the curriculum initiative called Since Time Immemorial (STI).
Hanford McCloud: Leschi Heritage Foundation Executive Director and coordinator of the Nisqually Canoe Family
Johnny Moses: Honored master storyteller, descendant of the Steh-Chass people who lived in the Steh-Chass River basin (Deschutes River).
Elizabeth Satiacum: a treasured contributor to LRR classes, member of the Quileute Tribe, is a versatile school teacher and provides vital support on- and off-air to Tribal Talk Radio. She is also one of the leaders of Tribal-led gatherings to protect Mother Earth.
Robert Satiacum: a treasured contributor to LRR classes, is a spiritual leader from the Puyallup Tribe, whose strong voice can be heard as the host of Tribal Talk Radio, Station KLAY, 1180 AM, Thursdays from noon to 1 PM.

Learning Right Relations (LRR) is a series of classes or gatherings, auxiliary meetings and visits to Tribal sites aimed at addressing the historic marginalization and ongoing inequities faced by our Coast Salish neighbors. Learning Right Relations Group has become an action group that meets monthly and is involved year-round in activities that support the following:

Vision and Mission of Learning Right Relations

Vision: The Indians of the Medicine Creek Treaty, their Coast Salish neighbors and all Indians living in our region experience respect, honor and support for their way of life.

Mission: We walk a path of learning and living to address the historic marginalization and ongoing inequities experienced by our Coast Salish neighbors; and we share the responsibility to care for this place, their homelands, where we mutually abide.

Our work was co-founded in the spring of 2015 by Douglas Mackey and Pat Rasmussen and took form as classes within the Adult Ed. program of the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Church.

Part of the year-round activities of the LRR group is to lift up Tribal-led events such as the Canoe Journey and the art exhibit held this year by the Tacoma Art Museum: **Cultural imPRINT: Northwest Coast Prints.**

“Spirit Journey” Jody Bergsma’s artwork graced the 1,400 Paddle to Nisqually blankets donated by Learning Right Relations. The Nisqually Tribe used the blankets as give-aways during the 2016 Canoe Journey.