



Suscol Intertribal Council

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January 2020

Volume 29 Issue 1

Staying on the path...

Oh, this year brings a lot of anniversary successes and losses. My twin brother after a prolonged illness passed just before winter solstice 2019. Always a sad transition to lose loved ones. Offer prayers and ceremony for all our loved ones who have walked on. We are grateful for the rains that wash away our collective tears, then bring new life to dormant seeds and trees. We always look to the next generation that is here to carry on.

Suscol has had a very busy year. We are in the process of completing a very ambitious three-year contract with the Napa County Mental Health Service Act Innovation Funds with the N.V. Unitarian Universalist as venue co-sponsors. It was a five-workshop series called the Native American Historical Trauma and Traditional Healing Project. This project had a lot of moving parts. A five-member elders' advisory group met for fifteen months to help focus and review topics and finalize PowerPoint presentations. Beth Nelsen, local Napa Tewa videographer, documented the process. Sal Garcia-Pinola and I did the presentations. Suscol had a few different program coordinators who helped pull all the technological and logistical aspects together. It was well received by three different cohorts of Napa County mental health providers with amazing support from Napa County consultant Mechele Small-Haggard and various Napa Mental Health Services program advisors. These workshops will now be available to the general public. They are very informative from the Native American perspective about what occurred here in Napa County to the first peoples.

Suscol House continues to move forth. We got into the labyrinth again of building permits due to some adjustments to the build-out. All the permits are finally approved and ready to continue completion of the Suscol house. The land continues to grow and be a living example of perma-culture land and water management. This is a sustainable off the grid model for future generations to preserve sustainable construction and cultural traditions. Please if you would like a land tour, want to be a volunteer helper or donor, contact us! May you walk in beauty until our paths cross again.

Charlie Toledo, Executive Director

Suscol Intertribal Council is a community-based, 501(c)(3) organization, founded in 1972 and reactivated in 1992, that works to create cross-cultural healing between colonizers and the indigenous populations, as well as create land-based projects to preserve Native American culture and human rights.

Sponsored by Suscol Intertribal Council funded in part by the Napa County Mental Health Division's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Component

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year!

We hope the holiday season has left you refreshed and excited for the new year, ready for the changes of life to keep our bodies and minds healthy. Suscol welcomed the public to our Holiday Open House in December, where we saw many new faces and curious energy. Our community never ceases to amaze. Up-and-coming leaders are ready to recognize and empower the traditional inhabitants of this land. We shared a meal, exchanged stories, and played games to give thanks for the year past.

Recent Events

Charlie's godson, Busiisi Mbasi, visited from Canada to perform music and share his story of resiliency at the Unitarian Universalists Church in Napa on December 15th. He traveled out of Uganda at age 12 as an orphan, working to support his siblings and build a life for himself. He now lives in Canada with his wife and four sons, where he owns a business and continues to build his repertoire of skills, which include clothing design, musical performance, and knowing several languages.



Also in December, we had a group of dedicated high school students with the Napa county Resource Conservation District come learn about sustainable land and water management at the Suskol property. These high school leaders walked through steps Suskol has taken to ensure minimal impact to the land with an off-the-grid system, uses of sustainable materials and localized resources, such as solar energy and rainwater storage. This is the basis of permaculture uses of trees, plants and earth berms to minimize erosion and replenish aquifers. Everyone enjoyed this great Native perspective on land management.

23rd Annual Native American Art Auction

The Yountville Community Center housed a night of artistic expression and appreciation at Suscol Council's Annual Art Auction & Dinner. Featured artist Timoteo Ikoshy Montoya honored us with his presence and amazing work that sold at live auction, alongside the dozens of silent auction items from all over the world by many artists. Prints, drums, rattles, paintings, leather, and beadwork all showcased the range of Indigenous artistry, style, and skill. Suscol honors Vice Chair Tom King-McMahon and his wife, newly appointed Member at Large Cheryl King-McMahon, for their decades of service to Suscol and land management. Guests at the dinner enjoyed a meal of bison, salmon, salads, and beautiful desserts that made the night extra special as we all came together to raise money for the construction of Suskol House. Stay tuned for Art Auction 2020 date announcement!



Drum Making Workshop for Mental Health Providers
as part of the Innovations final phase of five series cohort

A group gathered at Suskol house in July to make their own drums from step one by picking their frames, stretching the leather, and awakening their drums. Thanks to drum teacher Barbara Clifton-Zarate.

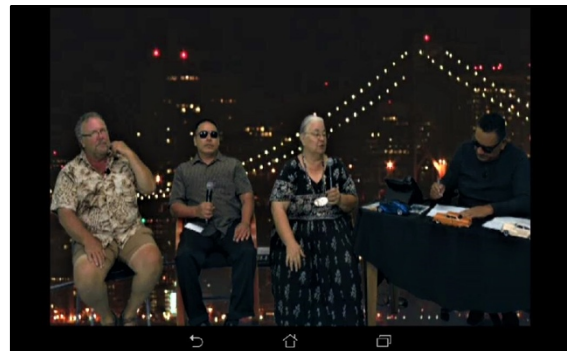


Outreach

Sal Garcia-Pinola gave four presentations at Westpark Elementary in Napa in November, teaching the 4th grade class how to use the clamshell pump drill to make their own necklace, and educating the 5th grade class on the regalia and history of the Pomo. Sal continues to impress with his ability to captivate an audience with his knowledge of traditional ways. He is available to do presentations for your child's school or other organizations about local indigenous lifestyles and history.



Suscol visited the Vets Home in September to check in with the Native American residents. Suscol was even on local television – Napa Valley TV Arty Party!



Classes & Schedule

Suscol continues monthly classes at the office and the Innovations Community Center (ICC) in Napa, teaching the drum, sewing, and craft, which keeps us busy much of the time.



Ongoing Monthly Events

Native Drum Group (ongoing commitment)

1st and 3rd Thursday / 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Learn to drum and sing traditional Native American songs as well as the traditions & protocols that go with the drum.

Sewing Circle (pre-registration required)

3rd Thursday / 3:00 pm-6:00 pm

Projects range from making traditional regalia to quilts and pillows (your choice). It is also a coaching class if you want to bring your own sewing projects.

Teacher April Jackson (Pomo)

Talking Circle (walk-ins welcome)

1st Wednesday / 6:00 pm-7:00 pm

Support for a healthy lifestyle through cultural sharing.

Facilitated by Sal Garcia-Pinola (Pomo)

Craft Class

1st Saturday / 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Each month Suscol will feature a traditional Native American craft, please contact the office for more information or visit our Facebook page for event details.

Annual Events

Youth Camp (pre-registration required) Summer 2020 TBA

Youth will learn traditional Native American crafts at a two-night camp out. Please call or visit our website for more information.

27th Annual Powwow "Honoring the Youth"

October 3 - 4, 2020

Skyline Wilderness Park

2201 Imola Ave

Napa, CA

Vendor application available on our website

Art Auction & Dinner 2020 TBA

Suscol Intertribal CouncilBoard Members

Bruce Streblov- Chair

Tom McMahon- Vice Chair

Rie Casale- Sec. & Treasurer

Charlie Toledo- Exec. Director

Member at Large

Hilario Mata (Retired)

Randy Foisie (New)

Cheryl King-McMahon (New)

Cultural AdvisoryCommittee

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Coleen McCloud, Kashia Pomo

Leigh Jordan, CA
Archaeological InventoryParry Murray, Giles W. &
Elise G. Mead FoundationRonald Lincoln, Round
Valley PomoUrsula Maruffo, Redwood
Valley PomoSuscol Staff

Charlie Toledo, Director

Sal Garcia-Pinola, Outreach

Mae Vader, Office

Introducing...Suscol Intertribal Council Office Assistant
Mae Vader

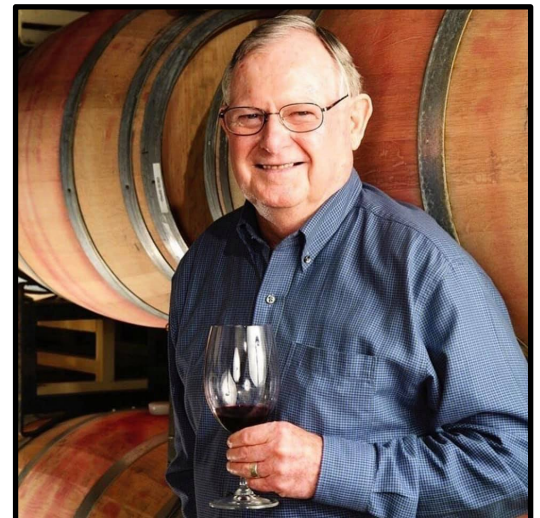
I am so incredibly excited to be a part of the Suscol team. I was born in Napa, but I grew up in Montana, where I was exposed to the strength and beauty of the Native cultures of the Blackfeet and Apsáalooke, among others. I graduated in 2018 from Bard College where I pursued film and electronic arts but have since struggled to find my path until now. With Suscol, I combine my passions, serving as a technical and creative helper in the office. I am a staunch supporter of racial justice and gender equality which requires continuous growth, listening,



and knowing when to step back. I am always open to discussion and building on the impact of the organization as we head into 2020.

In Memoriam...

Suscol Intertribal Council Board member from 2009-2017 Robert Craig walked over recently. He was a steady source of emotional support, creative ideas, and always showed up with his perpetual smiles. A true compassionate human. Strong, stable role model for business community, conscious land use, protection of Native American culture and languages.



A man who will be truly missed by his loving family and multitude of friends and associates.

Native Youth Camp

Back in July, Suscol organized another weekend of fun for kids and their families at the 7th Annual Native Youth Camp, held at the Suskol property July 12-14th, 2019. The kids played traditional games and made crafts to encourage connection to the land, themselves, and their culture. We look forward to when the sun returns to us--when we can meet again at the property to celebrate our children. For more information or to register, email office@suscolcouncil.org



Suskol Property

As those budding greens went to sleep, Suskol House was anything but slumbering. As we prepared the lodges for another wet season (for which we are so thankful!), we came across a pipe from the rainwater reservoirs chewed straight through, leaving some impressive toothmarks. It was an easy fix, but a constant reminder we are sharing the space with the creatures of Chiles-Pope Valley. The property serves as a place for ceremony and gatherings to conserve Native traditions and way of life so they can be passed down for generations, but was designed with respect to the land to minimize impact as an off-the-grid construction, conserving and protecting the animal way of life, too.

CCC Volunteers



Frank Arzaga
Conservation Supervisor

Suscol Intertribal Council would like to thank Frank Arzaga and the California Conservation Corps (CCC) for their volunteer work out at the property in Chiles Pope Valley on June 14th, 2019.



Jacque Henderson, Max Roldan, David Diemecke, Matty Posey, Andre Dickerson (top), Eric Welch, Daniel White, Amiri Murphey

And thank you to Matt Posey and his crew for their volunteer work at the 26th Annual Powwow. They made a long hot October day much easier. It was an honor to work with the CCC.

26th Annual Powwow

Our 26th Annual Powwow made front page news in the Napa Valley Register. It brought folks together from all over the region. United as one community to celebrate our elders who bring us so much wisdom and strength. Suscol welcomed around 1,200 visitors to the Skyline Wilderness Park grounds, the new home for the annual powwow.



This year we are excited to announce the **27th Annual Powwow "Honor our Youth"** will go on for an entire weekend, October 3-4th, 2020. We welcome Native culture it all its glory, touting colorful regalia, skilled dancers, experienced drummers, vendors and artists, as well as food! We hope to see you on the circuit for the exciting upcoming events awaiting Suscol in 2020.



Photo credit Lowell Downey

T.E.A.M. & C.H.A.N.G.E.S. Programs

Ongoing is the TEAM & CHANGES program to help rural and low-income Native Americans understand and lower their phone and utility bills. Reach out to Ursula Maruffo, field representative for Lake, Mendocino, Napa, and Sonoma counties for program registration.

Ursula Maruffo: (707) 485-2687

Historical Trauma and Healing Workshops

Beginning in 2018, Suscol administered a Napa County Mental Health Services Innovations program to educate mental health professionals about the intergenerational trauma of local Native American tribes. A team of five Native American cultural advisers with Suscol staff developed a curriculum over the course of 15 months to disseminate the history and hardships Native people faced and continue to face. This gives mental health professionals a more informed background when working with Native and Indigenous clients. Three cohorts of 25-40 participants took place between 2018 and 2019, each made up of five 2 ½ -hour workshops to highlight specific issues, cultural aspects, and suggested approaches to help Native people, *developed by Native people*. Presentations led by Charlie Toledo and Sal Garcia consisted of a PowerPoint lecture, questions, and a healing element. The final cohort was completed in November 2019. It reached a total of 88 mental health professionals in the Napa County area. The cultural advisory committee worked to encourage traditional healing for future generations and enhance cultural understanding to celebrate the diversity of health practices. These workshops will be available to general public soon. Beth Nelsen was videographer for the project.



Native American Historical Trauma and Traditional Healing Project was made possible with (MHSA) Innovations funds.



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Mae Vader, Office Assistant

Photographs by Lowell Downey &
Sal Garcia



Suscol Inter-tribal Council

Suscol is dedicated to educating and enriching the community by preserving Native American culture

Private Donors

- Butterflies \$1,000
- Dragonflies \$750
- Honeybees \$500
- Lady Bugs \$250
- Seeds \$100

Donors will be listed on plaque in the Suskol House entry

- Cedar Tree \$50,000
- Oak Tree \$25,000
- Hazelnut Tree \$10,000

Donors will be listed on a plaque in the dedication tree grove

Corporate Donors/ Dedication Level

- Stone Stairway \$1,000,000
- Rock Carving \$500,000
- Stone Bench \$250,000
- Stepping Stones \$100,000

1,000 Butterflies Walls are going up, then the roof! With your help, Suskol House will reach completion. Dedicated to preserving Native American culture for future generations. A model for sustainable land and water use.



Mail a Check to:
Suscol Intertribal Council
PO Box 5386
Napa, CA 94581

Donate Online
www.suscolcouncil.org