

Meet Manuel Lucero: Cherokee Indian, U.S. Army Veteran, Native American Studies scholar, and Assistant Director of the Smoki Museum. You can meet him in person at the next St. Luke's Quarterly Public Presentation on Saturday, October 20, 11 AM to 12:30 PM. From Manuel, the real history of Native Americans comes alive not only because he has studied the subject but – just as important! -- he has heard the stories from his ancestors and can relate a lifetime of his own personal experiences. There are 22 different tribes in our state and they have been here far longer than the rest of us, having learned how to successfully exist in a challenging environment.

The public presentations at St. Luke's enable us to interact with people whose ancestors have passed down centuries of history, people who have lived, and continue to live, their own stories as Native Americans. These sessions are open to all at no charge.

Manuel studied American Indian Studies at San Jose State University, California. He will speak to us about important historical events (no holds barred), Indian medicine, Indian identity and contributions of Native People to today's society. His presentation will last for one hour, to be followed by 30 minutes of interacting with you, the audience. His passion and great sense of humor make him an excellent speaker.

Manuel grew up in California after his family opted to participate in the Indian Relocation Act that encouraged Native Americans to leave Indian reservations, acquire vocational skills, and assimilate into the general population. For many Native Americans, the long-term effects were devastating. Reality didn't live up to the promise and there was no reservation left to welcome them back.

After eight years of active duty military service, he enrolled at San Jose State. Then worked for several years in electronics, before his current work at the Smoki museum.

He met his wife, Nichole, in California. She is member of the Pascua Yaqui Nation and presently working at ASU as she completes her PhD degree in French History.