

## December 2020 Spokane Area Diversity/Cultural Events

### National Universal Human Rights Month

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the UN in 1948 as a response to the Nazi holocaust and to set a standard by which the human rights activities of all nations, rich and poor alike, are to be measured.

The United Nations has declared an **International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women**. From November 25th through December 10th, Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is to raise public awareness and mobilizing people everywhere to bring about change. The **2020 theme** for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is '**Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent. Collect!**'. These dates were chosen to commemorate the three Mirabal sisters, who were political activists under Dominican ruler Rafael Trujillo (1930-1961) who ordered their brutal assassinate in 1960. **Join the campaign! You can participate in person or on social media via the following hashtags:** Use the hashtags: #GenerationEquality #orangetheworld and #spreadtheword. For more information, visit their website at <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/end-violence-against-women>.

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#### Art Hour

##### Day: Tuesday

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

program includes in-depth interviews with local artists, cultural commentary, and announcements for the creative community and their fans. Hosted by Mike and Eric. On KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

#### Can You Queer Me Now?

##### Day: Tuesday

Time: 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Hear voices directly from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and Questioning community right here in the Inland Northwest. You will hear more about current events, local groups, and perspectives directly from the queer youth community. Hosted by Ian Sullivan on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

#### Democracy Now

##### Day: Monday-Friday

Time: 8:00 am – 9:00 am & 5:00 pm-6:00 pm

A national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez. Pioneering the largest public media collaboration in the U.S. Link <https://www.democracynow.org/>. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

#### Democracy Now! Headlines in Spanish

##### Date: Saturday

Time: 7:00 am – 8:00 am

*Democracy Now!* is a national, daily, independent, award winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: [www.kyrs.org](http://www.kyrs.org) or [www.democracynow.org](http://www.democracynow.org).

**Dragonflies on Thin Air****Day: Sunday**

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

One of the few elementary age children's radio shows produced by kids for kids in the country. The program is fun and educational for children and adults, and includes a mix of jokes, music, guests, stories, poetry, trivia and more. includes Alice, Elenor C., Lily, Rowan, Sicely, Finn, Eleanor M., Sophia, Aleric and Amara. They all go to Spokane Public Montessori elementary school. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Irish Music on Tap****Day: Wednesday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Music from Ireland, Scotland and England as well as Celtic Brittany and Canada. Hosted by Don and Rick, on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Ke Buena.**

Spanish language station. Oz 95.7.

**Latin Lounge****Day: Monday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

A wide spectrum of Latin music. Hosted by "Corazon" on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Layali Arabia****Day: Monday**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Arabic songs from a multitude of different genres to come out of the Arab World. Hosted by Rachel on KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Queens of Noise****Day: Wednesday**

Time: 8:00 pm-10:00 pm

You will hear best in female vocalist/musicians. Hosted by Luscious Duchess, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**QueerSounds****Day: Thursday**

Time: 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

QueerSounds is radio show dedicated to playing music by and for LGBTQ people. Music, interviews, community events and forums. KYRS FM 92.3 or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**The Persian Hour****Day: Saturday**

Time: noon – 1:00 pm

The Persian Hour's consists of a variety of Iranian music from hip hop to traditional, Jazz, blues, rock and roll and the usual. Also, they will share stories, recipes, and interviews. Hosted by Shahrokh, KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**Raise Your Voice****Day: Friday**

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

A teenage-run music and current events program. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

**The Science of Poverty****Day: Saturday**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Explores the topic of poverty. Hosted by Jesse Quintana, official Facebook site. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM.

Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.**SOS-Spokane****Day: Thursday**

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

The show addresses critical issues facing the Inland Northwest via research, in-depth news, information, analysis, and reasoned opinion. Hosted by Paul Potocky. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.**Sounds of Science****Day: Sunday**

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Lively discussion of what's happening in the world of science, from how it is affecting our lives to the ways we are shaping it. Hosted by Blake, Amaya and Adam. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.**Two Brown Ladies and a Microphone****Day: Sunday**

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Soul conversations. Life advice. Things that make us think, reflect, cope and ultimately stay the course. Hosted by Duncan & Brown. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.**Welcome Home****Day: Thursday**

Time: 10:00 am – noon

A multi-genre roots based folk show. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.**Women's Media Center Live****Day: Wednesday**

Time: noon – 1:00 pm

*WMC Live with Robin Morgan* tackles today's hottest topics; whether it be sex, politics, art, humor, religion, culture, or news stories that go unreported, each is engaged regularly, insightfully, and intelligently. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.**Workin' Woman Blues****Day: Sunday**

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Tunes to help you shake the blues out of your hair with a mix of Funk, R&B, Soul and Blues. Hosted by Jukebox Jennie. KYRS 92.3 FM or 88.1 FM. Website: <http://www.kyrs.org>.

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Have a library card, check out **Spokane County District Library at ([www.sclid.org](http://www.sclid.org))**. They have large digital resources including eBooks/audio books with Overdrive/Libby. With Flipster browse, download and read digital magazines and with hoopla stream popular movies, music, audiobooks, eBooks, comics and tv shows along, with many other online services. They offer curb side pickup and yes, you can still request a library card.

If you have a library card to **Spokane Public Library** (<http://www.spokanelibrary.org/>), they also have a large digital Library resources including eBooks/audio books with Overdrive/Libby. Along with hoopla, Kanopy (movies and tv) and RBDigital (magazines) and other online resources. They also offer curbside pickup and yes, you can still request a library card.

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### **Winterfest: Lighted Holiday**

Winter Wonderland includes 8 ft tall Christmas trees, hand painted by local artists to represent various cultures. These trees are similar to the Chinese lantern lights which are also included. Auction for the trees will be on December 12, 2020.

**Date: Friday, November 14, 2020 – Sunday, January 2, 2021.**

Location: Mirabeau Park Hotel and Convention Center

Cost: Free

For more information to visit this event, go to <https://northwestwinterfest.com/>.

### **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Spokane Fall Folk Festival**

The setting is changing, but the genres remain the same! The Fall Folk Virtual Festival will be available on the radio and on our website. Pre-recorded performances of entertainers selected from this year's applicants streamed on our website and Facebook page.

**Dates: November 14, 2020 – December 30, 2020**

Location: [www.spokanefolkfestival.org](http://www.spokanefolkfestival.org)

Cost: Free

For more information and a full list of performers and activities will be available at [www.spokanefolkfestival.org](http://www.spokanefolkfestival.org) and their Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/Fall-Folk-Festival-Spokane](https://www.facebook.com/Fall-Folk-Festival-Spokane)) as they become available. Hosted by the Spokane Folklore Society.

### **From Mexican to Mexican-American: A Family Immigration Story**

As immigration has become more hotly debated in the United States, the arguments have become cartoonish, with one side often painted as naïve and another as xenophobic. What has become lost is the human story of immigration to America, with all its complexity, heartache, and hope.

Professor Carlos Gil sought to understand immigration by tracing his family's history from the 1920s to the 1970s. In the process, he discovered the excitement, culture shock, inter-family conflict, and questions of identity that many immigrants face when seeking a better life in another country. Based on his book, *We Became Mexican-American: How Our Immigrant Family Survived to Pursue the American Dream*, this talk explores Mexican immigration by spotlighting his own family's experience in southern California, including parallels with Washington State. Carlos Gil is an Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Washington, where he has taught the history of Latin America for over thirty years.

**Date: Tuesday, December 1 2020**

Time: 12:30 pm

Location: On-line – this presentation will be in English and in Spanish

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/event/from-mexican-to-mexican-american-a-family-immigration-story-25/>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>.

### **Heating Up: The Ethics of Climate Change**

Ethicist Brian G. Henning discusses how global warming itself is not the only problem—it's a symptom of a larger issue concerning how we conceive of ourselves and our relationship to the natural world. Brian G. Henning is a professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies at Gonzaga University and has earned a PhD in philosophy.

**Dates: Tuesday, December 1 2020 and Tuesday, December 22, 2020**

Time: 5:30 pm (12/1) and 10:00 am (12/22)

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/events/2020-12/?>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>.

### **Holocaust Survivor Speech – Mr. Martin Judovits**

An extraordinary story of survival. Martin (Mordechai) Judovits is a long-time student of the Talmud, a retired businessman, artist, author and a Holocaust survivor. Martin, along with both of his parents, two brothers and his only sister, were all sent to Auschwitz in 1944. He alone survived and was liberated in 1945. After the war he immigrated to the USA, where he married and raised a family. Martin also established a successful custom drapery business. He and his wife Helen have two sons, one daughter, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Since retiring, he has devoted his time to studying, painting and writing, and has been active in many Jewish organizations. He is the author of *Find It in the Talmud, Sages of the Talmud and Holocaust and Rebirth: A survivor's memories of life in Europe before, during, and after the Holocaust*.

**Dates: Tuesday December 1, 2020**

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: On line - Zoom

Cost: \$12.00 donation request. Preference will be given to those who donate. Providing we have not reached our max of participants, no one will be turned down due to lack of funds.

For more information visit

[https://www.jewishspokane.com/templates/articlecco\\_cdo/aid/4936580/jewish/Holocaust-Survivor-Speech-Mr-Martin-Judovits.htm](https://www.jewishspokane.com/templates/articlecco_cdo/aid/4936580/jewish/Holocaust-Survivor-Speech-Mr-Martin-Judovits.htm). Presented by Chabad of Spokane.

### **Washington's Undiscovered Feminists**

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, remember some of the remarkable, but often unsung, women of the Pacific Northwest.

Writer Mayumi Tsutakawa presents five "woman warriors" in the arts and journalism whose inspiring stories reach back to the early years of our region. Meet the pioneering photographer Imogen Cunningham, Black American jazz musician Ruby Bishop, Chinese American artist Priscilla Chong Jue, Leftist journalist Anna Louise Strong, and Native American linguist Vi Hilbert. Drawing on her own experience as an activist and writer, she explores how these women inspired others and changed our state and our society.

Mayumi Tsutakawa is an independent writer and curator who has focused on Asian/Pacific American history and arts. Tsutakawa received her MA in Communications and her BA in East Asian Studies at the University of Washington.

**Dates: Wednesday, December 2 2020, Saturday, December 5, 2020, Tuesday, December 8, 2020, Thursday, December 10, 2020**

Times: 7:00 pm (12/2), 11:00 am (12/5), 1:00 pm (12/8), 6:00 pm (12/20)

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/events/2020-12/?>. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>.

**The Festival of Fair Trade (Please check with Kiziru to ensure event has not been cancelled due to Covid)**

Unique Handcrafts from around the world. Small pop-up (rotating vendors) for safer shopping.

**Dates: Saturday, December 5 – Conosur Imports – Chile**

**Saturday, December 12 – Mayan Color | Guatemala**

**Saturday, December 19 – Ganesh Himal Trading | Nepal**

Time: noon to 5:30

Location: Community Building, 35 W Main Ave

Cost: Free to attend

For more information visit their website at <http://www.festivaloffairtrade.com/>. You can also shop on-line at <https://shopkizuri.com/collections/festival-of-fair-trade>.

**Holy Names Music Center Holiday Concert Series**

Featuring Paul Raymond, Lauren McKinley, Johannes Kleinmann, Denika Kleinmann, Nicholas Schauer, Craig Landron, Margaret Francik and Riley Gray.

**Dates: Sundays, December 6, 13, and 20, 2020**

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: On-line - Tune in on the Holy Names Music Center Youtube Channel.

Cost: Free

For view, visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu4TPEyVChJVmVld7uGwBYQ>.

**Let It Not Happen Again: Lessons of the Japanese American Exclusion**

In March of 1942, 227 Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from their homes on Bainbridge Island by the US Army. Starting with this small community, a national strategy began, with more than 120,000 Japanese American men, women, and children forcibly removed and incarcerated during World War II.

Clarence Moriwaki shares the story of Bainbridge Island—the origin point of the Japanese American exclusion—to provide a human, historical account of this national tragedy, and to ask the question: Are there parallels to what's happening in America now? Moriwaki is the president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community and a founder and former president of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association.

**Date: Monday, December 7, 2020**

Time: 11:00 am

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/events/2020-12/>?. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>.

**Science from Home**

Librarian Molly presents a science experiment each week on the Library's Facebook page,

**Dates: Monday, December 7, and 14, 2020**

Time: 2:00 pm-2:30 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/SpokaneCountyLibraryDistrict>. Sponsored by the Spokane County Public Library.

**Stuck-At-Home STEAM: Ten-Minute Science Experiments**

A series of ten-minute science experiments via Zoom. For children in kindergarten through fifth grade.

**Date: Monday, December 7, 2020**

Time: 4:00 – 4:45 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

For a full list of supplies and to register, visit <http://events.spokanelibrary.org/event/4714705>. Sponsored by the Spokane Public Library.

### **Sometimes Heroes: America's Changing Relationship with Its Veterans**

"Support our troops" is a common phrase, seen on lawn signs and bumper stickers across America. Veterans are welcomed home by enthusiastic crowds, and thousands of service organizations help veterans find jobs, secure housing, and heal from the experience of war.

But it wasn't always this way. Veterans returning from Vietnam were often greeted by mobs accusing them of being "baby killers." Veterans from Korea felt their war was forgotten and unknown. And veterans from World War I, destitute during the Great Depression, were treated like criminals by their government.

Why and how has America's treatment of its veterans changed over time? How have the country's citizens responded to the call of duty from one war to the next? This presentation examines America's relationship to wars and veterans over the last century, and what shapes our current national consciousness towards veterans and the wars they fight in our name. Jeb Wyman has been a faculty member for over twenty years at Seattle Central College.

**Dates: Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/events/2020-12/>?. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>.

### **Drag Culture and Parenting Transgender Youth in Small Town PNW**

Cesar Hart has been organizing drag shows in the small coastal towns of Aberdeen and Hoquiam for 6+ years. The shows provide LGBTQIA+ people on the Harbor a safe space for self-expression and an opportunity to build community and form alliances. Join us in conversation with Cesar, and parents of transgender children from across rural Washington, as they share stories of parenting transgender youth during these times and how we can come together to tell a more inclusive story about gender identity in small town PNW.

Cesar was one of the culture bearers who participated in the Center for Washington Cultural Traditions Twin Harbors Cultural Traditions Survey.

**Dates: Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/events/2020-12/>?. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>.

### **Celebrate Poinsettia Day**

Learn about the Poinsettia and make a craft. For children and their families. Participants will need red and yellow pipe cleaner and thin ribbon or twine.

**Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

Time: 4:00 – 4:45 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, <http://events.spokanelibrary.org/event/4714661>. Sponsored by the Spokane Public Library.

### **Set In Stone: What Should We Do with Controversial Monuments?**

Washington State has a park named after Jefferson Davis and an elementary school named after Robert E. Lee. Though far away from the Civil War, our state contains several commemorations to a war fought to preserve the grotesque institution of slavery.

What purpose do these memorials now serve? Do these statues remind us of what should never happen again, or do they glorify injustice and racism? Would removing them help with healing, or encourage forgetting? How do cultures use public art to remember, and how should we approach memorials going forward? And where should we draw the line in removing monuments, when so many people we've memorialized do not conform to the moral standards of today?

In the wake of a summer where statues have been toppled or removed throughout the US, join us to discuss our year of monuments, memory, and reckoning. How do we confront a racist past without mythologizing it?

Featuring Reiko Hillyer, history professor at Lewis & Clark College; and Jasmine Mahmoud, arts leadership professor at Seattle University; and moderated by Marc Carpenter, PhD candidate in history at the University of Oregon.

**Dates: Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/events/2020-12/>?. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>.

### **Hispanic Business / Professional Association (HBPA) Monthly Meeting**

Speaker (Sabes Que): Glenda Mendoza with Northwest Fair Housing Alliance

**Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Via Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88658332436?pwd=YXU1T2NkWXAzYVU3RERpQzhvVTBsZz09.>

Meeting ID: 886 5833 2436, Passcode: 886593, Dial by your location - 1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma))

Cost: Free

For more information visit their website at [www.hbpspokane.net](http://www.hbpspokane.net).

### **Finding York of the Lewis and Clark Expedition**

Dr. Bob Bartlett will share the story of York in character. The tale of York, born a slave in the early 1770s in Virginia and later the manservant of William Clark, serves as an example of how invisible the lives and contributions of slaves were throughout American history. York lived the expected life of a slave and manservant until an unlikely event, the Corps of Discovery expedition, led to the historic trek across uncharted territory to the Pacific Ocean and back again. That event forever changed his outlook and his relationship with William Clark. This is York's story before, during, and after the expedition, told by him.

**Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

Time: 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Location: On-line, for children ages 13-18.

Cost: Free

Register at <http://events.spokanelibrary.org/event/4713471>. Sponsored by the Spokane Public Library.

### **Kids Code On-line**

Discover new computer science concepts. For children in grades three through eight.

**Dates: Saturday, December 12 and 26, 2020**

Time: noon-1:30 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, <https://spark-central.org/playshops>. Sponsored by the Spark Central.



### **What's Age Got To with It?**

"You look good for your age." "You're too young to understand."

In employment decisions, family discussions, medical care, and even in birthday cards, assumptions about being "over the hill" or "a lazy kid" are common. What do you wish society would stop saying about your generation? How can we talk about age and aging in a more positive, affirming way? In this interactive and fun talk, Dori Gillam welcomes individuals from every generation to explore how we can begin valuing all ages—including our own. Dori Gillam has researched and spoken on ageism and aging for over 30 years.

**Date: Thursday, December 17, 2020**

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: On-line

Cost: Free

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.humanities.org/events/2020-12/>?. Sponsored by humanities Washington, <https://www.humanities.org/>.

### **NAACP General Membership Meeting**

**Date: Monday, December 21, 2020**

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Community Building, 35 W Main Ave

Cost: Free, meeting open to everyone

For more information contact [spokanenaacp@gmail.com](mailto:spokanenaacp@gmail.com) or visit their Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/spokane.naacp/> to ensure meeting has not been cancelled.

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### **Save the Date**

#### **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Viva Vino & Brew (Scholarship Fundraiser)**

Food provided by De Leon's, music, silent and live auction to be followed by dancing,

**Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021**

Location: Shriner's Event Center, 7217 W Westbow Blvd (Geiger Exit off I=90)

Time: 6:00 pm

Cost: \$45.00 HBPA member, \$50.00 non-member

For more information email [vvb.hbpa@gmail.com](mailto:vvb.hbpa@gmail.com).

If you know of diversity/cultural events open to the public that you would like added to the monthly calendar, please e-mail Yvonne C. Montoya Zamora at [yvonnecmz04@gmail.com](mailto:yvonnecmz04@gmail.com) with event details. For general events visit [www.visitspokane.com](http://www.visitspokane.com) or [www.spokane7.com/](http://www.spokane7.com/).

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### **December 2020 International/National Cultural Celebrations**

#### **December 1 Rosa Parks Day – USA**

Commemorates the arrest of Rosa Parks, in 1955, for defying segregation by refusing to give up her seat on the bus for a white passenger. The incident led to a year-long boycott of the city's buses and the end of segregation.

#### **World AIDS Day – UN**

This day is designed by the World Health Organization and the United Nations to increase awareness and education of AIDS. Today, over 41 million people are living with HIV/AIDS.

- December 1**      **Independence Day – Portugal**  
Became independent again in 1640 from Spanish rule that began in 1580.
- National Day – Romania**  
Great Union Day is the national holiday of Romania, celebrating the unification of Romanian provinces (Transylvania with Romania).
- December 2**      **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – UN**  
The focus of this day is on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labor, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.
- National Day - Laos**  
The establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 1975.
- December 3**      **International Day for Disables Persons - UN**
- December 5**      **Discovery Day – Haiti**  
Marks the day Christopher Columbus “found” Haiti on his second voyage to the New World in 1492.
- International Volunteer Day for Economic & Social Development – UN**  
Heightens people and government’s awareness of the voluntary contributions. It also focuses on stimulating people to offer their services as volunteers, both at home and abroad.
- December 6**      **St. Nicholas Day – Christian**  
Celebrates the patron St. Nicholas of Russia, a Christian bishop from what is now Turkey, known for his good deeds. Being known as a protector of children, the tradition of leaving shoes out in the hopes of receiving treats is practiced in the Dutch, German, and Eastern European communities.
- Independence Day – Finland**  
Celebrate Finland's declaration of independence from the Russian Republic in 1917.
- Constitution Day – Spain**  
The Constitution was originally ratified after a referendum on 6 December 1978 and was signed by King Juan Carlos I on 27 December 1978. The signing of the Constitution marked the culmination of the Spanish transition to democracy after the death of the former Head of State, Francisco Franco, in 1975.
- December 7**      **International Civil Aviation Day – UN**  
Helps generate and reinforce worldwide awareness of the importance of international civil aviation to the social and economic development of States, and of the unique role of ICAO in helping States to cooperate and realize a truly global rapid transit network at the service of all mankind.
- Pearl Harbor Day - USA**  
This day in 1941 commemorates the attack of the Imperial Japanese Navy and Air Force on the armed forces of the United States at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, killing two thousand people. The attack brought the U.S. into World War II.

- December 8      Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Christian/Catholic**  
According to the Catholic Church, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived without Original Sin in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.
- Bodhi Day – Buddhist**  
In Japanese Zen, Bodhi Day is called “*Rohatsu*” and is the observance of enlightenment of the historical Buddha. Zen monasteries observe this day with a meditation retreat lasting several days. On the last night of a *Rohatsusesshin*, monks and students often sit in meditation until dawn, as the Buddha did 25 centuries ago.
- December 9      Independence Day – Tanzania**  
This day celebrates the end of British rule in Tanganyika in 1961.
- International Anti-corruption Day - UN**  
This day is observed to promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively
- December 10      Human Rights Day – UN**  
Established in 1948 by the United Nations to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which sets forth basic rights and freedoms to which all are entitled.
- Constitution Day – Thailand**  
Celebrates the beginning of a Constitutional Monarchy in Thailand in 1932.
- December 11      Hanukkah - Jewish**  
Begins previous sundown at 6:00 pm. The Festival of Lights is celebrated for eight days (Dec. 11-18). Approximately in 164 B.C. Maccabees, a small group of Jews fighting for religious freedom won victory over the Syrians. The legend goes that to rededicate eighth temple, they found only one jar of holy oil and miraculously the candelabra remained lit for 8 days. The eight-candle menorah is lighted. Special readings and songs of praise focus on liberty and freedom.
- Masá'il (15<sup>th</sup> month) – Bahá'í**
- International Mountain Day – UN**  
Covering around 22 percent of the earth's land surface, mountains play a critical role in moving the world towards sustainable economic growth. They not only provide sustenance and wellbeing to 915 million mountain people around the world, representing 13 percent of global population, but mountains also indirectly benefit billions more living downstream.
- December 12      Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe – Mexico**  
The Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to Juan Diego, a Christianized Indian at Tepeyac Hill outside of Mexico City in 1531 . She appeared three times on a site considered as a spiritual center by Mexican Indians. In one of the visions, the Virgin Mary told Diego to build a church on the site, in another vision she told Diego to pick some roses that were miraculously growing on the hill. He did, then he put them in his cloak and took them to the bishop. When Diego opened his cloak, the image of a dark-haired, brown skinned woman was imprinted on the inside of the cloak. The site where the roses were growing was renamed Guadalupe and the image on the cloak became known as *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe* or “Our Lady of Guadalupe”.
- Jamhuri (Independence Day) – Kenya**  
Jamhuri is the Swahili word for “republic”, this date marks Kenya's establishment date as a republic in 1964.

- December 13**     **Aga Khan's Birthday – Islam Ismaili**  
Religious head of the Ismaili sect.
- December 13**     **Luciadagen/St. Lucia Day – Sweden**  
St. Lucia, the “Queen of Light” is celebrated on this day and a candlestick parade takes place in her honor.
- December 15**     **Bill of Rights Day – USA**  
The first ten amendments to the United States Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights. Among the rights protected are freedom of speech, the right to bear arms and protection from unreasonable search.
- Navidades – Puerto Rico**  
Marks the beginning of the Christmas season and ends with Three Kings Day on January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- December 16**     **Las Posadas – Mexico (December 16-24)**  
A nine-day traditional Mexican festival celebration. Processions of pilgrims go door to door asking posada, which means shelter commemorating the search by Mary and Joseph for shelter.
- Bijoy Dibash – Bangladesh**  
Signifies independence after a 9-month Liberation War against Pakistan in 1971. East Pakistan became Bangladesh.
- December 17**     **National Day – Bhutan**  
In commemoration of the day in 1907 when Gongsar Wangchuk was crowned the first king over a united Bhutan.
- December 18**     **International Migrants day- UN**  
The UN recognizes the contributions and celebrate the vitality of the world's 258 million migrants.
- Independence Day – Qatar**  
Unification of Qatar in 1878.
- December 20**     **International Human Solidary Day - UN**  
Celebrates unity in diversity. It also aims to remind people on the importance of solidarity in working towards eradicating poverty.
- December 21**     **Winter Solstice – International**  
In the Northern Hemisphere, this day is the official start of winter. In the Southern Hemisphere, it is official start of summer. Between the equator and the Arctic Circle, the sun rises and sets farthest south on the horizon for the year and the period of daylight is at its shortest (12 hours, 8 minutes) at the equator, decreasing to zero at the Arctic Circle.
- Yule – Wicca**  
During the winter solstice – the longest night of the year - the rebirth of the sun which is life sustaining is celebrated. The Yule tree is decorated with fruit and candles are lit to represent the sun.
- Tohji-Tasai – Shinto**  
The sun is of central importance in Japan and this day celebrates the end of the Yin period of the sun in its declining strength and the growing power of the Yang period.

- December 23 Joseph Smith's Birthday - Mormon**  
He was the American Mormon Leader, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
- Heisei Emperor's Birthday – Japan**  
This is the current Emperor's birthday. His reign has been named Heisei (Succeed at Peace).
- December 24 Independence Day – Libya**  
In 1951 when Libya declared its freedom from British-French "oversight".
- December 25 Christmas Day – Christian**  
This day celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ over 2000 years ago. Customs include lighting candles, exchanging gifts and using evergreen decorations to celebrate. This day is the most widely observed Christian festival of the year.
- Jinnah's Birthday – Pakistan**  
Mahomedali Jinnahbhai (12/25/1876-9/11/1948) was the founder of Pakistan.
- December 26 Kwanzaa – African-American, USA (December 26-January 1)**  
A seven-day celebration started in 1966 to honor Americans of African ancestry. Kwanzaa means "fresh fruits of the harvest" in Swahili. Each day is dedicated to one of seven principles: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Families have African-style feasts and exchange gifts.
- Boxing Day – Canada, Ireland, UK**  
It was once a day when the churches' poor boxes were opened. In Britain, traditionally a day when gifts (boxes) are given to servants, tradespeople or others who have provided services.
- Death of the Prophet Zarathushtra – Zoroastrian**  
Commemorates the death of the founder of the Zoroastrian faith.
- Wren Day/St. Stephen's Day – Ireland**  
On Wren Day, boys in wren costumes go from house to house with a captured wren, singing songs and gathering coins. These coins help to pay for a big celebratory feast in the evening. St. Stephen is remembered for being the first Christian martyr.
- Junkanoo – Bahamas**  
A festival that combines elements of Mardi Gras, mummers' parades and ancient African tribal rituals. Continues on January 1.
- December 30 Rizal Day – Philippines**  
Celebrates the Philippines' national hero José Protasio Rizal Mercado y Alonso Realonda (Dr. José P. Rizal) on the anniversary of his death in 1896. Dr. Rizal was a very prominent advocate for reforms during the Spanish colonial era.
- December 31 New Year's Eve – International**  
Celebrates the coming New Year bidding a farewell to the departing year and celebrating the joy, hope, and peace for the year ahead.
- Omisoka – Japan**  
To usher in the New Year, families clean their homes, eat toshi-koshi buckwheat noodles in the hope that one's life will be stretched out as long as these noodles. As midnight approaches, Shinto temples around the country begin ringing out the old year, sounding the temple bell 108

times because according to them, human beings have 108 worldly desires which are removed by striking the bell.

**Gahambar Maidyarem – Zoroastrian (Dec 31 – Jan 4)**

This day celebrates the creation of animals. It is also a time for the equitable sharing of food.

**Hogmanay – Scotland (December 31, 2019, 7:00 pm to January 1, 2019, 7:00 pm)**

The Scottish New Year, Hogmanay is derived from the French phrase meaning ‘Lead to the mistletoe’ Fire ceremonies, banging of pots and pans at midnight and bringing bread, salt and coal to their hosts to symbolize life, hospitality and warmth mark this exuberant occasion.

Source: With permission from Creative Cultural Communications, Multicultural Calendar 2020  
<http://usa.multiculturalcalendar.com/v/home.html>.

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Continuing our celebration of American Indian/Native American History Month in November, below are both adult and children’s, books.

***From the Hilltop* by Toni Jensen (University of Nebraska Press; March 2010)**

This set of stories is one of the few — by a Native author or by any author — that seems to be able to pull off that cool-kid experimental thing and make it seem sharp and compelling. There are some great stories in the collection by Métis author Jensen, but my personal favorite is the title story.

***Cheyenne Madonna* by Eddie Chuculate (Black Sparrow Press; July 2010)**

This collection packs a punch and a half with sharply written, voice-driven stories about being members of the Cherokee and Muscogee (Creek) nations in Oklahoma, which the author has in common with his characters. Some will make you squirm in that good way: “Under the Red Star of Mars” is about a woman who gets away from her abusive boyfriend — enlisting her new man to do so — but you’re left wondering who the good guy in all of this is supposed to be. Then there’s “Yo Yo,” a brutal coming-of-age tale that illustrates the sometimes deeply anti-black feeling that some Native people have, especially in Oklahoma — a state with a complex history surrounding the relationship between Native folks and black people.

***Robopocalypse* by Daniel H. Wilson (Vintage; April 2012)**

This is not Wilson’s first time at the robot rodeo — but it’s a crowd favorite because *Robopocalypse* is just that good. Set in the not-too-distant future, this novel (similar to many of his others) asks what kind of role we want technology to play in our lives. In the novel, technology is destroying humankind — through a master computer called Archos that’s gained not only sentience but quick control over most other computers across the world. The one relatively safe place as the planet starts to burn down? The Osage Nation in Oklahoma. Yet another Cherokee citizen who can’t help but be *that* good, Wilson writes Native characters — like all his characters — who feel so realistic, it’s as if they’ve popped right out of Oklahoma and onto the page.

***Murder on the Red River* by Marcie Rendon (Cinco Puntos Press; April 2017)**

Part of the Anishinaabe writer Rendon’s *Cash Blackbear* series, *Murder on the Red River* is a novel about sugar beet truck driver, pool hustler, and all-around cool AF bad girl Cash. While enmeshed in an affair with a married man she knows is going nowhere, and worried that her life, too, might be going nowhere, she realizes that she has a strong instinct and nearly preternatural ability when it comes to solving crimes. Funny, unflinching, and almost noir in tone.

**Owls Don't Have to Mean Death** by Chip Livingston (Tincture Press; October 2017)

Livingston has quietly produced a number of lovely but gut-wrenching books about being Creek and gay. *Owls* is about Peter Strongbow, a young man who is just beginning to learn how to contend with his heritage and, even more heartbreakingly, the fact that the love of his life is living with HIV. Another prolific writer, and one who also writes poetry and nonfiction, Livingston has written a book that will get you good.

**The Road Back to Sweetgrass** by Linda LeGarde Grover (University of Minnesota Press; February 2016)

Grover is a quietly revolutionary (and prolific) Anishinaabe writer. She beautifully and uncompromisingly weaves in Native language, and she also writes about darker aspects of Native history, such as the much-reviled boarding schools of the 19th and 20th century without cutting corners when it comes to story. Native boarding schools were nothing like Holden Caulfield's; they were places Native children were forced to go, where teachers stripped them of their traditional clothing, quite literally beat them when they spoke their languages, and often much, much worse happened. *Sweetgrass* takes us into the world of three different women, Dale Ann, Theresa, and Margie — all from the Mozhay Point Reservation, all of whom leave home for college or work, but are always drawn back.

**Trail of Lightning** by Rebecca Roanhorse (Saga Press/Simon & Schuster; June 2018)

Roanhorse, a Pueblo author and the first and only Native American to win a Hugo Award, takes Diné stories to a new, vibrant level with her novel about Maggie Hoskie, a monster slayer whose skills are needed after the Big Water (read: climate change), when old gods come back to help, and hurt, the living. Her love, Neizgháni, who saved her from death, has abandoned her, but she must face him — and her own inner demons — on a quest to find out more about a witch behind a series of killings, all while trying to figure out if she can trust the man who has been sent along with her.

**Sacred Smokes** by Theodore C. Van Alst Jr. (University of New Mexico Press; August 2018)

Set in Chicago, which has a surprisingly large Native population, in part because of government-supported relocation programs, these short stories focus on young people growing up with gangs, hanging out in clubs, and in general living sharp, difficult lives. Though driven more by language and character than plot, these stories will take you on a journey with their narrator, Teddy, his father, and friends, like Gooch, who is paralyzed from the waist down as a result of a gang shooting.

**Cherokee America** by Margaret Verble (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; February 2019)

Sweeping historical drama set in Cherokee territory before the removal (google: Trail of Tears). Check, in many ways the central character, has a fascinating personal history: Her father is both a slave owner and a well-known soldier; her husband is an abolitionist. Check determines to solve, and avenge, a series of crimes all while history marches forward, threatening to tear her nation — and her family, apart. Refreshingly honest about slave ownership in Cherokee territory, this novel takes us through the Civil War and shows us the consequences that this part of American history has had on a people — and their right to self-determination.

**There There** by Tommy Orange (Knopf; May 2020)

With an introduction and interlude that speak to Native American history in this country in beautiful lyric essay form and a culminating shootout at a powwow in Oakland. The novel features 12 Native characters. Some of them have intertwined histories that meet in the past, with the Native American occupation of Alcatraz, and some of them only have Oakland, and a tragic outcome, in common. Orange has been in Spokane, SCC, EWU and Gonzaga the past two years.

**Where the Dead Sit Talking** by Brandon Hobson (SoHo; June 2019)

Shortlisted for the 2018 National Book Awards, this novel about a Cherokee teenager caught in the social work system after his mother ends up in prison, will linger in your mind. Sequoyah is a troubled, quiet kid who ends up in the home of a well-meaning but largely naive white couple. When he meets Rosemary — also Native (Ponca), he can't figure out whether he loves her or wants to be her, culminating in the kind of climax that leaves you breathless.

***The Only Good Indians*** by Stephen Graham Jones (Saga Press/Simon & Schuster; July 2020)

Jones, the prolific Blackfeet master of horror and winner of a Bram Stoker Award, wants to scare you good, if you like that kind of thing. Trigger warning: There is gore. But the blood is in service of a greater good: a story about four young men who go hunting somewhere reserved only for elders — for good reason, it turns out. That ground has power, and when they hunt one particular elk down, the animal bides its time until it can hunt them back. Subtly funny and wry at turns, this novel will give you nightmares. The good kind, of course.

***Crooked Hallelujah*** by Kelli Jo Ford (Grove Atlantic; July 2020)

This book going to be taught in creative writing programs for decades to come. Centering on teenage Justine, but covering three generations of Cherokee women, this novel-in-stories follows Justine's life in Oklahoma, as she deals with being abandoned by her father and the toughness, and tenderness, of her mother and grandmother. And finally, an act of violence that changes everything.

***Winter Counts*** by David Heska Wanbli Weiden (Ecco/HarperCollins; August 2020)

Virgil the vigilante, waives his fees when he's been assigned people who sexually abuse children. Groundbreaking in its scope and gritty-pretty when it comes to language, this visceral page-turner will have you rooting for Virgil as he chases down the drug dealers causing so much pain on the Rosebud Reservation. He's joined by his ex, Marie, as they venture down into Denver, and back up to the rez again, only to uncover secrets that have the power to destroy them both.

#### **Fiction and Non-fiction Children's books:**

***I Am Sacagawea***, Written by: Brad Meltzer, Illustrated by: Christopher Eliopoulos, Recommended Age: 4 - 8

When Sacagawea left with Lewis and Clark on their mission to explore the West, from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, nobody thought a woman — particularly a Native American woman like her — could contribute much. But as a translator, Sacagawea was able to help the expedition communicate with the tribes they met on their travels, and as a guide, she ensured they found their way. Her quick thinking even saved critical supplies that got washed off their canoes — while the men on the expedition were busy panicking.

***Wilma's Way Home: The Life of Wilma Mankiller***, Written by: Doreen Rappaport, Illustrated by: Linda Kukuk, Recommended Age: 6 - 9

Wilma Mankiller grew up "dirt poor" in Oklahoma, but her Cherokee community practiced Gadugi, helping each other, so there was always support nearby. But when the federal government moved her family to California in 1956, they lost their sense of community. Mankiller eventually found the Indian Center in San Francisco, where she realized how important her tribe was — and that she wanted to fight for what they needed. Mankiller became an activist and a leader, overcoming resistance to female leadership and a life-threatening accident to become the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation.

***Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom***, Written by: Tim Tingle, Illustrated by: Jeanne Rorex Bridges, Recommended Age: 6 - 8

Since both African Americans and Native Americans faced racial discrimination, there were occasions when they worked together to avoid persecution or violence. In Mississippi in the 1800s, the Bok Chitto river marked the divide between Choctaw territory and the plantations of white settlers. When Martha, a Choctaw girl, crosses the river, she befriends the slaves on a nearby plantation. When one slave family learns that their mother is going to be sold, Martha knows just what to do: get the whole family across the river to Choctaw lands, where they can be free. This gripping story, written by an award-winning Choctaw storyteller, is perfect for reading aloud.

***Pocahontas***, Written by: Joseph Bruchac, Recommended Age: 12 and up

One name that jumps to mind when thinking of Native American history is Pocahontas, but her real story is often overshadowed by the historically inaccurate Disney animated film. Bruchac, an acclaimed Abenaki author, draws on John Smith's journals for his depiction of the 11-year-old Powhatan chief's daughter. Alternating chapters portray the same incidents from the points of view of Pocahontas and Smith; the sections in Pocahontas' voice



begin with stories in the tradition of Algonquin and Powhatan culture. Historically accurate (to the point where it is often categorized as non-fiction) and vividly told, this true story of Pocahontas is far more interesting than the myths that have grown around her.

***Red Bird Sings: The Story of Zitkala-Sa, Native American Author, Musician, and Activist***, Written by: Q. L. Pearce, Gina Capaldi, Illustrated by: Gina Capaldi, Recommended Age: 7 - 10

One of the most important Native American reformers of the early 20th century was Gertrude Simmons, also known by her Yankton Sioux name, Zitkala-Sa. She found strength during her time at a residential school from an unexpected source: music classes. The story of how Zitkala-Sa learned new ways to sing — both through playing the violin and the piano and through her many writings and speeches in support of preserving Native American rights and culture — is sure to inspire. Older readers can learn more in Doreen Rappaport's *The Flight of Red Bird: The Life of Zitkala-Sa* (age 10 and up.)

***Marooned In The Arctic: The True Story of Ada Blackjack, the "Female Robinson Crusoe"***; Written by: Peggy Caravantes, Recommended Age: 12 and up

In 1921, four white men and one Inuit woman traveled to Wrangel Island in northern Siberia. The men's goal was to claim the island for Great Britain...but the woman, Ada Blackjack, just wanted to earn money to care for her sick son. Conditions quickly became dire, and after three men left and the remaining man died, Blackjack spent nearly two years alone on the island, trapping foxes, catching seals, and avoiding polar bears. Tells Blackjack's story, complete with historical photos and details about aspect of Inuit culture. Adults interested in learning more about Blackjack can check out [\*Ada Blackjack: A True Story of Survival in the Arctic\*](#).

***#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women***, Written by: Lisa Charleyboy (editor), Mary Beth Leatherdale (editor), Recommended Age: 14 and up

Too many people still hold the stereotype of the docile tribal "princess" — but Native American women deserve to have their voices heard. In this powerful collection, editors Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale collect stories from a wide variety of indigenous perspectives, capturing both the challenges that they face — like reclaiming Indigenous rights and overcoming the epidemic of violence against Native American women — and their passion and power to change the world. This vital addition to the literature celebrates Native American identities and the determination of those who refuse to let themselves be defined by others.

***Soft Rain: A Story of the Cherokee Trail of Tears***, Written by: Cornelia Cornelissen, Recommended Age: 7 - 10

Nine-year-old Soft Rain refuses to believe the letter her teacher reads saying that all Cherokee people will have to leave their homes to go to "the land of darkness" in the west. Her family has just planted corn — surely they can't go now? To her shock, though, soldiers soon arrive and send her and her mother to walk the Trail of Tears, leaving the rest of her family behind. Soft Rain knows enough English to understand how difficult the journey will be, and soon she sees tragedy first hand. Even if she can ever reunite with the rest of her family, Soft Rain knows that nothing will be the same again. This book provides an excellent introduction to the painful realities of the Trail of Tears.

***I Can Make This Promise***, Written by: Christine Day, Recommended Age: 9 - 12

Twelve-year-old Edie knows that her mother was Native American and that she was adopted by a white couple, but she knows nothing about her heritage. Then she and her friends discover a box in the attic full of letters and pictures from Edith Graham, a Suquamish and Duwamish aspiring actor from the 1970s — a woman who looks a lot like Edie. Edie feels like her parents have been lying to her, and as she struggles to learn more about her identity, she also learns harsh truths about how Native Americans have been treated, including the misrepresentation of Native Americans in film and family separations. Meanwhile, her friendships are straining under the changes of adolescence, too. Debut author Christine Day, who is Upper Skagit, drew on her mother's history as a Native American adoptee to create this enlightening and powerful novel that explores discrimination, adoption, and cultural identity.

***A Stranger At Home: A True Story***, Written by: Christy Jordan-Fenton, Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, Illustrated by: Liz Amini-Holmes, Recommended Age: 9 and up

In the sequel to *Fatty Legs*, Margaret is excited to return home after two years at the hated school — until her mother takes one look at her and screams, “Not my girl!” Margaret has forgotten her family’s language, and even gets sick trying to eat her community’s traditional food. But the stubbornness that saw her through the Raven’s mistreatment comes to her aid again, as she relearns how to speak and live in her Inuvialuit home. One of the rare children’s books to tackle life after residential schooling, this book also portrays Margaret’s optimism and determination, as well as the valuable lessons she learns about being true to her heritage and herself. A picture book adaptation of the story, *Not My Girl*, allows parents and educators to share this story with kids aged 4 to 8.

***The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses***, Written by: Paul Goble, Illustrated by: Paul Goble, Recommended Age: 5 - 9

"There was a girl in the village who loved horses," begins this Caldecott Medal winning book. "She spoke softly and they followed. People noticed that she understood horses in a special way." When a thunderstorm scares the horses into a stampede — carrying her off in the process — the girl finds herself in a new land, ruled over by a handsome and proud stallion. The stallion welcomes her to live with them, and the girl is happy to join them... until the day that hunters from her tribe find her and try to bring her home. But perhaps home for this girl is truly with the horses she loves. This story, assembled from multiple Plains Indians myths and legends, conveys a powerful and timeless message about individuality and following your heart.

***Stolen Words***, Written by: Melanie Florence, Illustrated by: Gabrielle Grimard, Recommended Age: 4 - 8

When a little girl comes home with a dreamcatcher she made in school, she's eager to talk to her Cree grandfather and learn more about her heritage. Her enthusiasm, though, seems to make her grandfather sad, and eventually he confesses that he has little knowledge to share: as a child, he tells her, his language was stolen from him. The girl comforts her grandfather as best she can, but the next day, she comes home with something even more special to share: a tattered paperback called *Introduction to Cree*. While this book is an emotional story of the damage done by the residential school system, it's also a powerful tale of a hopeful present: one in which generations work together to learn or relearn their language and culture.

***We Are Water Protectors***, Written by: Carole Lindstrom, Illustrated by: Michaela Goade, Recommended Age: 5 - 9

"Water is the first medicine, Nokomis told me," this little girl remembers. It is an element that connects all of us, and all the other living creatures on our planet. So, when our water is threatened, this girl takes a stand to defend it: she becomes a water protector. Ojibwe author Carole Lindstrom and Tlingit/Haida illustrator Michaela Goade were inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements to protect this precious resource for this book, but they also remind readers that this issue goes beyond a single community, country, or race: "we are all related," they point out, and if we take action, we can all be water protectors.

***Soldier Sister, Fly Home***, Written by: Nancy Bo Flood, Illustrated by: Shonto Begay, Recommended Age: 10 - 13

Thirteen-year-old Tess is already struggling to figure out her identity — too white on the reservation but too Navajo at school — when her beloved older sister Gaby announces she's going to enlist and fight in the Iraq War...only weeks after Lori Piestewa, a member of their community, becomes the first Native American woman in US history to die in combat. Adding to Tess' stress is her sister's instruction to take care of Blue, a semi-wild stallion, who Tess finds unstable and scary. But perhaps caring for Blue can help Tess find peace with who she is. Additional back matter includes a pronunciation guide for Navajo terms and information about Piestewa.

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