

Upcoming Storytelling Event

From: Selene Rilatots-Lynch

Jerry Raining Bird is a member of the Cree Nation, born and raised on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in the Bear Paw Mountains of Northern Montana. Jerry has a B.S. in Physical Education and a M.S. in Education Administration. He has been sharing his Native Myths, Legends and Stories across the Northwest, Alaska, and the Pacific Islands. Raining Bird has been a featured presenter at numerous schools and regional conferences for the past several years. He has conducted storytelling demonstrations and workshops for students, educators, and parents since 1986.

Most recently, Raining Bird has travelled extensively in the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, and the Pacific Islands.

Raining Bird is a storyteller, writer, dancer, and his stories, writings and dance reflect the Northern Plains culture.

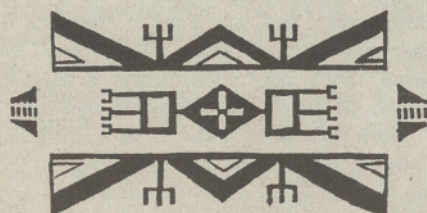
Raining Bird stresses the importance of taking pride in our Native heritage through dance, poetry, and storytelling. The oral tradition is one of the most important ways in which native people expressed traditional values and beliefs. This tradition must endure! It provides native people with the link that connects us to the past, and this belief has been handed down from generation to generation. We must never forget where we came from, we must always remember who we are, and we must take pride in our native ways. This is what will enable us to effectively face the challenges of the future! Our Elders have always said this and most importantly we must listen!

Jerry will be performing at the Performing Arts Center in Newport on Thursday, June 17, 1993 from 7-8:30 p.m. This event is a fund raiser for the Youth & Elders Gathering that will be held on July 1-4, 1993 at the Siletz Tribal Community Center.

Mr. Raining Bird is donating all proceeds from this storytelling event to help cover traveling expenses for Elders attending the gathering. Supporting this event will assist in bringing the Elders to spend much needed time with our Native Youth.

Tickets are \$7.50 and available at the box office at the Newport Performing Arts Center (265-Arts.)

For further information please contact Mary Dederick or Selene Rilatots-Lynch at (503) 444-4222 or 1-800-922-1399.



Come to the Gathering To all Native People Living in Oregon

Concerned Oregon Native People invite all native people in Oregon to a Spiritual Youth/Elders Gathering which will be held July 1-4, 1993. In support, the Siletz Tribal Council has offered the use of the Tyee Illahee grounds in Siletz, Oregon.

There is a deep and profound need in our communities for healing and guiding our Young People, and for respecting, honoring, and listening to our Elders. Our Elders are our connection to our past-our future. Those of us who are walking the path between our youth and our elder years have a responsibility to those who have walked before us and those who are walking after us.

This Spiritual Gathering is for the purpose of finding the path of knowledge that will aid in breaking the cycle of bitterness and confusion that our ancestors brought with them to the reservations after the so-called "Indian Wars" of the 1800's. Breaking the cycle is a long term vision that requires cooperation and understanding in our communities-living our lives in a good way, individually and together.

We welcome you, your family, and friends to attend this gathering and we pray the learning we all share there will happen in a good way, touching many lives -which will in turn touch many lives and so the circle continues - and is strengthened.

We pray for The People. All our Relations.

For more Information, contact:

Selene Rialtos-Lynch: 444-2222, 1-800-922-1399.

Juanita Whitebear, Dinao Butler: (503) 996-6316.

An Invitation to all Oregon Native American Elders

By: Agnes Baker Pilgrim, an Elder member of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz

We are cordially inviting all the tribes of Oregon to the First Annual Oregon Youth and Elders Gathering to be held at Tyee Illahee tribal grounds in Siletz on July 1-4, 1993.

The purpose of this gathering is to bring Native American Elders of Oregon together to strengthen our cultural ties and to encourage and support not only each other, but especially our youth, for they are our threshold to the future. What we teach them now will make their pathway easier and point a direction to carry on our Native American ways.

It is time all Elders raise up and make a strong commitment in regards to the way our young are being taken and destroyed by alcohol and drugs.

Let us, as Elders, do our utmost in salvaging our future. Your attendance will show your concerns on behalf of your tribal youth. Can you, as an Elder, make a difference? Yes, you certainly can, for your input and participation will be highly regarded.

Planning Meetings for Youth/Elders Gathering Scheduled

Planning meetings for the July 1-4, 1993 Oregon Native Youth/Elders Gathering are scheduled for the following dates at 7:00 p.m. at Siletz Community Hall:

June 3, 1993 - 7:00 p.m.- Pot Luck 6:00 p.m.

June 10, 1993 - 7:00 p.m.- Pot Luck 6:00 p.m.

June 24, 1993 - 7:00 p.m.- Pot Luck 6:00 p.m.

Your attendance and support at these meetings is needed and appreciated. There are a variety of committees that need volunteers. Sign-up sheets will be available at the meetings. If you would like to volunteer, but you cannot attend meetings, please contact: Dino Butler or Juanita Whitebear at: 996-6316 or Selene Rilatots at the Siletz Tribal Office: 444-2532 or 1-800-922-1399.

Youth and Elders Gathering

By: Gary Butler

The Youth and Elders gathering is so much needed not only in my Tribe but all indigenous nations throughout this land. Our children will have the opportunity to listen and learn from our Elders, to learn some of the history of our people, to learn some culture and participate if they wish, to feel a part of, to learn how to build a sweat lodge, how to drum, how to set up tipis, learn to respect our Elders and our people. Communication is essential in this day and age.

I believe this gathering will strengthen our nation. Help us get to know one another better.

When I was a young boy I longed for some thing like this. I felt alone that no one understood me. I did not know what being a Siletz Indian was. Our Tribe was terminated then. As I grew up I thought getting drunk and high and being a tough "guy" was being Indian.

I had no direction from my people. I was raised in reform schools and prisons most of my life. Today I do not wish to live that way. It has taken me many years to realize that being Indian is not being drunk or high on something.

Being Indian, is to be a more useful human being upon Mother Earth, to do my share to protect Mother Earth, and to do what I can to help my people in need, not push them away or hurt them anymore.

I hope to see a lot of my people there.

I Pray for the People.

