



Department of Surgery DEI WEEKLY DIGEST

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25TH, 2022

Happy Thanksgiving

A note from our Vice Chair

“As we are celebrating Thanksgiving and being grateful for our communities, families and loved ones, I wanted to acknowledge what it means for the indigenous peoples of this land we are sharing with. While the arrival of the pilgrims and the colonization of North America is part of the shared early American history, it is essential to remember the full history of colonization, that it included genocide, theft of land, and discrimination. We accept the truth of history and carry the responsibility of what it means we need to do today. I am thankful for all the members of the council and of our taskforces who give us hope that past wrongs may not be undone but future wrongs can be prevented.

Enjoy this precious time with your loved ones and I am thankful for you.”

- Liana

Featured Blue Ocean Brain Module:



[It's \(Not\) About Thanksgiving](#)

National Native American Heritage Month

November 1 – November 30

Every year on November 1, Native American Heritage Month is celebrated to honor the remarkable Native Americans who have contributed a lot to improve the character of the nation. This month is also referred to as the American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. November is the time to rejoice in diverse and rich cultures, histories, and traditions and to appreciate the great contributions of the Native Americans. This month allows us to spread awareness about tribes or to educate people about the various challenges faced by the Native Americans in the past and today. Throughout this month, we commit to keep on supporting the remaining Native American tribes and let the world know about their sacrifices.

National Native American Month started off as an effort to get a day of appreciation and acknowledgment for the unique contributions made by the first Americans for the growth and establishment of the United States. The effort has now resulted in a whole month being celebrated for that purpose.

Dr. Arthur C. Parker was one of the first supporters of having an American Indian Day. He was a Seneca Indian and the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, New York. He was also the one to convince the Boy Scouts of America to create a day for the Native Americans — the Boy Scouts adopted this day for three days.

In 1915, a plan concerning American Indian Day was formally approved in the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting. The president of the American Indian Association, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, called upon the country to observe this day.

The first time American Indian Day was declared was in May 1916. In 1990, a joint resolution was approved by George H.W. Bush, which called for November to be named National American Heritage Month. Declarations like these have been issued since 1994, such as Native American Heritage Month and National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

<https://nationaltoday.com/american-heritage-month>

Why is National Native American Heritage Month important?

- They have a rich history - The Native Americans have been living in America for a very long time. They were not a single nation but included a variety of cultures, nations, and languages. Some people believe that they have been living on the sub-continent for over 30,000 years.
- Native Americans have contributed a lot - There are many contributions made by the Native Americans such as the discovery of edible plants, which are widely eaten by people around the world. They were the first people to raise turkeys, guinea pigs, and honeybees.
- They established the government system - The government of Native Americans serves as the model of federated representative democracy. The government system of the U.S. is based on the system in which the power is distributed amongst the central authority and smaller political units.

<https://nationaltoday.com/american-heritage-month>

Joke of the Week

What do sweet potatoes wear to bed?

Yammies



5 Astounding facts about Native American Heritage

1. The last Indian

Ishi was the last known surviving member of the Native American Yahi tribe.

2. The Sequoia tree

The Sequoia tree is named in the honor of Cherokee leader Sequoyah.

3. American Natives referred to as Indians

Although it has been 500 years, Native Americans are still often referred to as Indians.

4. The origin of the term 'Indians'

Christopher Columbus came up with the word 'Indian'.

5. Names of the U.S. states

The names of many U.S. states are derived from Amerindian words, such as Connecticut, Kentucky, and Arizona.

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Ways to celebrate

Learn which tribes are native to the Portland area

[The Oregon Metro says](#) there are about 58,00 Native Americans who have more than 380 tribal affiliations in Portland. After a long history of many Native Americans being displaced from their ancestral homelands, land acknowledgments are important in recognizing where many of these tribal nations may have lived in a particular area.

According to the Parks Foundation, “The Portland Metro area rests on traditional village sites of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin, Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River.” *Learn more about Oregon tribes [here](#).*

Go see the indigenous portraits featured around town

Portland’s [Tribal Relations Program](#) is partnering with Indigenous storytelling collective [INDÍGENA](#) this month to bring Indigenous portraits to sites around the city.

According to a release from Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler’s office, “The presence of the portraits in public spaces will ask viewers to interrogate their preconceptions of Native people and consider their own experience as it relates to Native land, people and communities.”

Some of the portraits can be found here:

- RACC Building at 411 NW Park Ave.
- Metro Regional Center at 600 NE Grand Ave.
- County Elections Office at 1040 SE Morrison St.
- Central Courthouse at 1200 SW 1st Ave.
- NE Health Center/Walnut Park – 5329 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.



Donate to native American organizations

There are several Native American organizations based in Portland that are committed to community service, and that could benefit from volunteering or donations. The Oregon Native American Chamber has a full list of them [here](#).

For example, one organization is the Native American Youth and Family Center. NAYA “is a family of numerous tribes and voices who are rooted in sustaining tradition and building cultural wealth.”

NAYA provides resources such as community economic development, college and career services and foster care services. There are a few ways people can [support the organization](#), like attending its fundraising gala or donating.

Recommended books

- [*There There by Tommy Orange*](#) - Tommy Orange’s wondrous and shattering novel follows twelve characters from Native communities: all traveling to the Big Oakland Powwow, all connected to one another in ways they may not yet realize.
- [*The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America by Thomas King*](#) - Neither a traditional nor all-encompassing history of First Nations people in North America, *The Inconvenient Indian* is a personal meditation on what it means to be “Indian.” Thomas King explores the relationship between Natives and non-Natives since the fifteenth century and examines the way that popular culture has shaped our notion of Indigenous identity, while also reflecting on his own complicated relationship with activism.
- [*WHEREAS: Poems by Layli Long Soldier*](#) - *WHEREAS* confronts the coercive language of the United States government in its responses, treaties, and apologies to Native American peoples and tribes, and reflects that language in its officiousness and duplicity back on its perpetrators. Through a virtuosic array of short lyrics, prose poems, longer narrative sequences, resolutions, and disclaimers, Layli Long Soldier creates a brilliantly innovative text to examine histories, landscapes, her own writing, and her predicament inside national affiliations.
- [*The Night Watchman by Louise Erdrich*](#) - Based on the extraordinary life of National Book Award-winning author Louise Erdrich’s grandfather who worked as a night watchman and carried the fight against Native dispossession from rural North Dakota all the way to Washington, D.C., this powerful novel explores themes of love and death with lightness and gravity and unfolds with the elegant prose, sly humor, and depth of feeling of a master craftsman.
- [*Everything You Wanted to Know about Indians But Were Afraid to Ask by Anton Treuer*](#) - What have you always wanted to know about Indians? Do you think you should already know the answers—or suspect that your questions may be offensive? In matter-of-fact responses to over 120 questions, both thoughtful and outrageous, modern and historical, Ojibwe scholar and cultural preservationist Anton Treuer gives a frank, funny, and sometimes personal tour of what’s up with Indians, anyway. Asserting that White/Indian relations are often characterized by guilt and anger, *Everything You Wanted to Know about Indians but Were Afraid to Ask* cuts through the emotion and builds a foundation for true understanding and positive action.
- [*The Tao of Raven by Ernestine Hayes*](#) - In her first book, *Blonde Indian*, Ernestine Hayes powerfully recounted the story of returning to Juneau and to her Tlingit home after many years of wandering. *The Tao of Raven* takes up the next and, in some ways, less explored question: once the exile returns, then what?

Using the story of *Raven and the Box of Daylight* (and relating it to Sun Tzu’s equally timeless *Art of War*) to deepen her narration and reflection, Hayes expresses an ongoing frustration and anger at the obstacles and prejudices still facing Alaska Natives in their own land, but also recounts her own story of. She lyrically weaves together strands of memoir, contemplation, and fiction to articulate an Indigenous worldview in which all things are connected, in which intergenerational trauma creates many hardships but transformation is still possible.

Society of University Surgeons (SUS) Undergraduate Internship Program

In collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Society of University Surgeons will offer \$5,000 Summer research internships to 4 under-represented minority undergraduate students for the summer of 2023. Student interns will be paired with SUS member mentors to participate in medical research. Priority will be given to SUS mentors and institutions who are able to provide affordable, safe housing for students, as well as provide opportunities for students to integrate socially.

This partnership between the AAAS and the SUS represents the logical merging of two resources: the conduit to reach out to URM students (AAAS) and established surgeon scientists interested in mentoring URM students with an interest in medicine and surgery (SUS). [Click here for more information](#)

[Apply for a 2023 Undergraduate Summer Internship here by Monday, December 19, 2022](#)

Society of University Surgeons (SUS) Member Mentors

The SUS is seeking letters of interest from SUS members who are interested in participating as mentors for this program. Mentors must be Active SUS members in good standing and be able to provide an enriching research experience for the duration of the internship, including resources for research activities and the opportunity to interact with other researchers / trainees at the host institution. Priority will be given to SUS mentors and institutions who are able to provide affordable, safe housing for students.

[Apply to be a 2023 SUS Member Mentor here by Monday, December 19, 2022](#)

Happy



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