

Tree of Healing Speaker Bios Day 1

Title: Two Spirit Teachings: Honoring the Sacred Space between and within all of us

Abstract: Many cultural traditions and practices of the peoples of Turtle Island have often been misrepresented or suppressed. The misrepresentation mainly occurred because the colonizers did not have a context to frame, understand and value these ways and the suppression, primarily occurred because these Indigenous ways often went against the colonizer's understanding(s) of the world and this belief was used to justify the subjugation of Indigenous bodies and lands and was one of the underlying tenets for the founding of Indian residential/boarding schools and other policies of dislocation. This especially holds true for Indigenous notions and practices of gender (roles, identities and/or expression), sex and sexuality.

This presentation explores these concepts by featuring some of the sociohistorical documentation from a nation-specific standpoint while supplementing these records and narratives with a deconstructed colonial account(s). A brief overview is offered on how this body of knowledge is used to (re)claim and restore respect, honor and dignity for today's Two-Spirit individuals and communities as they navigate and negotiate Indigenous and LGBTQI+ spaces, places and communities. Finally, a discussion is taken up on the (re)positioning of 'Two-Spirit' as this work and discussion(s) significantly differs from that of the broader (non-Native) LGBTQI+ movement(s) putting forth a critique of the 'western' framing of gender (roles, identities and/or expression), and sexuality; thus opening up a space that transcends and challenges the binary; thereby, creating a space to dream of a rich, complex and diverse world that acknowledges the 'other' while honoring, celebrating and valuing the gifts and medicines the 'other' has to offer thus creating a sacred (and safe) place and space that calls everyone home.

Objectives:

- Gain knowledge of Indigenous and Two-Spirit people(s) and communities
- Increase familiarity of issues and challenges confronting Indigenous and Two-Spirit people(s) and communities
- Receive resources for additional learning and referrals



Harlan Pruden, (pronouns, anything said mindfully and respectfully) is nēhiyo or First Nations Cree in English, works with and for the Two-Spirit community locally, nationally and internationally. Currently, Harlan is the Indigenous Knowledge Translation & Research Lead at Chee Mamuk, an Indigenous health program at British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, and is also a co-founder of the Two-Spirit Dry Lab (TwoSpiritDryLab.ca), Turtle Island's first research group that exclusively focuses on Two-Spirit people, communities and/or experiences. Harlan is a Ph.D. student at Simon Fraser University and is working to understand how (and if) Two-Spirit facilitates access to health information and well-being for Indigenous sexual and gender minority

peoples and/or communities.

Harlan is also the Managing Editor of the TwoSpiritJournal.com and an Advisory Member for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's Institute of Gender and Health. Before relocating to Vancouver in 2015, Harlan was co-founder and a Director of NYC community-based organization, the NorthEast Two-Spirit Society and was a President Obama appointee to the US Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) and provided advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary of Health & Human Services and the White House. (In December 2018, Harlan was (happily) fired/dismissed from PACHA by Mr. Trump via Fedex.)



Topher Burke (he/him/they) is a Two-Spirit, sixth generation Métis. They are hard at work learning the family business, they are a volunteer firefighter, their Métis Chartered Community President, sit on both the Provincial & National Two Spirit advisory Committees, and facilitates two different suicide intervention workshops to communities across province of British Columbia.

Having a lived experience of suicidality, he is now a passionate advocate of training people to have the skills he needed someone to have in their time of crisis.

Growing up Two-Spirit in colonial western culture proved challenging, being disconnected from the culture of their ancestors. Now they are actively (re)learning, and sharing the teachings cutoff by their grandparents out of fear of the residential schools. They are on a mission to educate our modern world

on the value of Ceremony, Culture, Community, & Connection as a powerful way of keeping all our people alive and flourishing.

Title: Next Generation Red Road to Healing

Abstract

J. Carlos Rivera will introduce the concept of the Red Road as balance and connection to the natural laws that create healing within the native community. Culturally based tools are discussed as a way for changing families. A combination of immense losses and traumatic events that have perpetrated an entire culture needs healing as natives across the nation are encouraged to seek to reinstate cultural ways, language and sacred traditions. The unfortunate consequences of trauma include not believing you have a future, difficulties within families and a distrust of the outside world. This is passed down through direct parent-child interactions and through interactions with extended family and the community. Intergenerational Healing will take place through the application of cultural and spiritual knowledge.

Workshop:

Cultural Congruency

This workshop will include Indigenous Concepts introduced to Generation Red Road, by Native American Elders. That are vital for successful alcohol & drug treatment recovery in tribal communities and the joining of both Western and Indigenous Concepts.

This workshop will present the importance of understanding how this impacts your own personal recovery and how to weather through the most challenging moments that we encounter in recovery. There is a reason why we are experiencing challenges during our recovery process.

Objectives:

1. To increase the knowledge of Indigenous Concepts for successful treatment outcomes working with Native American population.
2. To increase the understanding on the joining of both Western Concepts and Indigenous concepts and the important role each plays in Indian Country.

J. Carlos Rivera is Chief Cultural Officer at American Indian Health & Services located in Santa Barbara and CEO & Founder of Generation Red Road, Inc. located in Northern CA. Carlos is an enrolled tribal member with the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians and is also of Mexican descent. Carlos is 44 years old and currently resides in Northern CA with his family. Carlos received his Chemical Dependency Studies and Human Services at the American River College. Carlos served as a substance abuse treatment provider for 11- years for Indian



Health Services in Sacramento, CA. providing services to adult men and women on parole, juvenile offenders, and other referrals from the Department of Corrections. Carlos is the former Executive Director at White Bison, Inc. located in Colorado Springs, CO. He continues to make a difference in Native/Indigenous Tribal communities serving as leadership to both companies and is also passionate about developing new curriculum to better meet the needs of tribal and urban Native American communities. Carlos has also been an active committee member for the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency State Committee for California, appointed by Governor Jerry Brown. Carlos has faced many

adversities in his life that have ultimately guided him to build resiliency, discipline, and a sense of direction in his life. Carlos was raised without either of his parents and became a ward of the court at age 13, resulting in him spending most of his adolescent years in treatment programs, group homes and Youth Authorities. Through the process of treatment and recovery Carlos found a greater purpose in life which inspired and motivated him to establish a healthy foundation for his family. Today Carlos is proud to celebrate 19 years on the Red Road (sobriety) long term recovery. RED ROAD

Title: The history and meaning of gambling among Tribal people

This presentation will be a brief review of the history of gaming and gambling among tribal people and how it has evolved to where it is today. We will look at the connection of gambling to a desire to know the mysteries of life and how one participates in the community and in connection to life as a whole.

Title: The functional analysis of gambling

This presentation looks at the purpose of gambling or the role it played in relieving trauma, stress, and general unease with life. This presentation explores the concept of compassionate inquiry and internal family dynamics as models of helping the client discover the function of gambling and how it is no longer serving the original needs.



Wiley D. Harwell is the executive director of the Oklahoma Association for Problem and Compulsive Gambling. Wiley has a Doctor of Ministry degree from Southern Methodist University, a Masters of Divinity from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky and a bachelor's degree from Wayland Baptist University. Wiley is a licensed professional counselor, a certified employee assistance professional, advanced certification in hypnotherapy, and is a national certified gambling counselor-II. Wiley has served as the director of employee assistance programs for twenty years and has provided counseling to employees and family members for over fifty companies. During that time he has provided training programs to these companies and currently leads trainings for tribal casinos and well as continuing education for mental health professionals on problem gambling.

OAPCG is the official affiliate of the National Council on Problem Gambling. As the affiliate, Wiley administers the Oklahoma Helpline, leads training for certification to become a certified gambling counselor, works with

tribes to promote responsible gambling, promotes awareness for problem gambling to the public and government officials, and works in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse as an advocate for all aspects of problem gambling issues. In July 2012, Wiley was elected to serve a three year term as a board member of the National Council on Problem Gambling and serves as the chair of the Affiliates Committee.

Wiley resides in Norman, is married and has four children, four grandsons and enjoys time on an acreage east of town.

Titles: Mind Mapping and Talking Circle



Sparrow Goudey (Tsalagi/Wyandot) is the founder of Healing the Circle Workshops. With over 34 years of continued sobriety, she has developed and conducts workshops throughout Southern California for both Native and non-Native communities that assist adults and adolescents, affected by drugs, alcohol, eating disorders and mental illness by incorporating curriculum, traditional arts and spirituality as tools for change, growth and recovery.

Sparrow is an international trainer for White Bison, Inc. and the Wellbriety Training Institute. She is a certified facilitator and trainer for Mending Broken Hearts for Adults and Youth (Healing from historical and intergenerational trauma and unresolved grief), Medicine Wheel and 12 Steps for Adults and Youth, Mothers of Tradition, Daughters of Tradition, Warrior Down/Recovery Coach, Understanding the Purpose of Life for Youth, and NACOA & Wellbriety Celebrating Families curricula and is devoted to helping individuals and communities that suffer from addiction and trauma

Titles: Women as the Pioneers and Voices of Criminal Justice Reform: Using Modern Addiction Science to Promote Trauma Recovery

Best Clinical Interventions to Support Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD) and Conduct Disorder (CD) Recovery

John Gallagher, PhD, LCSW, LCAC, is the Director of Research for Hazelden Betty Ford and the Addiction Alliance of Georgia. He is also a Full Research Professor at George Mason University. Previously, Dr. Gallagher was a tenured professor of social work at Indiana University and Morgan State University. His research agenda focuses on the use of medications in the criminal justice system to support opioid use disorder recovery, eliminating racial, ethnic, and gender disparities in treatment court outcomes, and developing best practice standards for serving women and African Americans who have substance use disorder. He has developed a national reputation for excellence in criminal justice reform and addiction research with over 50 scientific publications and over 170 community, professional, and academic presentations. Additionally, he has worked on projects funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Executive Office of the President of the United States and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). These projects helped develop the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Program Assessment Tool and expanded diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training

in the criminal justice system. He is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Licensed Clinical Addiction Counselor (LCAC), and since 2002, he has provided addiction and mental health counseling to adolescents, adults, and families.