



HEALING THROUGH TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS

OCTOBER 12, 13, 14 & 15, 2023
Angels Gate Cultural Center

Hosted by the MWGOE Organizing Committee
MWGOE is free, family-friendly
and open to the public

ABSOLUTELY **NO ALCOHOL or DRUGS**
NO CELL PHONES, CAMERAS,
PHOTOS or VIDEOS or AUDIO RECORDING ALLOWED
THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPECT

Original artwork by Jackie Fawn (Washoe Tribal Citizen, Yurok, Filipina), 2023.

THE 17TH MANY WINTERS GATHERING OF ELDERS (MWGOE)

The **MWGOE** is a four-day gathering where Native/Indigenous Elders and knowledge-keepers from across the country gather to share teachings through oral tradition with the community. The Gathering also hosts various Native ceremonies that take place throughout the four days. The event is free, family-friendly, open to the public, and held in partnership with AGCC.

Elders, knowledge keepers and culture bearers from local tribes including Gabrieleno-Tongva, Gabrielino-Shoshone, Acjachemen, Fernandeano Tataviam, Chumash, and other California tribes, as well as from other regions (Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota) are expected to share. The Gathering takes place under an arbor which serves as the traditional place of teaching and learning - where Elders pass on knowledge to the younger generation, which is part of intergenerational healing from historical trauma.

The vision of the Gathering came from a dream by John Funmaker, Ho-Chunk leader and community activist. He envisioned a sacred space for connecting, learning, sharing, and healing, based on the leadership of Native elders. In addition, Funmaker understood that the multigenerational colonial violence, leading up to the 500-year celebration of Christopher Columbus' "discovery" of America, required a gathering place for healing past wounds, historical trauma, and creating a healthier future.

The first MWGOE was held on October 8, 1992, in response to the false narrative represented by the quincentennial celebrations of Christopher Columbus' "discovery of America." Today, the Gathering continues to be an important occasion for the Native/Indigenous community, to reconnect to and practice ceremony, and to celebrate 530+ years of spiritual survival. It also allows access for the general public to learn and acknowledge the traditional knowledge and values that have supported and sustained Native lifeways.

This year's MWGOE is in remembrance of all our Elders and relatives who have journeyed to the spirit world over the past year.

RESPECT FOR OUR ELDERS

Our cultural values teach us to honor and respect our Elders. Indigenous philosophy recognizes the four stages of our development: newborn/child, adolescent, adult, and elder. An Elder is someone who has wisdom and lives with integrity. An Elder speaks their language, practices spiritual values, and is of service to their community. Our Elders are invaluable and are a source of guidance.

The prophecies have said that we would begin to see young people with old spirits. The prophecies have said the young people would seek out the old songs, and begin to bring back the language.

THE ARBOR AND THE FIRES

The Arbor will be the main area for the Gathering. Located at the center of the Arbor is our Sacred Fire. The fire burns from the beginning of the ceremony, starting with Thursday's sunrise and continuing through Sunday's sunset. The Arbor's East facing poles define the direction that connects the Inipi Fire and the Main Fire. This space is not to be crossed, out of respect for the connection between the two Fires. This path is also created for the ancestors and the spirits to enter.

The Elders will speak and make offerings to the Fire. We will sit and gather under the shaded Arbor. There will be opportunities for individuals to make offerings to the Fire at various points. When in doubt about how to walk around the ceremony, please ASK and pay attention.

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone attending ceremony, we ask that you observe the guidelines below. In general, please be respectful to all.

OUR GUIDELINES

- Ceremony in Progress - please enter with respect. You are responsible for your energy. Please be mindful of your language, thoughts and actions.
- No cell phones, pictures or electronics around the arbor. Absolutely no video/audio recording allowed on the premises. We encourage that relatives leave their phones in their cars, and/or away from the grounds.
- No drugs or alcohol on premises, and/or people under the influence.
- Moon time protocol, regarding women/people who are menstruating - please see below.
- We observe traditional ceremony attire - long skirt (feminine identifying), pants (masculine identifying), *however it is not mandatory. **Note:** We observe and support our LGBTQ2S relatives' gender or nonbinary expression, including attire.*
- Do not cross the East Gate of the arbor - the pathway between the two sacred fires. No dogs/pets allowed near or around the arbor or sweatlodge areas.
- If you have any cold, flu, or Covid-like symptoms, please do not enter these grounds.

MOON TIME

Per our Elders' teaching, people on their "moon time" (menstruating) are going through their own personal purification ceremony and renewal. They are encouraged to honor this time through self-care and rest. During their moon time, people do not participate in certain ceremonies, including MWGOE. Out of respect for the teaching, please observe this protocol. **There is a moon lodge area. Please see Info Booth for more details.**

SWEATLODGE/PURIFICATION CEREMONY (INIPI) PROTOCOL

- If you have any cold, flu, or Covid-like symptoms, please do not attend Inipi. If you have serious health problems or take medication, consult your doctor before attending Inipi. Also, mention your concerns to the water pourer.
- You are welcome to bring an offering to the fire keeper and/or water pourer. A suggested offering is a pack of loose tobacco.
- For the ceremony wear loose cotton clothing... For women/feminine identifying: long skirt and a top that covers the chest area - no crop tops, or spaghetti straps. For men/masculine identifying: shorts, t-shirt/top. No jewelry. Bring sandals, a towel, and an extra set of clothes to change into after the sweat is over. ***Note:** We observe and support our LGBTQ2S relatives' gender or nonbinary expression, including attire.*
- If a woman/person is in their moon cycle (menstruating), they are not able to join this Inipi. They are encouraged to honor their moon time and personal ceremony through self-care and rest.
- No alcohol, drugs for four days prior to ceremony. Hydrate daily and nourish yourself with a healthy balanced diet in the days prior. Consider fasting the day of the ceremony.
- Cell phones are to be left in your car, away from ceremonial grounds, to prevent distractions.
- Pets are not permitted on ceremonial grounds.

The MWGOE is led and planned by the Organizing Committee, composed of a number of Indigenous grassroots organizers from the local region, including citizens from the: Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation, Gabrielino Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians; Gila River Indian Community (Akimel O'otham); Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin; Juaneno Band of Mission Indians - Acjachemen Nation; Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation; Rumsen Ohlone Tribal Community; Spirit Lake Dakota Nation; Washoe Tribe of NV & CA; and Indigenous Peoples from Mexico (including the Yoeme), as well as from the Philippines.

For more information regarding the Many Winters Gathering Of Elders please visit:

www.mwgoe.org or linktr.ee/mwgoe

Facebook: Many Winters Gathering Of Elders

Instagram: @manywinterseldersgathering

Twitter: MWGathering

We wish to thank the following for their generous support:

California Native Vote Project

City of LA Department of Recreation and Parks

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Native Ways 2 College

Pala Band of Mission Indians

Pala Casino Spa Resort

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Perenchio Foundation

Rancho Los Cerritos

San Pedro Neighborhood Councils

Society of Native Nations

The Associated Students UCLA

Members of the community who donated to or supported the cause

*Plans are being made for the 18th Many Winters Gathering Of Elders
at Angels Gate Cultural Center.*