"They Tell A Story" In Chochenyo

Spring is a season of reawakening, new beginnings, energy and growth. We prepare and tend the land for all that we hope will flourish.

As we continue our work of Rematriation, we invite our community and supporters to listen to our stories from the land and our growing programs and projects, through our seasonal newsletter.

Sogorea Te’ calls on Native and non-Native peoples to heal and transform the legacies of colonization, genocide, and patriarchy and to do the work our ancestors and future generations are calling us to do.
LAND BACK VICTORY!

THE WEST BERKELEY SHELLMOUND SACRED SITE HAS BEEN SAVED FROM DESECRATION

After years of court cases, protests and prayers, the West Berkeley Shellmound Sacred Site has been saved from desecration! The land will be returned to the Lisjan (Ohlone) through Sogorea Te’ Land Trust!

Read some of the reactions:

“Over the last eight years thousands of people came together and said YES at the same time to the Lisjan ancestors. We collectively prayed, sang, danced and created art together. As the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation joined in a six year long legal battle alongside the City of Berkeley to protect a Shellmound and village site over 5800 years old, allies and accomplices continued to show up and we have together set the Shellmound Free!!!”

Corrina Gould
Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation Tribal chairperson
Co-founder Sogorea Te Land Trust

“This was long past due, to correct this historic harm to Ohone peoples of the Bay....Let this be an example for other cities, other towns, and states across the country - to address the historic injustices that have been perpetrated against Native American People on our ancestral lands...”

Melissa K. Nelson,
President of the Board of Sogorea Te Land Trust

"I'm so happy today, because this land is free!"

Anniyah,
Ohlone 9 year old youth povertySkola student from DeeColonize Academy and granddaughter of Corrina Gould

Quotes shared from “HERstory is Made!” by Lisa Tiny Gray Garcia, POOR Magazine.

Learn more about the history of the Shellmound struggle at shellmound.org and look out for a future celebration by Sogorea Te’ Land Trust.
Breaking Ground and Unexpected Harvests

BY SAM BATTLES

Last November our land team attended a farmers’ workshop where we learned the benefits of cover crops including daikon, a type of Asian radish. Daikon's long roots break up and aerate soil while its winter growing season means it can outcompete weeds as our team is in hibernation. We planted four rows of daikon, and when we returned from hibernation the plants were thriving. The roots were bursting out of the ground, begging to be harvested. Soon our staff was struggling to keep up, making kimchi, noodle soups, and turnip cakes as we picked an unending amount of daikon each week.

Noticing our harvests, a neighbor and master gardener offered to lead a medicinal workshop. She taught us how daikon leaves can support womb health, while pickled daikon is great for digestion and anti-inflammatory purposes. With five gallons of pickles we had enough to experiment, adding different spices and flavors (my favorite were the thai chilis which offer a complimentary spice to the funky savory flavor of the pickled daikon). The pickles can be eaten plain, added to salad, and make a great topping to a hot dog!

In February the daikon cover crop began to flower, the purple and white blossoms signaling the end of the winter harvest. These early flowers are beneficial for bees, but we eventually had to chop down the remaining cover crop to prevent the daikon seed from spreading and becoming invasive.
Breaking Ground continued....

This also lets water and beneficial microorganisms infiltrate the soil through the space left behind by the decomposing roots.

What was intended just to be a cover crop ended up providing us with fresh vegetables all winter and delicious pickles we’ll be eating all year. While daikon may not be native to California, this plant has so much to offer, from its work aerating the soil, the medicine in its leaves, the food provided by the root, and the flowers that attract pollinators to the farm.

Recommended Reading

Looking for a book to read? Check out Know We Are Here; Voices of Native California Resistance, a new anthology from Heyday Books.

Know We Are Here surveys many of the ways California’s Indigenous communities are resisting the legacies of genocide.

The collection examines histories of resistance to colonialism in California, the reclaiming of cultures and languages, the connection of place and nature to wellness in tribal communities, efforts to overhaul the racist presentation of California Indians in classrooms and popular culture, and the meanings of solidarity in Native California.
Shuumi Means Gift

The Shuumi Land Tax is a voluntary annual contribution that non-Indigenous people living on the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation’s (CVLN) territory can make to support the critical work of the Sogorea Te’ Land Trust.

Shuumi directs supports Sogorea Te’s work of rematriation, returning Indigenous land to Indigenous people, and building urban gardens, community centers, and ceremonial spaces so current and future generations of Indigenous people can thrive in the Bay Area.

Paying the Shuumi Land Tax is a small way to acknowledge historical harms of colonization and their legacies while contributing to healing, and supporting Indigenous peoples current work to create a vibrant future.

No amount of money will undo the damage that’s been done, will bring back the lost lives or erase the suffering of the people. But this is a step in a long-term process of healing, a small way you can, right now, participate in a movement to support the self determination and sovereignty of the local Indigenous community.

Additional ways to engage and support our work include:

- Come volunteer at one of our gardens.
- Encourage your friends, families and neighbors to give Shuumi.
- Organize your business, organization, school or religious group to give Institutional Shuumi.
- Educate yourself and your community about the Indigenous history of the East Bay.
- Go to our Engage section to learn more ways to get involved.
'Ookwe Park in Bloom

'Ookwe is a park that was created with the Confederated Villages of Lisjan Nation and Sogorea Te’ Land Trust through a collaboration with the City of Richmond and the Richmond Arts and Culture Commission. This sacred space was created to honor Ohlone ancestors. 'Ookwe was officially opened with a ceremony attended by tribal and community members in June 2021.

The park is the home to the beautiful stone art of Kyoto artist Masayuki Nagase. Yuki, short for Masayuki, worked directly with tribal members to create the design that both pays homage to the Ohlone ancestors that tended to this land and celebrates the continued rematriation work of their descendants.

Here we grow medicinal and edible plants including California Native species: Manzanita, Chia, Elderberry, and Soaproot. Additionally, three oak trees, a staple for Ohlone ancestors, have been planted. The space to grow, harvest, and process these sacred plants is extremely important to Indigenous people, Ohlone people in particular, who have been deprived access to their traditional plants and the right to cultural practices.

While the Tribe and Sogorea Te Land Trust are the only ones that can harvest from this park, all are welcome to visit. **S 27th St, Richmond, CA 94804**
Indigenous peoples have always practiced diverse understandings and expressions of gender.

Colonizers tried to destroy these lifeways by targeting and killing third gender and other gendered Indigenous people in what two-spirit scholar Deboarh Miranda has called, “Gendercide.”

The continued existence of third and other gender Indigenous peoples throughout centuries of genocidal violence is a testament to immense cultural resistance and resilience.

We offer prayers of protection for two-spirit and Indigiqueer peoples and continue to work towards safety and dignity for all of our relatives as an essential component of landback and rematriation.

Justice for IndigeQueer and Two Spirit+ People.

Justice for Nex Benedict.
Join Mittini Numma Youth Program in Summer 2024!

Mitiini Numma Summer Wave
June 17 - August 3, 2024.
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 12 - 4 pm.

Our Summer Wave will include creative workshops, guest wisdom keepers, visits to rematriated sites, an overnight camping trip, and tending to our youth garden.

There are limited spaces open to BIPOC youth ages 13 - 18 (in high school) - who live or study in Huchiun (unceded Lisjan Ohlone territory, what is now known as Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, San Leandro, Emeryville and Albany).

If you, or a young person you know, would like to join please reach out to youthprogram@rematriatetheland.org as soon as possible.

Mitiini Numma means “To Grow The Truth” in Chochenyo. The ancestral language of the Confederated Villages of Lisjan. We hope that youth who participate in our program learn about the true history of the place they reside, the people who have stewarded it, and the plants and animals they share it with. This is an opportunity to learn the real history of this land, to empower youth in their leadership, and to create a space for youth in the Bay Area to critically think about how the world around them has come to be. Truth can liberate us and allow us to become revolutionary.

We focus on a number of themes including Land and Water based learning, community organizing, Indigenous history of California, and cultural revitalization. In partnership with the University of Tkaronto CIRCLE Lab Research team, Mitiini Numma participates in Youth Participatory Action research, a tool designed for youth-led research.
Let us know!

Our youth in relation to returned land research collaboration is looking for your feedback

Community Poll

We are inviting folks that participate in our programs and volunteer with us to complete a short poll to better understand what impacts engaging with Sogorea Te may have. The poll will only take 5-10 minutes and participants can choose to be entered in a raffle to win amazing prizes!

English language poll:
bit.ly/stltpoll1

Spanish language poll:
bit.ly/stltpoll2

(Please complete only one of the above!)

Shuumi Land Tax Poll

We are inviting folks that contribute to the Shuumi Land Tax to complete a short poll to better understand the impacts of contributing to Sogorea Te. The poll is anonymous, voluntary, and there’s no right or wrong way to respond.

Shuumi land tax poll: bit.ly/shuumipoll

If you have any questions about the poll, please contact Regine Debrosse at regine.debrosse@mcgill.ca or via (514) 398-7053.

We appreciate your support!

Located in Tkaronto, the Collaborative Indigenous Research Communities Land and Education (CIRCLE) Lab is a collaborative research lab based in Indigenous feminist ethics. Sogorea Te’ Land Trust works with The Circle lab in research, as members of the Land Relationship Super Collective, and in our Mitiini Numma Youth Program.
Chon wayichwi kax chon mulnaji yin junnejal!  
Dreaming and Working Collectively (in Q’anjob’al Maya)

In 2023, we had over 150 volunteers share their time with us throughout several of our different rematriated land sites across Huchuin. Through sunshine and rain, we collectively brought to life various projects our team needed support with. We tended to the land by weeding at ‘Ookwe, constructing at Pinnantak, planting at Ihrite Ujima and helping move lumber at Rinihmu among many other accomplishments. We also had folks join us at our office to support our media crew organize our tabling supplies and pick up materials to spread the work of rematriation within their communities.

This year, we invite more folks to join us at our land sites to continue taking care of mother earth and to support the caring of land returned to Indigenous hands. Sign up to to receive emails about volunteer work days and reach out to volunteer@rematriatetheland.org to inquiry about group volunteer opportunities.
Meet the Crew

Welcoming our new land team members!

Cerise Palmenteer
Cerise Mary Palmanteer is a member of both the Yakama and Colville nation. Two fishing peoples from the Nchi’ Wana or Columbia River. Our people have a saying, Wy’kanushpum, which means, we are Salmon people. It recognizes the mutuality of the relationship we hold with the Salmon we consume and steward. I was raised in this tradition of subsistence fishing, hunting and gathering. My elders have taught me to always seek balance in my relationship to the land, air, water and all living creatures. My goals in life and work are to continue to indigenize myself and the world around me.

Sam Battles
Sam is of Chinese and Irish ancestry, born and raised in South Berkeley, within the Village of Huchiun. Having worked with Indigenous land stewards across Coast Salish and Kānaka Maoli territories, including his family’s taro farm on Kaua’i, he has witnessed the transformative power of Indigenous ecological knowledge. Sam is passionate about food justice and returning to traditional relationships with the lands and waters of the Bay Area.

Daniel Olveda
Daniel is Nahua, Zapatoc, and Yaki with family roots from Jalisco and Chihuahua Mexico. He was raised in the California Delta. He is from a farmworker family and has been working on land his whole life. Daniel is interested in habitat restoration and is a member of the land team.
On Indigenous Land Mural

Sneak Peek at our new mural!

Following the passage of time from sunrise to nighttime, this mural shares the story of the return of Rinihmu Pulte’irekne to Indigenous hands.

The project was created in collaboration with Sogorea Te’ Land Trust, the Mitiini Numma Youth Program, Kahalla and resident artist Cece Carpio, to uplift Indigenous history of this land and this important story of rematriation.

The On Indigenous Land Mural is along the upper path at Woodminster Cascade, Joaquin Miller Park. We will host a mural unveiling on Saturday April 20th at 2pm or stop by and visit next time you are in the park.

American Indian Music and Arts Festival!

This summer we are excited to co-sponsor the third annual Many Nations One Land Festival with American Indian Child Resource Center!

Featuring music, art, vendors, and more, this is a sweet family event celebrating culture. Stay tuned for more information about the participating artists and hope to see you at La Escuelita on June 2, 2024.
UPCOMING EVENTS

4/20/24  Mural Unveiling! Woodminster Cascade
4/22/24  Earth Day
6/2/24   Many Nations One Land Music Fest
6/21/24  Summer Solstice

WISH LIST

Camera Drone
Wooden benches
Industrial stove
Houses for Indigenous People
Land in Huchiun

contact:
info@rematriatetheland.org