

# Truthsgiving 2024

A community event to uplift the untold historical truths of the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday, and amplify Indigenous resistance and visions for the future.

We hope it will serve as a starting point to spread decolonizing practices and relationships built on recognition, truth-telling and respect.



[www.7directionsofservice.com](http://www.7directionsofservice.com)





**7 Directions of Service (7DS)** is an Indigenous-led environmental justice and community organizing collective based on Occaneechi-Saponi homelands in rural North Carolina dedicated to defeating the fossil fuel industry, advocating for legal Rights of Nature and developing a land, language and cultural center based on traditional Yesah teachings.

We carry a responsibility to be a strong voice for the lands, waters, and more-than-human world.

## MEET 7DS CO-FOUNDERS

**Dr. Crystal Cavalier-Keck** is a citizen of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation and she has dedicated the past 5+ years to defending her homelands against the Mountain Valley Pipeline and MVP Southgate Extension. She is leading a campaign to bring Rights of Nature laws to NC in order to protect the waterways in the path of these pipelines. She co-authored NC House Bills 795 and 923, the Rights of Nature/Rights of the Haw River, and the Rights of the Dan. Crystal completed her Doctorate at the University of Dayton, focusing on the social justice epidemic of Missing Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) tied to gas/oil pipelines. This led her to starting the Missing Murdered Indigenous Women Coalition of NC. Crystal is a Sequoyah Fellow with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and a lifetime member of the National Congress for American Indians.

**Jason Crazy Bear Keck** is Co-Founder of 7 Directions of Service with his wife. With a multiracial heritage as Choctaw-Apache, French African Creole and European, Jason's leadership is driven by the power of grassroots solidarity and bridge-building across differences. He is former VP of outreach for an international men's organization and currently leads programming for men and boys that foster Indigenous values and healthy male identities.

[WWW.7DIRECTIONSOFSERVICE.COM](http://WWW.7DIRECTIONSOFSERVICE.COM)

# BI:LAHÙK

"Thank you" in Yesá:sahj  
Ancestral Language of  
Monacan, Haliwa-Saponi,  
Sappony, Occaneechi, and  
Ohio Saponi communities

Jan M. Burger & The Paperhand  
Puppet Intervention

Event team: Lucas, Kim, Kelly,  
Maria, Alan, Aidan, Nich, JT, Sean,  
Cindy, Carey, Coda, Sam &  
Brandon

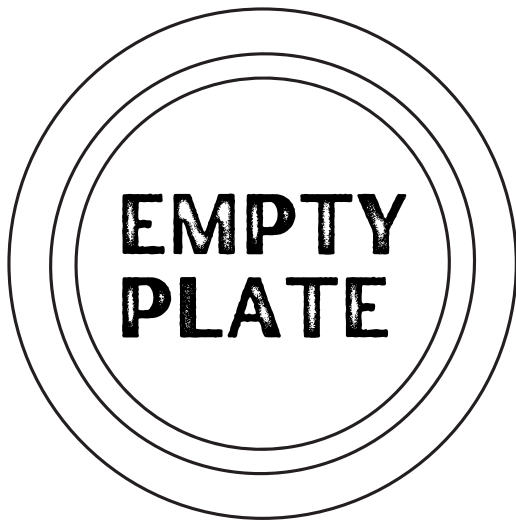
Thank you to our sponsors, whose  
generous contributions have  
helped bring our Truthsgiving  
vision to life this year



**MANI:  
EN:ISE**



**WATER  
IS ALIVE**



Come with an Empty Plate. This simple teaching is one we return to again and again. Whenever we find ourselves as guests, the Empty Plate reminds us to practice “Waiting for an Invitation and Asking for Permission”.

We cherish our community of supporters, and whether you are new or seasoned to our Indigenous-led movement, we ask that you also embrace the practice of showing up with an Empty Plate.



# WHY TRUTHSGIVING?

By Jason Crazy Bear Campos Keck

Truth is what has been missing from the colonial capitalist dialogue globally since its inception on our Greatest Grandmother the Earth. Rightfully so, as Honesty and Truth are the original self-defenses from greed, exploitation, and hypocrisy. When we begin to understand and breathe life back into our Truth, we can begin the healing process and journey that exists for all two leggeds to return to responsibility, and universal connection.

May you be welcome on this day of humble  
Truthsgiving

May you take nothing personal, but rather a  
better understanding of our common colonial  
conditioning

May you use whatever lessons you come away  
with to be a stronger human and a more  
respectful relative to all of life, within you and  
around you

May you learn to develop your own voice in  
regards to your Truth, and may your Truth be  
more powerful than every lie he (colonization)  
has ever told

May your Truth free more people than every  
slave he (imperialism) has ever sold

May your Love, Spirit, and Truth be reconditioned  
to set us all free

# TODAY'S FLOW

Welcoming

Storytelling & Puppet Performance  
(families and kids check out the Kids Zone!)

## Panels

Perspectives on the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation:  
History, Culture, Envisioning the Future

Indigenous Agriculture: Past, Present & Future

Hard Truths of our Healthcare System: Health Disparities  
Indigenous Communities Face

Closing

## TRUTHSGIVING 2024 MENU

By Chef Diosa Hall (Mohawk Nation) & Osa's Catering  
[Diosa.Hall@osascatering.com](mailto:Diosa.Hall@osascatering.com)

Wild Rice Corn Soup with Venison

Roasted Seasoned Vegetables

White Corn Traditional Mush (Grits)

Frybread Sticks with Powdered  
Sugar

Hot Yaupon Tea with Mixed Berries &  
Sweetgrass

Chilled Sumacade, brewed sumac  
and yaupon sweetened with blue  
agave

# MIXED MEDIA ART

Alyssa Hinton

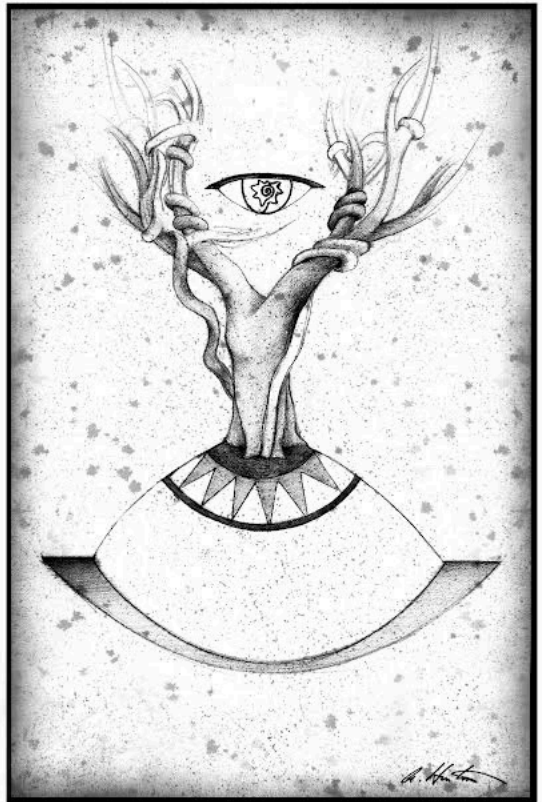
[www.alyssahintonart.com](http://www.alyssahintonart.com) | [alyssahintonartist@gmail.com](mailto:alyssahintonartist@gmail.com)

Using vibrant colors that awaken the soul, mixed media artist, Alyssa Hinton, illustrates a theme of cultural regeneration through her unique southeastern Native American imagery.

Hinton's work is a provocative portrayal of the folklore and history surrounding her roots and themes of Indigenous philosophy and environmental consciousness. utilizing tradition and vision with a contemporary edge.

"Truthsgiving" to me is an alternative protocol to the mainstream stereotypical Thanksgiving celebration. It means conscientiously exploring precolonial Indigenous seasonal traditions and post-colonial events in a historically accurate way. "Truthsgiving" could include a recounting of these things from an indigenous perspective. "Truthsgiving" means balancing.

**-ALYSSA HINTON**





# REFLECT

A space for quotes,  
your own insights,  
drawings, poems, etc.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

WHAT FELT CHALLENGING? INSPIRING?

HOW WILL YOU CARRY IT FORWARD?



# INTEGRATE

## Educate Yourself

What do you know about Native American Indigenous Peoples past and present, and about Indigenous resistance to Thanksgiving? Start with the resources below, and make a practice of deepening your knowledge. **For a list of resources visit: [7directionsofservice.com/truthsgiving](https://7directionsofservice.com/truthsgiving)**

## Create New Traditions

Tell the truth at your Thanksgiving gathering or abolish it in your own life. Celebrate Truthsgiving by giving back to your community during this time, or hosting an event that celebrates Indigenous resistance and honors historical truths.

## Support Indigenous-Led Movement

Support by giving your money, time, skills and/or land to initiatives that are led by and center Indigenous leadership. Remember the empty plate!

**DONATE TO 7DS:**  
[7DIRECTIONSOFSERVICE.COM/](https://7directionsofservice.com/)  
DONATE



“The Pilgrims had hardly explored the shores of Cape Cod four days before they had robbed the graves of my ancestors, and stolen their corn, wheat, and beans... The early Pilgrim settlers led the Indian to believe that if he did not behave, they would dig up the ground and unleash the great epidemic again.”

From the 1970 suppressed speech of Wamsutta Frank James, Wampanoag

To read the full speech visit:  
[7directionsofservice.com/truthsgiving](https://7directionsofservice.com/truthsgiving)

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