

# TRUTHSGIVING 2023

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

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 canceling the Mountain Valley Pipeline and MVP Southgate Extension, advocating for legal Rights of Nature and developing a land, language and cultural center based on traditional teachings.

Learn more and get involved at [www.7directionsofservice.com](http://www.7directionsofservice.com)

## CO-FOUNDERS

Dr. Crystal Cavalier-Keck is a citizen of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation and is an Adjunct Professor in the Social Sciences department at Salem College in Winston Salem. Crystal has dedicated the past 5+ years to defending her homelands against the Mountain Valley Pipeline/Southgate Extension. She is leading a campaign to bring Rights of Nature laws to NC to protect the waterways and communities in the pipeline's path. Crystal is the CEO and co-founder of 7 Directions of Service with her husband. Crystal completed her Doctorate at the University of Dayton, focusing on the social justice crisis of Missing Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) tied to gas/oil pipelines. This led her to launch the Missing Murdered Indigenous Women Coalition of NC. Crystal co-authored NC House Bill 795, the Rights of Nature/Rights of the Haw River, prioritizing environmentally impacted communities around the watershed. Crystal founded and is currently the President of the Native American Caucus of the NC Democrat Party. She serves on the boards of Movement Rights and the Haw River Assembly. Crystal has conducted trainings throughout the East Coast on Coordinated Tribal/Community Response for emergency management to natural, cyber, or man-made disasters.

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.

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# BI:LAHÙK

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

The Haw River Ballroom  
team - Heather, Rook,  
Karina, Nic & many more

Jan M. Burger & The  
Paperhand Puppet  
Intervention

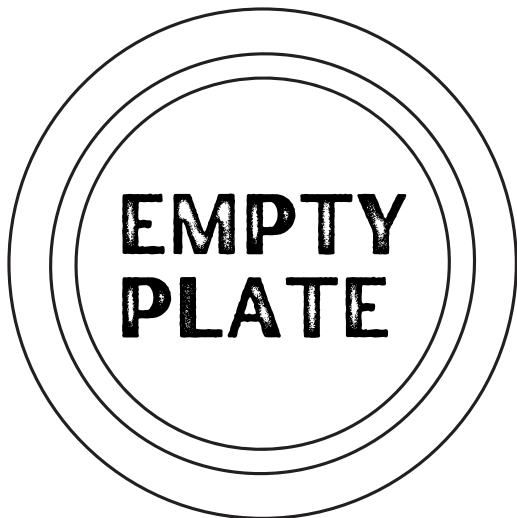
Event team: Juniper  
Rain, Coda, Wolf, Kim,  
Kelly, Carolyn, Benita,  
Amy, Carey, Joe  
& many more

T-shirt design: Micky  
@mxmicks

**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 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 (Outside)  
Storytelling (Outside)  
Live Conversation (Inside)  
Documentary (Inside)  
Artist Talk (Inside)

# STORYTELLING

Ramona Moore Big Eagle, M.Ed. - Speaker, Storyteller, Educator  
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Ramona Moore Big Eagle, M.Ed. (Tuscarora/Cherokee) is an internationally renowned TEDx Speaker, Storyteller, Oral Historian and Legend Keeper. In addition, she is also an Environmental Educator and Master Naturalist. Ramona has served on the Tribal Council and in various other capacities for the Tuscarora Nation of NC. She earned a Master of Education Degree from East Tennessee State University in Reading and Storytelling and a Bachelor of Art Degree in Psychology from Catawba College. Ramona travels throughout the United States and Canada as a Motivational Speaker, Cultural Educator, Consultant, Workshop Facilitator and Storyteller. Her workshops and programs of American Indian culture and history delivered through the art of Storytelling, authentic artifacts, music, drumming, dance, and crafts have been educating and empowering audiences of all ages since 1978.

# FOOD CONNECTS US

By Chef Emma Andrade

@ChefEmAndrade | by.tishmal@gmail.com | 910-474-2871

I'm Chef Emma Andrade from the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians, San Diego, California and from the Lumbee Tribe of Pembroke, North Carolina.

My parents instilled in me at a young age my heritage, the importance of it. My father (Luiseño) was an American Indian Activist and Politician. My mother (Lumbee), always instilled the ideal of community and "it takes a village".

My fondest, earliest memories are of my dad teaching my brothers, sisters and me how to make Fry Bread. He showed us kids how to make and kneed the dough. He'd take chunks and make a pancake-shape piece and then fry it. He'd top the bread off with honey and -powdered sugar- perfect for my 6 year old self. Native American Fry Bread is linked to our colonization, but it has a place within our story.

My culinary career has been circuitous. No adventure has brought me greater pleasure than being able to host Native American dinners, highlighting Indigenous cuisine, most recently at the Museum of the Southeast American Indian.

I have the greatest hopes that one day I will own a restaurant that uplifts my culture for all the generations to come.

## TRUTHSGIVING 2023 MENU

Hominy Chili with beans, corn, squash,  
tomatoes and hints of Juniper

Chicken Tamales: Cornmeal dough stuffed with  
chicken, wrapped in a corn husk and steamed

Vegetarian Tamales: Cornmeal dough stuffed  
with 3 sisters wrapped in a corn husk and  
steamed

Herbed popcorn



# LIVE CONVERSATION

An Unlikely Story of Soil Sisterhood set in an Alluvial Forest about Trust-Building, Food Harvesting, Nature Healing and Land Rematriating

With Kisha Jeffries and Kristen Cox

Kristen Cox is a doer, race traitor, recovering community development worker of 20+ years, resource connector, cultural organizer, creative structuralist, social worker and extrovert cultivating her inner introvert stewarding an Occaneechi Saponi alluvial floodplain forest near Rougemont, NC. She provides radical hospitality for guests who come to Respite in the Round. Originally born and bred in central Kentucky, she is a queer Southerner of Scottish and English ancestry who is proud to call NC home.

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Kisha Jeffries affectionately known as MK (Mama Kisha) is a mother and nurturer of many. MK has a passion to learn and teach others about sustainability through farming, history, and nutrition. Her goal is to teach generations the farm to table concept that our ancestors practiced. For MK, “Truthsgiving” is a word that replaces the colonialism history that we were once taught in this nation and gives an opportunity for the truth to be told for generations to come.

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# DOCUMENTARY

## "Duality: A Collection of Afro Indigenous Perspectives"

Screening of the film's two trailers and Q&A session with  
Co-Director Kimberly Knight

About the film: A historical and present-day account of how Afro Indigenous people are and have been reconnecting with their dual cultures. The journey to understanding can be complicated, but it brings forth the question: What does it mean to be Afro Indigenous?

Kimberly Knight, Founder of Black Indians NC  
BlackIndiansNC@gmail.com  
Socials: @BlackIndiansNC

Kimberly Knight is originally from Eastern NC and identifies as Afro Indigenous. She is the Founder of Black Indians NC, member of Triangle Native American Society, community advisory member of the NCCU Native American/Indigenous Student Association, has served as a support group facilitator for the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - Western Wake Alumnae Chapter, and other community organizations. She's also a licensed therapist associate, enjoys traveling, researching her family history, and engaging in her diverse family cultural practices of her West African and Native American ancestry.

"Truthsgiving" means to  
me a safe space to  
honor your ancestors  
and live in your truth of  
your ancestral birthright.  
It's also acknowledging  
that the mainstream  
viewpoint of  
"Thanksgiving" is not the  
accurate historical  
encounter that  
occurred.  
-KIMBERLY KNIGHT

**"DUALITY" COMMUNITY SCREENING  
6PM-8PM TUES NOV 28TH  
HAW RIVER BALLROOM**



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



# MIXED MEDIA ART

Gallery and Artist Talk with Alyssa Hinton

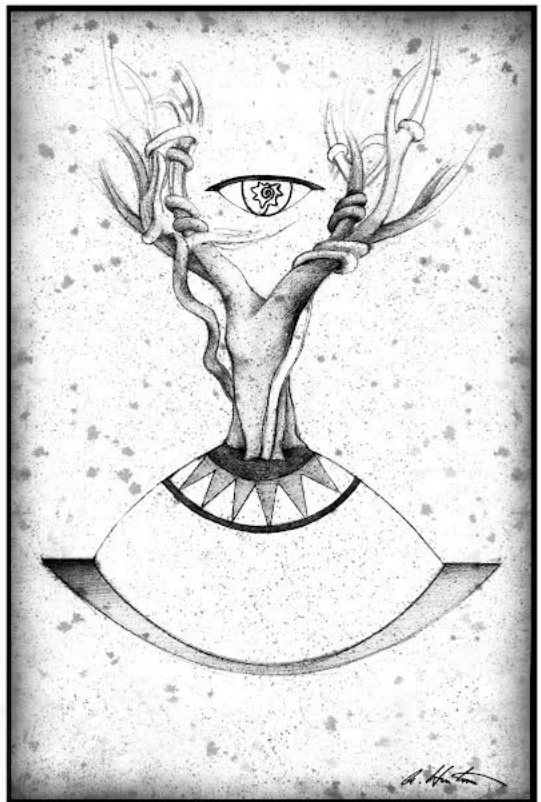
[www.alyssahintonart.com](http://www.alyssahintonart.com) | [alyssahintonartist@gmail.com](mailto:alyssahintonartist@gmail.com)

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. Her work is a provocative portrayal of the folklore and history surrounding her roots, utilizing tradition and vision with a contemporary edge.

In her Truthsgiving talk, Alyssa will weave three recently completed artworks within the context of her broader artistic journey and reconnection to southeastern Indigenous culture, rooted in themes of Indigenous philosophy and environmental consciousness.

“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?**

# INTEGRATION

## 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 head to: [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!

“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... History gives us facts and there were atrocities; there were broken promises - and most of these centered around land ownership. Among ourselves we understood that there were boundaries, but never before had we had to deal with fences and stone walls. But the white man had a need to prove his worth by the amount of land that he owned... 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