

2024 Calendar

Huslia Cultural Strengths



Artwork by Laura Ekada

We dedicate this calendar to the memory of Jacques Philip

We appreciate all Jacques has done and created, and all his contributions to this project, and the projects that came before. We honor his dedication to help others, and celebrate cultural strengths across generations. May all he has started and built continue to resonate and grow.



Celebrating Huslia Cultural Strengths

Subsistence

"If fills my soul to be connected to the land."
"The things that bring me hope, watching my children try their best...setting fishnets, checking fishnets, hunting."

Stories from the Past

"It's about our story in the area. Koyukuk River story, all the way down to Kaltag and all the way up to Allakaket. The story is about the trees, the forest trees out here on the bank. That's when they were people."

Strong Family Relationships

"Doing things with my family, going out berry picking, taking rides, going out on boats, going fishing, doing things as a family."

Supporting One Another

"Share and care for one another. That's a part of our traditional values."
"People stepped up and were able to help each other."

Advice for the future

"Stay positive, keep busy"
"Culture is key"

Communication

"Everybody has VHF radios. If somebody needs help, they only ask."

Life is Dynamic, Culture is Grounding

"Everything changes all the time, never stays the same"
"I feel like our culture is a big part in helping us heal."

Native Traditions are Tied to Social and Community Activities

"People can come together and stand by each other and feel like a community again"

Spirituality

"I prayed most of that time in our language trying to cope with what's going on"
"We just have to believe in the old ways, in our old, traditional beliefs, and our faith in God, too."

Time Spent on the Land and River

"Just to go out and feel the sunshine and the wind."
"It feels so good to be on the land and do things that our ancestors were able to do."

Taking Care of Elders, Sharing Knowledge Across Generations

"I did a lot more listening to my parents tell stories."
"I'm always willing to try to help young people learn in the village, talking with them. I know a lot of stories."

Protecting our Mental Health

"We want everybody to be healthy and for it to be known that it's okay to ask for help."

Benenh Neelkk'aadzaanhyedelaayee

Month in which the Days are Separated

Advice for the Future

“Stay positive, keep busy.”

“Culture is key, go out into the woods, take a walk, go take a boat ride, go canoe, do things that make your body feel good, and go pick berries, go cook something yummy, do something with your family.”



Telel Zo'ų

Month of the Eagle

Communication

“Trying to teach Native language
over the phone.”

“Everybody has a radio in their house.
We know who needs help and who needs
wood and who needs this and that.
That's the way that we help our people.”

“Talking to people on the phone or
going and visiting and seeing how
people are working. Everybody works a
little different.”

“If we spoke enough with each other,
then we knew that so-and-so was not
feeling well, so let's go help them out.”



Kk'olkk'eey Zo'u

Month of the Hawk

Native Traditions are Tied to Social and Community Activities

“People can come together and stand by each other and feel like a community again.”

“In order to stay sane and to be happy and to be productive, we had to rely on our culture and our traditions.”

“It's good for us to be here for the gathering, the potlatches.”

“I feel like our culture is a big part in helping us heal.”

Menenh Nok'ent'ughee

Month that Birds Return

Life is Dynamic,
Culture is Grounding

“Everything changes all the time, never stays the same.”

“Setting beaver sets, setting fishnets, going to camp, beading, sewing, it helped tremendously. I feel like that's the best takeaway... It grounded us.”



Benenh Tots'eeyhleyaayee

Protecting Our Mental Health

Month that We Put Canoes in the Water

“They live and breathe basketball.”

“There are a lot of kids there, so the wellbeing and health of them is very important to us, because they're our future.”

“We want everybody to be healthy and for it to be known that it's okay to ask for help.”

“That helps people cope by keeping them busy... You have to stay active.”



Menenh Hudenyaaghee

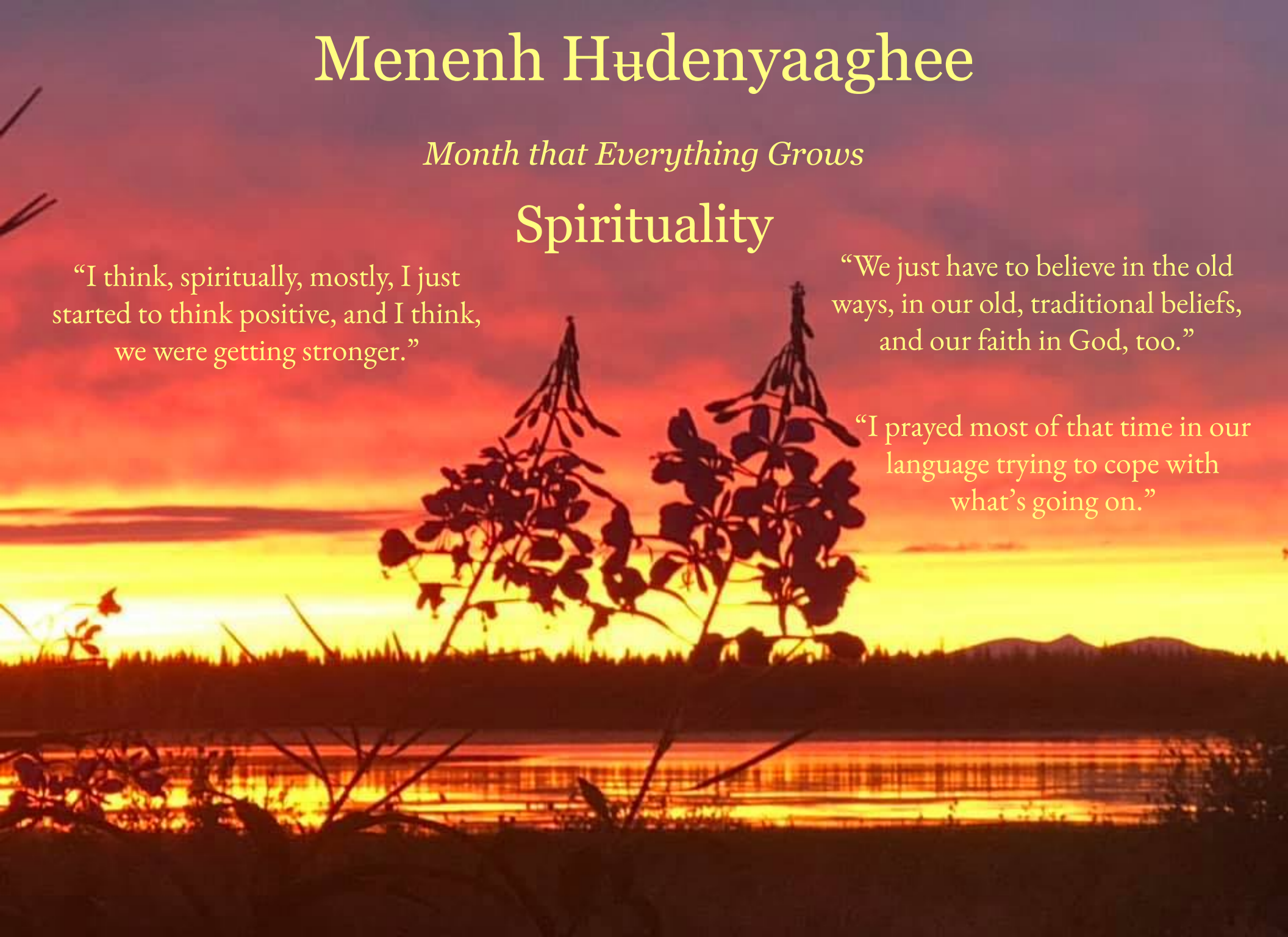
Month that Everything Grows

Spirituality

“I think, spiritually, mostly, I just started to think positive, and I think, we were getting stronger.”

“We just have to believe in the old ways, in our old, traditional beliefs, and our faith in God, too.”

“I prayed most of that time in our language trying to cope with what’s going on.”



Menenh Tok'eggoyhk'uhdelaayee

Month the Birds Put their Young in the Water

Time Spent on the Land and River

“Just to go out and feel the
sunshine and the wind.”

“Going out on boat, going out on snowmachine, going out with
[family], when he’s running his dogs, driving in front of him, that
feels really good. Checking fishnets, all of that feeds my soul, and it
makes me feel whole, and it feels so good to be on the land and do
things that our ancestors were able to do, and it, I can’t even
describe it. It’s such a good feeling. That helped me tremendously.”





Menenh Nok'et'on'dedaghee

Month in which the Leaves Fall

Strong Family Relationships

“Doing things with my family, going out berry picking, taking rides, going out on boats, going fishing, doing things as a family.”

“Things that bring me hope is being around family and spending time with them all the time.”

“I consider myself blessed that I have children. That's a purpose. I'm a father. I have to take care of my kids. I have to make sure that they're warm. I have to make sure that they're fed. I have to make sure that I'm at least teaching them a little something.”

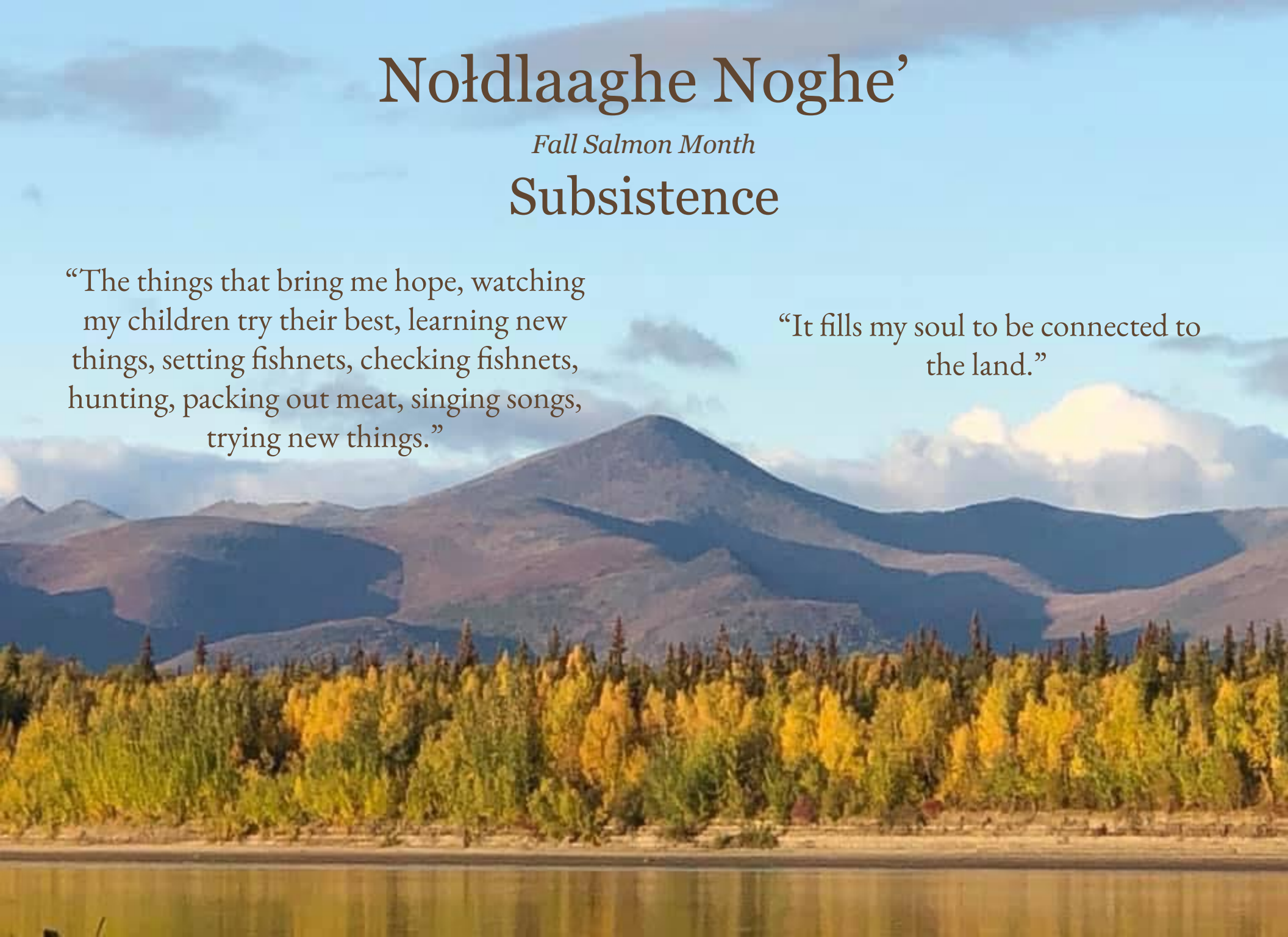
Nołdlaaghe Noghe'

Fall Salmon Month

Subsistence

“The things that bring me hope, watching my children try their best, learning new things, setting fishnets, checking fishnets, hunting, packing out meat, singing songs, trying new things.”

“It fills my soul to be connected to the land.”



Benenh Dedeteeyee

Month of the Freezing

Stories from the Past

“Everywhere we go, we tell stories.”

“It’s about our story in the area. Koyukuk River story, all the way down to Kaltag and all the way up to Allakaket. The story is about the trees, the forest trees out here on the bank. That’s when they were people.”



Benenh K'ets'ooneelaa'ee

Month of the Trapping

Sharing Knowledge Across Generations Taking Care of Elders

“I’m always willing to try to help young people learn in the village, talking with them. I know a lot of stories.”

“The things that bring me hope are my children ... my wife and I try to raise our children with respect. We try to push work ethic on them. We’re trying to teach them to be good people....They’re curious. They’re kind, and they’re respectful, and that’s what gives me hope. As time goes on, when they have children, they can teach those same things, and that gives hope for, in my mind, humanity.”



“I did a lot more listening to my parents tell stories.”



Denaahuto' Menenh Hooldlaanee

Month Our Father Was Born

Supporting One Another
Sharing & Caring

“Share and care for one another. That's a part of our traditional values.”

“People stepped up and were able to help each other.”

“Well, we come from an Athabascan community, and we're already used to sharing and helping each other.”



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