



UPRIVER TO MORNING

A JOURNEY TO WISDOM

By TISH McFADDEN

Illustrations by LAURA WINSLOW

A Comprehensive Educational Program

Inspired by the Teachings of Takelma Elder, Agnes Baker Pilgrim

Cultural · Environmental · Bilingual

For over 15,000 years, the People of the River, the Takelma, inhabited southwest Oregon. They lived in permanent villages covering most of the Rogue River Valley. As hunter-gatherers, they traveled upriver and downriver, living off the bounty of land and water, aligned with nature and all things. They numbered more than 8,000.

But the Takelma people met with disaster when settlers arrived in the mid-1800s; they were forced north onto the Grand Ronde and Siletz Indian Reservations. Today, only a few descendants of the original Takelma remain in southern Oregon. One of them is Agnes Baker Pilgrim, Taowhywee, known to many as Grandma Aggie. At 95 years, she is the oldest living Takelma elder. She is recognized throughout Oregon, and across the world, as a member of the International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers. *Upriver to Morning* is inspired by her teachings and her request to spread the wisdom of her people far and wide.

WHY NOW?

In 2017, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 13, mandating that Indigenous Culture be taught in Oregon classrooms. It “calls upon the Oregon Department of Education to develop a statewide curriculum relating to the Native American experience in Oregon in collaboration with federally recognized tribes in Oregon.”

Yet, so far, little content has been developed. That is about to change with *Upriver to Morning*, a comprehensive educational program developed by musician and writer Tish McFadden, in collaboration with storyteller Thomas

Doty, and curriculum specialist Kris Kibbee. It is based on the teachings of Grandma Aggie, as told to Tish, and in her published book, *Grandma Says: Wake Up World! The Wisdom, Wit, Advice, and Stories of Grandma Aggie*. (Blackstone Publishing, 2016).

Given the scarcity of educational materials for school children about native culture, and even fewer for English and Spanish bilingual classrooms, *Upriver to Morning* meets these important needs with its universal teachings, captivating stories, original songs, and broad age appeal.



JOURNEY TO WISDOM

The educational content is rooted in Tish McFadden's new book, *Upriver to Morning: A Journey to Wisdom*. Her story shares universal life lessons that deepen our capacity for compassion, our sense of belonging, and our connection to nature. Throughout the narrative, and woven into the adventures, we uncover twenty-five ancient Takelma teachings that convey universal wisdom for all ages.

Upriver to Morning offers carefully designed classroom and outdoor programs that align with Common Core State Standards in 14 subject areas for grades k-12. The educational elements are inclusive, bilingual (English and Spanish), cultural, environmental, theatrical, musical, and fun! Content includes the book, audiobook, theater script, original songs, documentary films, lesson plans, and tools for teachers. A dedicated website conveniently brings these features to educators, students, and parents. The story, songs, and teachings in *Upriver to Morning* receive enthusiastic response by audiences of all ages in classrooms, camps, and public presentations.

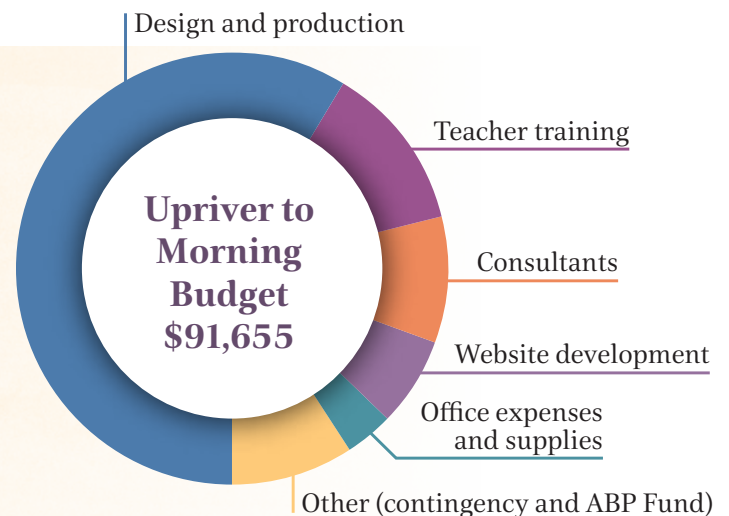
In addition, *Upriver to Morning: A Journey to Wisdom* is endorsed and blessed by Grandma Aggie herself!



“This is Grandma Agnes Baker Pilgrim, the International Grandma. When you read *Upriver to Morning*, you will become an instant teacher. You will tell people, young and old, to ripple it out, so it will spread around. These are the true teachings. And so, with all the love in my heart, I pray that you can do just that ... ripple it out.”

—Agnes Baker Pilgrim

UPRIVER TO MORNING BUDGET



OUR GOAL

In our fast-paced world, where hand-held technology connects us immediately to any point on the globe, many of our young people have lost connection to local history and those who paved the way for them. *Upriver to Morning: A Journey to Wisdom* turns that around by introducing our children to the rich cultural history of the Takelma people through music, theater, art, writing, and stories—both inside and outside the classroom. By learning about southern Oregon's indigenous people, students become more connected with the earth and each other.

TESTIMONIALS

“Gold Hill Friends of the Library was honored to host Tish McFadden and Thomas Doty at the Gold Hill Library. We look forward to the completion of the *Upriver to Morning* project so we can have them return and share its success.”

—Ed Cooper, *Gold Hill Friends of the Library*

“I cried at the integrity, wisdom, truthfulness, and purity of voice. Tish’s prose is simply beautiful. I wish all kids had access to these marvelous creatures. This is the kind of world I crave kids return to... nature, animals, interdependence, and respect.”

—Jennie Englund, *M.S. Ed., English Professor*

“Now more than ever, the connectedness to our local native cultures and appreciation for the wisdom of our elders is of utmost importance. This beautiful story perfectly weaves information about the Takelma tribe, local geography, and themes of friendship and caring for one another, which is perfect for elementary aged children.”

—Dylana Garfas, *Walker Elementary School*

“*Upriver to Morning* sings! The language is rich and purposeful; the story is native and true. Children need story and music, and Tish offers them both. Children will grow with *Upriver to Morning*, and they will “ripple it out.”

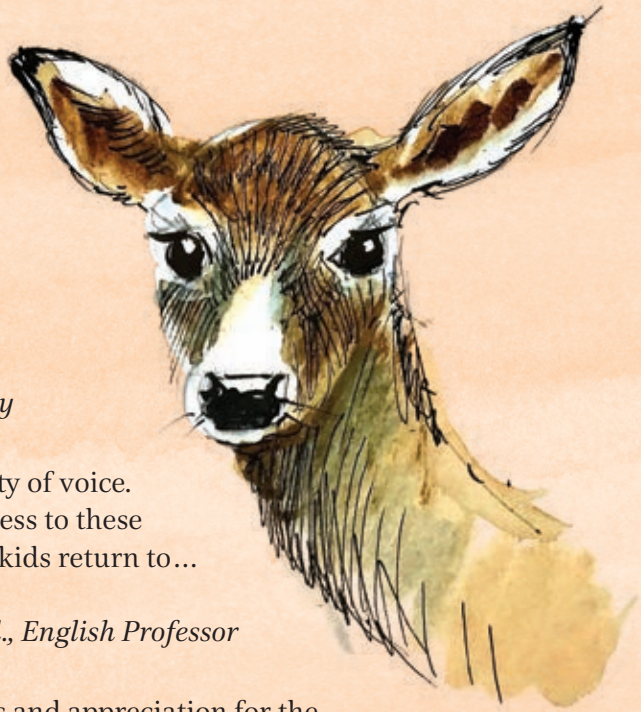
—Michele Warrence-Schreiber,
Ashland School District Literacy Coach

“From *Upriver to Morning*, I am learning many interesting messages that can help people in real life: to be a good friend, that everything in the forest is important, and that sometimes there’s a hard journey, but in the end, you’ll be thankful. I like how the characters show many different personalities. I also learned about Takelma culture and more about Red-Tailed Hawk, Salmon, Deer, and Coyote. I am learning how friends stick together. The characters are loyal to each other.”

—Fourth Grade Students at *Walker Elementary School*

“These five carefully crafted teaching stories, sourced from a beloved Takelma Elder, bring forth an ancient wisdom that will touch the hearts and souls of all children. Guided by other-than-human sentient life forms, from the salmon to the stars, they offer ways to augment school curriculum and instruction in ways that will serve to bring back foundational understandings for how to live in flowing balance once again.”

—Four Arrows Ph.D., Ed.D., *Professor, Author*



MEET THE PROJECT TEAM



CHRISTOPHER BRISCOE PHOTOGRAPHY

Tish McFadden (Project Creator, Author, and Songwriter) is a musician, composer, performer, recording artist (Big Round Records and Rum Tum Music) author, and educator who has lived and worked in the Rogue Valley of southwest Oregon since 1980. She is well-known in local schools where she sings original songs and beloved favorites with children. Tish founded the Rum Tum School of Music in 1989, where she teaches music to all ages. Earlier in her career, Tish worked in the field of Archaeology as a Cultural Resource Specialist for the USDA Forest Service, where she first met Agnes Baker Pilgrim. More information at: uprivertomorrow.com, dotycoyote.com/utm, rumtummusic.com



Thomas Doty (Cultural Consultant, Editor, Voice Talent, and Storyteller) was born in southern Oregon. He is a native storyteller descended from Irish and English settlers with family connections to the Takelma and Shasta People. Since 1981, he has traveled widely, performing traditional and original stories. Thomas has authored several books, and his stories have been aired on National Public Radio. He is the recipient of a Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award from the National American Indian Program. More information at: dotycoyote.com

Laura Winslow (Illustrator) is from Carmel, Indiana. Her artistic training began early. As a child, she learned pastels and watercolors from her mother, and as a teen, she studied watercolor with the renowned Edgar Whitney on Long Island. After university, Laura worked as staff artist for advertising agencies in New York City and Vermont. In addition to creating her own paintings and illustrating books, she currently teaches watercolor workshops and private lessons in Indianapolis, Indiana. Laura also illustrated Tish McFadden's previous book, *Song of the Redwing*. More information at: etsy.com/shop/WatercolorTales

Kris Kibbee (Educational Consultant and Spanish Translator) is an Oregon educator, currently living in Vermont. Kris has 25 years of experience as a classroom teacher, school administrator, and curriculum specialist. She holds a BA and MA in Education and Spanish from Western Oregon University. She is the co-founder of the Oregon Association of Bilingual Education, and is the Spanish translator for *Upriver to Morning*.



GRANDMA AGGIE

Agnes Baker Pilgrim, known as Grandma Aggie, is a registered elder of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and granddaughter of Chief George Harney, the first elected chief of the Siletz Nation. She was born on September 11, 1924 near the headwaters of the Siletz River at Logsdan, Oregon. Grandma Aggie is Keeper of the Sacred Salmon Ceremony, and she is the oldest living descendent of the Takelma people who lived in southwest Oregon for over 15,000 years. At 95 years of age, she currently resides in Grants Pass, Oregon with her daughter, Nadine.

An alumni of Southern Oregon University, and a lifetime member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Grandma Aggie has received numerous awards worldwide for her work as a cultural instructor, mentor, historian, role model, and a “voice for the voiceless.” She has spoken to audiences across the globe and met with international dignitaries including the Dalai Lama and President Barack Obama.

In 2004, Agnes was invited by the Center for Sacred Studies to be part of the newly formed International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers, whose goal is to heal the earth and promote world peace. She served as chairperson for many years.

In 2016, Grandma Aggie published an audiobook, also available in print: *Grandma Says: Wake Up, World! The Wisdom, Wit, Advice, and Stories of Grandma Aggie*. Here she shares the teachings of her people and implores us to connect more deeply with the earth and each other.

Today, Grandma Aggie remains active internationally. She is a highly sought-after speaker and renowned spiritual elder the world over. Based in southern Oregon, she continues to share her universal life wisdom with people of all ages.



THOMAS DOTY



Your Donation will make a big impact!

Your tax-deductible gift to the Multicultural Association of Southern Oregon will make it possible for *Upriver to Morning* to launch in our local and statewide schools.

Please make checks out to:
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(Earmarked Upriver to Morning)
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Or visit uprivertomorning.com
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All donations are tax-deductible.
5% of each contribution goes
directly to the Agnes Baker Pilgrim Fund
to help support her living expenses.

