



Anishnawbe Health Toronto

Wisdom Weavers

Storytelling & Traditional Teachings

Join Anishnawbe Health Toronto for a series of storytelling presentations on enduring troubling times, surviving challenges, keeping families strong, and emerging stronger for it all. Elders and Knowledge Holders from across Turtle Island will share their experiences as well as stories within their own cultures and Nations.



“A Place to Mourn and Heal” by Brandon Jacko



Avery Denny resides in Whippoorwill, Arizona. He is a citizen of the Navajo Nation. Avery is President of Diné Hataalii Association and is a Professor for the Center for Diné Studies at Diné College. He has served the College for over 29 years. Avery has taught courses on herbology, holistic healing, Diné culture, oral history, and philosophy. Avery is a Diné Hataalii or Singer of the Blessing way, the Protection way, and the Night Chant. He has dedicated his life to retaining and teaching Diné Bizaad (the Navajo language). He offers stories about the origins of leadership for Diné and the power of learning language. A Hataalii holds the highest standard in the community by practicing the Navajo Traditional Healing Ceremonies. These ceremonies last two, five and nine nights. These ceremonies are known as a Nahaghá.

In his storytelling presentation titled “*Ancient Monsters in the 21st Century: Using Navajo Diagnostics to Identify, Battle and Defeat Sickness and Pandemics of the Past and the COVID-19 Pandemic Now*,” Avery will share that Diné Hataalii (Navajo Medicine People), when faced with widespread sickness in their community, have asked Spirit through ceremony: What is the illness? Where does it come from? How did it start? How do we protect ourselves? and How do we heal those that become sick? Avery will also speak about the grief experienced by those whose loved ones have become ill and then passed due to the pandemic, as they were shown how to come out of a dark place and then have a new path forward in the light.

To view the video, please click on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUiKmsV-ZpM>

This presentation series is made possible by the generous donors to the Anishnawbe Health Foundation.