Dear Friends,

This week, following what many of us will celebrate as Indigenous Peoples' Day on Monday, we have two opportunities to gather for listening and sharing around how Friends teach about Native people and the legacy of settler colonialism. If this topic is of interest in your First Day program, I hope you'll join for one of the two October Conversation Circles.

We'll also have time to check-in together at the Conversation Circles about how the fall is going in our First Day programs. The first "Giant Children's Meeting" was marvelous, and I'm looking forward to October 25 when we'll explore "Friends and Neighbors" together.

**Fall Continuing Sessions on November 7** will be the next opportunity to gather (online) as our PYM community. All-ages worship that morning will open with a land acknowledgment and a Faith & Play/Godly Play story. In the afternoon, Youth Programs will gather for a program celebrating community. More about the day's program is shared below.

**Let's stay tethered, and grounded in spirit, over the coming weeks.**

In service and light,
Melinda
Teaching about Indigenous People and Native Justice

**Tuesday, October 13, 2:00-3:00 PM**  
**Wednesday, October 14 at 7:30-9:00 PM**

*This is the same conversation topic both times listed. Register by clicking date above.

sandra boone murphy, of Salem Quarter Worship & Ministry and SQ Indian Affairs Committee and PYM's First-Contact Reconciliation Collaborative, will join to share resources and perspective on how religious education programs approach topics related to Native people and touchpoints of shared history with Friends. How can we listen, learn, and with integrity explore Indigenous topics and stories with young people in a way that centers Native people, their experiences, and continued presence?

Related Resources:

- **Choosing Excellent Children’s Books By & About American Indians**
- Books suggested in the "REsources for Meetings & Home" section below

Conversation Circles are an opportunity to bring together the wisdom of our PYM RE community of practice. Join in listening and discussion with others carrying a concern for children and youth programs in meetings.

PYM Programs for Youth & Families

**Events are FREE and online, or in person where indicated (safety precautions includes masks and physical distancing).**

- **Children & Families (K-5th Grade) Community Playdate series this Fall.** [Registration and more information about the monthly program](https://go.pym.org/webmail/791983/130570023/2620744bcd9b3e153bab516cc1cedbb5d28afe8263e25cefd71ef4f32f63a61ac) on the Children & Families Events page of the PYM website.  
  **Next up: Nature Journal and Games on October 17, 2-3pm.**

- **Middle School Friends Hangouts!** Next up: Fall Gathering October 24 & 25, which includes a hybrid *in-person* and Zoom pumpkin carving party at Old Haverford Meeting on
Saturday, Oct. 24, 3-5pm.

- **Young Friends** will host two in-person events for high school youth on October 24 and November 7. [Details on their webpage soon!]

*Also for Young Friends:* the **Quaker College Panel 2020** (aka the Quaker College Fair) is a free event designed for students engaged in the college search process. Saturday, Oct. 17 from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm on Zoom. Registration is required.

- **Fall Continuing Sessions** is November 7! (10AM-4PM)

Visit the PYM website to learn more and register. The day is designed for Friends to come and go and participate as they are led -- All-ages worship and multigenerational worship sharing bookend the schedule, and **Youth Programs will gather** from 1:30-2:30PM. **Note that registration for children and youth is on its own page!**

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**GIANT Children's Meeting**

4th Sundays at 9:00am

Each 30-45 minute program hosted on Zoom will feature a theme and seasoned facilitators leading us through **grounding, exploring, wondering, and creating.**

- September 27: Celebrating New Beginnings
- October 25: Friends and Neighbors
- November 22: Gratitude and Gathering
- December 27: The Light in Winter

**Friends and Families from across the Yearly Meeting are**
Joining together for a monthly religious education program (First Day School).

- Read about the wonderful time we had at the first one!
- Register your family, or to share with others in your meeting, on the PYM website

Mandated Reporter Training
Saturday, October 24, 10 AM to 1 PM
Register on the PYM website.

Hosted online by PYM; training by the PA Family Support Alliance.

Note: We had planned for the in-person event to include a discussion about child safety in local meetings facilitated by PYM Staff. This will happen as a second, separate event, date to be determined. At that time, we’ll share PYM resources on policies and practices, and invite discussion and questions from participants on safety practices in Meetings, including online spaces.
and below for more information about these lovely books that center Native American culture!

A message of thanksgiving

Shared by Chief Jake Swamp, "Giving Thanks" is a special children's version of the Thanksgiving Address, a message of gratitude that originated with the Native people of upstate New York and Canada and that is still spoken at ceremonial gatherings held by the Iroquois, or Six Nations. A good resource for a First Day lesson related to Thanksgiving in November, the story is also shared in English and the Native Mohawk language in an animated version on YouTube.

Sharing Ideas for First Day programs: Patterns and Examples!

At the PYM Conversation Circles in August, focused on planning for religious education programs this fall, Friends shared great ideas and offered to make available their handouts, calendars, etc. We needed a place for easy access and sharing among our Community of Practice! A folder in Google Drive is available to share and find fresh ideas.
Stay in touch!

The Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) has a group on Facebook for sharing of support and resources, Valiant Together. Visit PYM Religious Education for resources and support. When you find, "I have a question about resources, programs . . . or a great idea to share!" reach out to Melinda Wenner Bradley, Youth Religious Life Coordinator, MWennerBradley@pym.org

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Our mailing address is:

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
1515 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

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