



IAQ : Indigenous Affairs Quarterly – Nov. 2024

An Update from the Baltimore Yearly Meeting IA Committee

Please be sure this edition of the IAQ is shared with your meeting. You may forward it to your listserve, cut and paste, or print copies to share. It is also posted on the Indigenous Affairs Committee's website, along with previous editions. https://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/indigenous/

In the News

On October 25, President Biden formally apologized to a Native American audience for the U.S. government's role in creating and operating boarding schools that sought to erase native culture. He called schools one of the "most horrific chapters in American history that most Americans don't even know about," and a "sin on our souls." He said the truth must be acknowledged for healing with occur. Read more here: [Historic Apology: Boarding school history 'a sin on our soul'](#)

The apology laid a foundation for future steps toward healing. You can read some native responses here:

[NDN Collective](#)

[Indian Country Today](#)

[Native News Online](#)

President Biden also issued a proclamation declaring November [Native Heritage Month](#).

What We're Learning

Zitkala-Ša is featured on the newest quarter in the American Women Quarters™ Program, which celebrates the accomplishments and contributions made by women of the United States with new quarters released by the United States Mint in partnership with the Smithsonian's American Women's History Museum. Zitkála-Šá ("Red Bird"), also known as Gertrude Simmons Bonnin, was a Native American musician, writer and activist who fought for women's suffrage and Indigenous voting rights in the early 20th century (1876-1938). She attended a Quaker-run boarding school in Wabash, Indiana – a traumatic experience – and emerged a powerful writer and advocate.

When other U.S. women were finally granted the right to vote, Native Americans were left out. Zitkála-Šá traveled around the U.S., calling on white women to use their newly won suffrage rights to enfranchise Native peoples. In 1924, in part due to Zitkála-Šá's advocacy, Congress passed the Indian Citizenship Act that endowed full citizenship rights to all native-born people in

the country. Read about her remarkable life here: <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/zitkala-sa>

Resources

This Thanksgiving, consider joining Native peoples in gratitude by remembering the [Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address](#). At Patapsco Friends Meeting, the address was read together one year – each person read a section of this powerful offering of thanks to the natural world. It was a wonderful experience.

Friends Peace Teams sponsors a program called “Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples.” A rich website features a wide variety of resources meetings can use for internal or community programs, as well as educational events. Check out their calendar here! <https://friendspeaceteams.org/trr/#trrcalendar>

Special Events

Native Cinema Showcase! This free annual event is sponsored by the National Museum of the American Indian. It celebrates the best in Native film. The films will be available to stream on demand at the site that follows for these dates: **Friday, November 22–Friday, November 29**. Check it out at the [Native Cinema Showcase 2024 website](#).

Annual Powwow at the Maryland State Fairgrounds. On Saturday, November 16 (11am – 7pm), the Baltimore American Indian Center sponsors its annual pow-wow, which will feature traditional dances, drumming, arts and crafts, and delicious food. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn, celebrate, and connect with the Native American community. Parking is free. The ticket cost for adults is \$10 and for children (aged 4-12) it is \$5. Learn more at the Baltimore American Indian center website: <https://www.baltimoreamericanindiancenter.org/>

Opportunities to Partner

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has a new staff member, a member of the Choctaw nation. Rachel Overstreet’s work is focused on advocacy for Native Americans. You can learn about her here: <https://www.fcnl.org/people/rachel-overstreet>

FCNL publishes a newsletter focused on Native American advocacy. You can sign up to receive the newsletter on their site and know what issues offer opportunities for action. Find out about a variety of urgent needs. Letters and visits to your legislators CAN make a difference: <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/2024-10/october-2024-native-american-legislative-update>

