



IAQ : Indigenous Affairs Quarterly

An Update from the Baltimore Yearly Meeting IA Committee – April 2024

In the News

The Colorado River is "oversubscribed," meaning that those who have water rights are withdrawing more water than the river can provide. Tribes and States are disputing Colorado River water allocation. People living on the Navajo Nation use an average of 10 gallons per day, less than 1/10th the average US usage; many Navajo lack clean water and must haul it from distant sources. What will happen to accommodate the diverse needs for this limited, vital resource? Politics, legal rights, and more put survival at risk, Read more at:

<https://www.propublica.org/article/states-tribes-water-rights-history-repeating-itself>

What We're Learning

The National Indian Child Welfare Association is hosting a [National Day of Prayer](#) for Native children on April 9th. Join them in spirit!

Resources

[Native News Online](#) delivers important daily news that affects the lives of Native Americans nationwide. This varied resource can help us better understand the experiences and concerns of contemporary tribes and individuals.

Special Events

Powwows!! Check out the [31st annual Monacan Nation Powwow!](#) Held in Monroe, Virginia on June 1-2, the powwow will feature food, crafts, and dancing – a wonderful opportunity to introduce the kids to our native neighbors and their culture. Other Powwows coming up later include:

The [Falls Road Powwow](#) on June 22 in Upperco, Maryland.

The [Whispering Winds Powwow](#) at the Howard County Fairgrounds in Maryland, July 13-14.

For a great primer on powwow etiquette and other helpful references, you may want to [check out this free online resource.](#)

See the work of an award-winning Navajo playwright. [Rhianna Yazii](#), a Navajo playwright, wrote "Nancy." The play is on in Washington, D.C. at the [Mosaic theater company](#) from March 28 to April 21: It's 1985 in Washington, DC and two women are trying to steer their futures— Nancy Reagan from the White House, orchestrating her husband "Ronnie's" political career according to daily astrological trends, and Esmeralda, a Navajo mother advocating for her

community. Their worlds converge over an unbelievable discovery—Nancy has a direct familial connection to Pocahontas.

Opportunities to Partner

The BYM Indigenous Affairs Committee is developing a proposal on reparations from BYM to the Pawnee Nation. BYM Friends contributed to harming the Pawnee when they participated in practices of cultural assimilation in a school they established at the Pawnee agency. The school and its Quaker administrators intentionally promoted English and suppressed the Pawnee language, causing cultural destruction and intergenerational trauma. You are welcome to contact IAC member Sue Marcus (akumaldreams@gmail.com) to learn more or become involved in this process. We are and will continue to work with other BYM groups as we proceed on this journey.

The Nisenan Tribe plans to purchase 232 acres of land that once belonged to their tribe and is now in Quaker hands (the site of the Wooman School). The current owners have entered into an escrow agreement with the Tribe. Funds are still needed to help the Tribe get the property up to code and make the land ready for their use. The Tribe has had no homeland since their land was sold by the Federal government. [Learn more](#) and donate to the [Homeland Return Fund](#) here!