

QUAKER FUND FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Fiscal Year Report – October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023

Seven Friends were active on the granting group during FY 22-23: Tom Armstrong (shifting from liaison for the Granting Committee to member), Fran O'Neill (appointed as a member and taking on the role of liaison to the Granting Committee), Carol Ann Gray (appointed during the year), Lois Kuter (continuing as Clerk), Cherie Clark (Recording Clerk), Miriam Fisher Schaefer, Tom Grabe. The granting group welcomed and much appreciated the insights provided by Edie Paige as an attender

A Minute in memorial of Nancy Webster was approved at the January 2023 meeting: "The Quaker Fund for Indigenous Communities (formerly called Indian Committee) expresses its sadness at the loss of Nancy Webster this past December. She was welcomed as a new member to our committee in March 1994 and last attended a meeting in March 2018. While health issues made her physical participation at meetings at different periods impossible, Nancy was always engaged with our work. She contributed to us her vast knowledge of the history of Indigenous Peoples and Quakers and her steadfast action to address contemporary issues of concern to Native peoples."

GRANTS APPROVED

Note that this report reflects grants approved during FY 22-23.

A grant of \$2,000 grant was made to **Teresa Johnson, Delaware Nation of Moraviantown, Ontario**, to bring Lenape Munsee, Mohican and Nanticoke youth to this area from Moraviantown for participation in Indigenous Peoples Day in Philadelphia and a trip to Delaware Gap area to learn history of ancestors. (approved January 2023)

A grant of \$5,000 was made to the **National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition**. The sense of the meeting was united in providing a grant supporting the work of the Coalition to address harms that resulted from boarding school policies. (February 2023)

A grant of \$2,000 was made to **Andrea Jacobs, of the Lenape Delaware Nation of Canada** who lives in Phoenix Arizona for travel and lodging and sweet grass materials to do workshops at the October 2023 Indigenous Peoples Day Philly event. (approved April 2023)

A grant of \$1,750 was made to **We Are the Seeds of Culture Trust Greater Philadelphia** for their Seeds of Spring Social to be held in May 2023. This includes funding for drum groups and head dancers (\$1250), travel stipends for Indigenous participants (\$250), targeted online outreach to the Philadelphia area public (\$50), and catering for visitors and participants to focus on Indigenous foods (\$200). (April 2023)

A grant of \$1,699 requested by **Guillermo Vasquez of Indigenous Permaculture in Oakland, California**, was approved for purchase of a solar water pump a water pump and support of a water catchment system as part of the drip irrigation system for urban gardens. The gardening project serves Indigenous peoples in the Oakland area. (June 2023)

A grant request from **Eugene Black Crow** for \$1,900 for **Lakhota Woglakapo Project for language revitalization** was approved. Eugene Black Crow is an Elder of the Lakhota of Pine Ridge, SD, and a native speaker of Lakhota. He has developed Lakhota language tutoring and teaching lessons for Lakhota in North and South Dakota as well as for Lakhota people residing in urban centers elsewhere. Funding would go to a pilot program for the first year of online tutoring session. (August 2023)

A grant of \$1,000 was approved for **John Thomas of the Delaware Tribe of Indians** (Bartlesville) for travel to NJ to explore Burlington Island project. This would particlaly cover travel expenses for John Thomas and his wife Faye to meet with the community involved with Burlington Island (formerly called Mantinicunk Island by the Lenape) to determine feasibility of a project to restore the Island and establish an arboretum with trees identified by Lenape names. (August 2023)

WORK WITHIN PYM

Beginning in October 2022, the group worked on **revising our website information** to provide more background information about our past, and clearer funding guidelines. The aim has been to make the site informative for Friends who want to learn about us as well as for Indigenous peoples who want to submit a grant request. We continued to fine-tune revisions in line with PYM guidelines, and approved a draft that was submitted to the PYM Granting Committee in October 2023.

The granting group submitted a **Group Description Form** to PYM to report on our work. This was intended to help the PYM councils identify our needs and areas where they can support us. (June 2023)

During the year considerable time spent in **communication with Grant Making staff** to express our frustration with the lack of transparency and full reports on the granting group finances that would include dates and amounts for distributions, administrative fees, and grants processed.

We communicated with the **Granting Committee** to regularly share our meeting minutes. Our liaisons during the fiscal year – first Tom Armstrong and then Fran O'Neill - were effective in helping us communicate our work and needs. We expressed to the Granting Committee our concerns about financial reporting as well as the decision by PYM Administrative Council made **changes in the rotation schedule**. Rotation off a granting group was changed to require it after two 3-year terms and not three 3-year terms. As we have expressed to PYM in the past, long term service on our granting group is important since becoming familiar with the complex issues for Indigenous communities takes a long time. A strong knowledge of the history of our group's work over a long time period is also important in the ability to make wise granting decisions. While the rotation off after nine years was already disruptive to our group, the six year limit for rotation is crippling.

Carol Ann Gray agreed to serve as a **liaison to reach out and set up regular correspondence with the New York and Baltimore Yearly Meeting Indian Affairs Committees**. Cherie Clark agreed to establish a **more regular contact with Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee and PYM First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative**. (July 2023)

We were contacted by Pat Powers, Baltimore Yearly Meeting Indian Affairs Committee, with a **request for information on Pennsylvania Indigenous groups**. They have put together fact sheets on Virginia and Maryland tribes and wanted to include Pennsylvania as well. We provided information we have compiled in a list of resources.

During the year we **continued discussion of how to get word out to monthly meetings about the granting group** with an invitation for new individuals to join us. We also continued discussion as to how to get word out to Indigenous peoples so they are aware that we are able to fund small projects - seed money for cultural or sustainable economic projects.

Presentation to Bucks Quarterly Meeting August 20, 2023 - Lois Kuter gave a very brief history of Quaker-Delaware relations, drawing heavily on John L. Ruth's book *This Very Ground, This Crooked Affair*, which describes the removal of Lenape with the arrival of Quakers and Mennonites. She also reviewed more work and funding done by the granting group. Arla Patch of the Coalition of Natives and Allies also spoke about their work and issues of concern to Indigenous peoples. It was noted that Friends were appreciative of the opportunity to learn about our past and current issues. (Sept 2023)

CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT HELP US DO OUR GRANTING WORK

In ongoing efforts to better understand our own history, **a summary of documents from 1795 which clearly presented the thinking of Friends for the origins of the Indian Committee was shared**. These state: "It is hoped that some sober well qualified friends will be drawn to unite with the Concern so far as to go among them for the purpose of instructing them in husbandry, and useful trades; and teaching their children necessary learning, that they may be acquainted with the Scriptures of truth, improve in the

principles of Christianity, and become qualified to manage temporal concerns – and it is expected that the committee will find it expedient to erect Grist and Saw Mills, Smith's shops and other necessary improvements in some of their villages." In its early history Indian Committee members were active in setting up a model farm for the Seneca who also sent children to be educated with Quaker families. (June 2023)

The group also shared **background information on the Chief Tamenend Statue** located at Front and Market Streets in Philadelphia, and newspaper articles noting hopes for a move to perhaps Penn Treaty Park or a new location on the 200 block of Market Street. Information was also provided about **Welcome Park**, another site in downtown Philadelphia originally given by John Penn to the Haudenosaunee in 1755 for their travels to Philadelphia

The group continues to update **a resource list of websites** for Quaker work for Indigenous peoples, Delaware and Lenape Tribes, Indigenous Philadelphia area organizations, and other basic sources of information.

Members of the granting group followed **work being done by Mennonites to better understand their history and the Lenape today**. We were able to learn from their series of events called "Hearing from the Lenape." Adam DePaul, Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania spoke on March 11. On April 12, the Delaware Tribe of Indians (Bartlesville, OK) presented: Susan Bachor, Delaware Tribe Historic Preservation Officer based in Pennsylvania; also present were Brad Kills Crow, Principal Chief of the Delaware Tribe and John Thomas, elder. The thrust of the presentation was on the need to find land in the homeland for reburial of Delaware/Lenape remains currently "housed" in museums and universities. It was hoped that Mennonites might identify land for use for burials and ceremonial needs, as well as a small building to welcome visitor and hold gatherings.

We became aware of the long-term and detailed work being undertaken by the **Delaware Tribe in collaboration with the Native American Graves Repatriation Act** (1990) which is reported on their website: <https://delawaretribe.org/services-and-programs/historic-preservation/>. From the collections of three museum repositories from New York to Chicago over 25000 burial remains, including funerary objects, related to the Delaware/Lenni Lenape have been identified for repatriation.

Granting group members expressed continued **concern that Delaware/Lenape of the federally recognized tribes assert that eastern Lenape tribes are fraudulent**. We will continue to support the identity of New Jersey and State of Delaware Nanticoke and Lenape as legitimate and welcome grant requests from them. In conversations with federally recognized tribal members and with wisdom shared by Quakers of Towards Right Relationship with Native Peoples (Paula Palmer) and the Coalition of Natives and Allies (Arla Patch) of the we came to better understand the complexity and sensitivity of Delaware/Lenape identity

We were able to participate in the **Listening Circle with Chief Urie Ridgeway of the Nanticoke Lenni Lenape** organized by the Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee at Woodstown Friends Meeting August 16, 2023. This was a live and zoom gathering where Urie Ridgeway discussed the history of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation and his personal engagement in Lenape life.

The granting group met at the Salem County Fairgrounds, in New Jersey, on the occasion of the **Nanticoke Lenni Lenape 42nd Annual Pow-Wow**. (June 2023). We appreciated the very respectful and inclusive nature of the pow-wow which celebrated the life and traditional dance of the tribe, passing from one generation to the next within the embrace of Mother Earth. *Here to Stay* was the theme of this year's event. After years of Zoom meetings, it was especially enjoyable for the granting group members to meet each other in person

A Philadelphia Inquirer newspaper article (August 31, 2023) on the purchase of the **Cohanzick Nature Preserve** was shared with the group. This is 63 acres plus a church building which will be used for educational activities will be managed by the Native American Advancement Corporation

(Nativeadvancement.org). While independent of the Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Tribal Nation, it will serve that community as well as the wider public.

The granting group considered the potential for a community screening of **documentary film by Audrey Geyer “Warrior Lawyers: Defenders of Sacred Justice”**. This was a documentary film which our granting group supported, and it was completed in 2021. It’s an hour in length focusing on Native American lawyers, tribal judges and others who address justice and defend sovereignty. Identifying ways to share this film to continue.

The granting group followed news of HR. 5444/ S. 2109, which will approve funding for the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission** to hear and understand the harm inflicted on Native American children and their families by federal (and Christian—including Quakers) education. We also followed news from FCNL Native American Advocacy website about this and other issues being addressed by FCNL.

An article was shared from the Philadelphia Inquirer (March 31, 2023) - “Vatican repudiates its decrees against Indigenous peoples” – formal repudiation of the “**Doctrine of Discovery**” which legitimized colonial era seizure of Indigenous lands and is still the basis for some property laws today. Noted is a failure to address the rescinding of the bulls themselves, and that US and Canada need to act on where the doctrine of discovery has become embedded in laws.

During the year group members **shared book recommendations** including:

Tommy Orange, *There there: A Novel* (Knopf) 2018.

Nicole Eustace, *Covered with Night – A Story of Murder and Indigenous Justice in Early America* (Liveright), 2021.

Jean Soderlund, *Lenape Country : Delaware Valley Society Before William Penn* (University of Pennsylvania Press), 2014

John L. Ruth, *This very Ground, This Crooked Affair – A Mennonite Homestead on Lenape Land* (Cascadia Publishing House, Telford) 2012.

Marianne O. Nielsen and Barbara M. Heather, *Finding Right Relations: Quakers, Native Americans and Settler Colonialism*

Other events we noted (and in some cases attended as individuals):

An exhibit by Nathan Young opened at Pennsbury Manor on April 15 (to run for a year).

This is a sound art installation by Delaware Tribe member Nathan Young inspired by the Delaware saying, “Our songs come from the wind”. “Young’s work fosters a deeper understanding of the tribe’s heritage and ancestral homeland, Lenapehoking (known now as the Mid-Atlantic US) through sounds of wind, water, and wildlife juxtaposed with industrial metal.”

Nanticoke Indian Tribe of Delaware pow wow (September 9, 2023)

Native American House Alliance Pow wow (September 17, 2023 – Penn Treaty Park)

Indigenous Peoples’ Day Philly (October 9 – Penn Treaty Park)

The PYM First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative alerted us to a talk to be given by Andrew Grant on his research of Quaker boarding schools at Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting on April 23, 2023