

Acknowledgement of the Original Inhabitants

NYYM Summer Sessions 2020 via zoom

We humbly acknowledge that we, in New York Yearly Meeting, live on stolen land; whether it was the land of the Matinecock and Shinnecock on the eastern shores, the Lenni Lenape in the south, The Haudenosaunee to the west, the Abenaki to the north or many others who took care and shelter in the thousands of miles of these broad, fertile lands, forests, and waters.

These peoples, with their tradition of hospitality, welcomed us as guests to these, their lands. Many of us did not know how to share and our greed caused us to take and take and take until there was almost nothing left for our hosts.

In spite of this, their strength and resiliency have enabled them to regain their presence and to be an example of the need for connection. Their ongoing care and stewardship of this land and their communities is a timeless spiritual practice and model for sustainable living.

May we have learned in the several hundred years of living on this continent, the abundance that is still here, the meaning of enough, the hospitality that is still offered by our hosts, and respond in gratitude for their enduring love and the care of this land. May we join them in loving care for Earth and each other that will take us into the future.