



This month is a time to celebrate and learn about the numerous cultures, traditions, and histories of Indigenous people. It provides a great opportunity to learn about the unique challenges Native people have faced historically and in the present.

Even during the pandemic and the constraints on travelling and touring, there are still many in-person or virtual events and learning opportunities. Museums and art galleries are among the several ways we can learn about the Indigenous people who lived on the land before the arrival of the settlers, and who still live in the areas surrounding our churches throughout the Diocese.

Locally (in Sacramento) On November 15 our local public television station, KVIE, will screen **Imagining the Indian** which examines the issue of Native American mascot. The program will include a live panel.

I hope you will look for offerings in your locale. Some other activities that I have found helpful:

I am on the email list for the local **Indian Health Center**. This enables me to learn more of what is going on locally. I was able to attend the (virtual) Annual Auburn Big Time Pow Wow through this resource.

A monthly email, **Indigenizing the News**, has proved informative. The website nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov has resources and information. You can friend **Native American/Indigenous Ministries of the Episcopal Church** on Facebook and **The Indigenous and Native People** page on the Episcopal Church website has articles, interviews, bulletin inserts, links, and videos.

During the pandemic I have discovered podcasts and now I listen regularly to **Toasted Sister** which presents interviews with Indigenous chefs who seek to continue their food traditions and explore issues like stereotypes, food sovereignty, and who push beyond frybread and squash.

I learned that the Indigenous Ministers of the Episcopal Church have formed a book club and just completed Bishop Steven Charleston's book [The Four Vision Quests of Jesus](#). We will soon be starting [Braiding Sweetgrass](#) by Robin Wall Kimmerer. I have purchased both of these.

Even in this sheltering time there are opportunities to learn about "the spiritual, cultural and social values" of Indigenous people and take steps to honor our 2007 Diocesan resolution: "to recognize and welcome Native people into congregational life, develop culturally inclusive liturgies, and support the spiritual, cultural, and social values of the Indigenous Nations of Northern California."

I invite you to observe Native American Heritage Month by deepening your knowledge of the people on whose homeland we now live and worship.

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