

## Reflections on GA 2020 – Barbara Pagh

The virtual GA enabled one to pop in and out during the day, which I liked. I heard Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, the author of *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* speak. I had read the book, but it was interesting to hear her speak and it served to reinforce the reading. I attended the workshop “Charting a Future for Inclusive Democracy” with Sylvester Johnson. When I found out the workshops would be available throughout the summer, I skipped a few sessions. I stayed up late to listen to the Fun session with Michael Galib that was very entertaining, including watching the zoom audience. On Sunday I listened to the morning service. The choir and the sermon were both amazing.

I decided I wanted more music so Sunday afternoon I attended the workshop “Deeper Than the Skin”, story and song with Reggie Harris and Greg Greenway. They met at a Phil Ochs song night and developed a friendship that has spanned 30 years. Greg was “raised in the nostalgia of the confederacy” in Richmond, VA. Reggie was raised in Philadelphia, went to a “better school” and was “not comfortable in the skin I’m in”. He discovered family roots in Virginia and found out about his family’s slave history. Greg and Reggie perform together, talking about their individual and shared histories and singing, some classics and some songs they wrote: Deeper Than the Skin, Wade in the Water, The Skin I’m In, Welcome Table, We Need More Light, Windows of the Heart. They performed individually on zoom and there were prerecorded portions of performances. There was about 40 minutes of questions via zoom with some interesting questions including appropriation. Their website is [deeperthantheskin.com](http://deeperthantheskin.com).

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