

Hello and Happy Fall!

You are invited to what will hopefully be the first of many Ancestor Harvest Banquets.

When: Sunday October 27th, 1-4pm

Where: Colleen's House

What's this about? The past several years, as you may know, I've had a growing dis-ease with the observance of Thanksgiving. I have been learning about and troubled by the actual history of Thanksgiving, which originally marked the Pequot Indian Massacre. I believe that by ignoring the history of this day, we are contributing to the continued invisibility of the worldwide genocide of indigenous peoples (see attached docs on this and one indigenous response, if you're interested in learning more!)

This is no longer something I can participate in in good conscious in the traditional way. I am still discerning what the actual day might hold for me, and I can keep you in the loop if you are interested! (For example: one thing I plan to do is participate in Indigenous People's Day on October 14th at the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center, see details [here](#).)

HOWEVER! I do still love and believe in gratitude and celebrating the bounty of life! And I have also been learning how, all people, including white folks, carry wounds of white supremacy and whiteness (as a set of cultural norms) in our day to day actions and thoughts. I've been learning about how white folks can work to shift/heal racism through recognizing the impact of whiteness on our own ability to feel grounded and connected in our own bodies, our ancestry and culture. If you'd like to learn more about this, check out the blog of one of my mentors [here](#) or I'd be happy to talk with you! With this mentor I have been learning about earth and ancestral healing as a form of anti-racism. In that spirit I would like to invite you into an alternative Thanksgiving practice.

The intention is to do these three things in a kid-friendly, relaxing, and nourishing way:

1. Enjoy the abundant gifts of the Earth and each other!

2. Name and remember our various ancestors, known and unknown and the gifts they passed on and struggles that they endured that allow us to be alive today.
3. Create opportunities to acknowledge and connect to the gift and struggle of indigenous folks, past and present.

How will this look? Again: hopefully quite simple, nourishing and kid-friendly! You are invited to:

1. **Bring something that represents the bounty of the earth:** something grown or gleaned, something home-made, something you like or appreciate. Bring something you already have in abundance--no need to over-think/work this! It can be applesauce you canned this summer, a dish of fragrant spices, or as simple as a bowl full of leaves or rocks you collect in Colleen's front yard.
2. **Bring a food item from your ancestry, and any photos or objects representative of your ancestry.** Main dish, side dish, dessert, beverage, you pick. Even better if you have a story that goes with it! Or consider it an opportunity to explore into your ancestry, perhaps for history that has been lost. We will use the earth bounty and ancestor items to build an alter.
3. **Consider bringing a donation, a candle to light, and/or a prayer intention that will be dedicated to the liberation of Indigenous folks, and all people.**
Donations will be given to [Real Rent Duwamish](#) which seeks to correct the negligence of the federal government to acknowledge the treaty rights and just compensation of the Duwamish tribe for the land that Seattle has been built upon. Donations go directly to Duwamish Tribal Services to support the revival of Duwamish culture and the vitality of the Duwamish Tribe.

Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or comments!

LOVE-

Kate