

Gathering for Holding History (November theme)

There are video session suggestions – speaking in turns, using Chat. Some sections use a timer / clock.

When you join the session *Facilitators – do these for yourself first and help others.*

- Check your volume and video, if you are using video. Check your “name tag.”
- Make sure you have a copy of the Gathering available.
- **Words of the Day.** If your group is using Chat, write “I would like to learn more about the history of …” and complete the sentence.

Chalice Lighting “We’ll begin by lighting the chalice.” *Ask for a volunteer to read.*

We light our chalice, symbol of our faith,
For truth, sought through a questioning heart and an attentive mind;
And for love, pursued through obstacles inside and outside our own human heart;
And for forgiveness, and all it entails—
The place where truth and love meet and merge.
Vanessa Southern

Words of the Day “Now we’ll share the Words of the Day.” *If you’re using Chat, people can’t see chat written before they joined, so the facilitator can read. Or people can read their own.*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns “We’ll share joys and concerns.” *Begin, and then either call on people or ask them to “chain” to the next person. Make sure everyone has an opportunity.*

Silence, holding each other in support “Now a few minutes of silence” (2 or 3)

Shared Readings “I’ll start the first Shared Reading.” *Begin, and then either call on people or ask them to “chain” to the next person. Make sure everyone has an opportunity to read.*

So, when you study history, you must always ask yourself, whose story am I missing? ... Once you have figured that out, you must find that story, too. *Yaa Gyasi*

History is the science of people. *José Ortega y Gasset*

I suppose being the kind of creatures we [people] are, we like to censor the past, and are selective, or want to be selective about the things that we remember. If you want to destroy people, destroy their memory, destroy their history. *Desmond Tutu*

If there is a void in the history of this country, then I feel an obligation to fill it.
Toni Morrison, on writing historical fiction

The past is never dead. It’s not even past. *William Faulkner*

The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them. *Ida B. Wells*

History is the present. That’s why every generation writes it anew. But what most people think of as history is its end product, myth. *E. L. Doctorow*

Nothing erases the past. There is repentance, there is atonement, and there is forgiveness. That is all, but that is enough. *Ted Chiang*

It is a cultural trait in America to think in terms of very short time periods. My advice is: learn history. *Winona LaDuke*

We got here by refusing to honestly remember together. *Kiese Laymon*

Deep Listening and Sharing

Round 1. Deep Sharing. “Now we will share reflections on Holding History.” *Note the time available for each person. Go first to model. Make sure everyone has an opportunity.*

Round 2. Responses and Comments. *Note how much time is available for Round 2. People can unmute for freer exchange. Go first to model for the group.*

Closing Circle “We’re going to say a word or sentence about what we are taking away from the session.” *Begin, and then either call on people or use “chaining.”*

Chalice “We will extinguish the chalice.” *Ask for a volunteer to read.*

We extinguish this flame and we remember the warmth of our community, the light of our wisdom, the generosity of our sharing. We keep these in our heart until we meet again.

Bell or Chime

Announcements

The Covenant

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group
- to let the facilitator know if I will be absent or need to quit
- to share responsibility for good process by watching how much time I take to speak, noticing what is going on for others, and considering problems if they occur
- to do the reading and thinking about the topic ahead of time
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and tell only my own story to others
- to honor the safety of the group by listening to what others share with an open heart
- to refrain from cross-talk, judging, giving advice, or advocating a specific view
- to share as deeply as I can when it is my turn and to stay on the “I-message.”