

Gathering for What You Learned from Your Grandparents

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 the Gathering available.
- **Words of the Day.** Complete this sentence: “What I now find most valuable in what my grandparents passed on to me is ...”

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

She combed her grandmother/ Mathilda's hair using/ a comb made out of bone./ Mathilda rocked her oak wood/ chair, her face downcast,/ intent on tearing rags/ in strips to braid a cotton/ rug from bits of orange/and brown. A simple act/ preparing hair. Something/ women do for each other,/ plaiting the generations. *Mary Cornelia Hartshorne, Choctaw Nation*

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.*

Her grandmother, as she gets older, is not fading but rather becoming more concentrated.
Paulette Bates Alden

What is this power the dead have over the ones they leave behind? It’s strange and beautiful and frightening, this deathless love that human beings continue to feel for the ones they’ve lost.
Sangu Mandanna

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature / But beautiful old people are works of art.
Marjory Barstow-Greenbie

In my grandparents’ time, it was believed that spirits existed everywhere ... in trees, rivers, insects, wells, anything ... I like the idea that we should all treasure everything because spirits might exist there, and we should treasure everything because there is a kind of life to everything. *Hayao Miyazaki*

When we illuminate the road back to our ancestors, they have a way of reaching out, of manifesting themselves ... sometimes even physically. *Raquel Cepeda*

It seems to me that sometimes the worst parents make the best grandparents. I’m not sure why. Maybe because there is enough of a generational separation that they don’t see their grandchildren as an extension of themselves, so their relationship isn’t tainted by any self-loathing. And of course, just growing older seems to soften and relax people. *Sarah Silverman*

“And do you really believe our ancestors are watching over us?” I asked. He smiled. “I believe in the power of remembrance,” he said. “And I believe love does not die with the body.” *Nadia Owusu*

You do not really understand something unless you can explain it to your grandmother. *Anonymous*

Because [grandparents] are usually free to love and guide and befriend the young without having to take daily responsibility for them, they can often reach out past pride and fear of failure and close the space between generations. *President Jimmy Carter*

Every afternoon my grandmother would have two chocolates with her coffee. I asked her once how many she thought she had eaten in her life. If you laid them all end to end to the moon and back, I’d be sitting right here even as we speak, she said, and we celebrated her return with an extra chocolate. *Iris Murdoch*

Our dead never forget this beautiful world that gave them being. They always love its winding rivers, its sacred mountains, and its sequestered vales; and they ever yearn in tenderest affection over the lonely hearted living and often return to visit, guide and comfort them. *Chief Seattle*

Deep Listening and Sharing

Round 1. Deep Sharing. “Now we share reflections on grandparents.” *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.”