

From: [Warren Doty](#)
To: [Tim Carroll](#)
Subject: FW: [Chilmark MA] Indigenous Peoples day (Sent by Caitlin Cook, xaitlinc@gmail.com)
Date: Friday, October 29, 2021 2:44:27 PM

From: Contact form at Chilmark MA <cmsmailer@civicplus.com> on behalf of Contact form at Chilmark MA <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>

Reply-To: <xaitlinc@gmail.com>

Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 at 4:06 PM

To: wdoty <warrenmdoty@gmail.com>

Subject: [Chilmark MA] Indigenous Peoples day (Sent by Caitlin Cook, xaitlinc@gmail.com)

Hello wdoty,

Caitlin Cook (xaitlinc@gmail.com) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.chilmarkma.gov/user/48/contact>) at Chilmark MA.

If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.chilmarkma.gov/user/48/edit>.

Message:

Here is an article from the president himself and my letter to the towns.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/10/08...>

To the towns of Marthas Vineyard/ Noepe,

As our future and past comes into focus and with a closer look at our history in North America , it is clear to me (a 51 year old white woman of European descent raised in America), that we need to consistently engage in taking inventories of our ever evolving relationships, to each other as human beings and to the living earth with it's wondrous diversity.

That said I am writing to impress upon you the importance and powerful impact our Island community can have - locally and world wide - one action at a time.

If we comprehend that a change is necessary locally and that this change would have a healing affect globally- I know we can be a part of that change and the potential of a positive ripple effect is inevitable.

To change the name Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day would be a great step in the process of healing harms done in my opinion.

Looking back we can see that the establishment of the Christopher Columbus holiday had a use for our government and powerful corporations. To perpetuate the belief that colonizing this country was a good thing for everyone.

What many of us know and many people are just beginning to understand now, is that what the colonization of this country involved and still perpetuates into the present is not good for all people. In fact, what Columbus and many other European colonizers did was kill, torture, traffic, rape, steal and lie to indigenous people here and across the globe.

What we are understanding now is that, growing up we Americans were not told the whole story. We were told a fairy tale that made it seem like native people agreed to being colonized. This is far from the truth.

If we know that Christopher Columbus as a person and as a symbol is harmful, why would we perpetuate the holiday?

Why would we tell our children to celebrate this man and this holiday when we know that it is monumentally harmful not just to our indigenous community but to all people! Perpetuating a lie!!

We need to give our children hope for a better world. We are more connected than ever. There is no way around that. We must treat all people how we want to be treated (don't we learn this so early in life? How could we forget?) If you do some thing harmful are you not asked to make it right?

Let us make this change to acknowledge at the very least that we can evolve out of this lie we have all suffered from, most of all the indigenous people of this country. Let us continue to look at our selves, where we come from and how we can do better.

In solidarity with all living beings,

Caitlin Cook
Chilmark MA