

Change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day

It was interesting see on Oct. 11 how many celebrations were held both in NH and across the country that focused on Indigenous Peoples not Columbus. It is time we in Concord make it official. Change the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous Peoples Day.

It is hurtful to Native Americans to celebrate a man like Christopher Columbus. Celebrating Christopher Columbus' discovery of America is wildly inaccurate history. Columbus did not "discover" America. Millions of people already inhabited the Americas. The history of exploration and colonialism is seen in a different light today. Making the day Indigenous Peoples Day helps balance a one-sided view of history.

Making Indigenous Peoples Day a holiday will give visibility to Native people, their history, culture and contributions. Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day in October, rather than in another month, helps schools and students focus on the meaning of the holiday.

Bonenfant, Janicē

From: Hawkins,Zandra-Rice
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: Fwd: Changing to Indigenous Peoples Day
Attachments: Untitled.docx

In case you didn't receive this one yet.

Zandra Rice Hawkins
Concord City Councilor, Ward 10
(603) 892-2150 (text/call)
zricehawkins@concordnh.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mary Davies <marbob75@yahoo.com>
Date: October 20, 2021 at 12:43:20 PM EDT
To: "Hawkins,Zandra-Rice" <ZRiceHawkins@concordnh.gov>
Subject: Changing to Indigenous Peoples Day

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Bonenfant, Janice

From: BYRON CHAMPLIN <chamby@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 24, 2021 8:47 AM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: COLUMBUS DAY

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Hi Janice:

Please pass this constituent comment on to my colleagues on City Council.

Thanks!

Byron

----- Original Message -----

From: Jill Savage <jms603@aol.com>
To: BYRON CHAMPLIN <chamby@comcast.net>
Date: 10/23/2021 4:51 PM
Subject: Re: CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Hi Byron,

I am in favor of changing the Columbus Day holiday to Indigenous People's Day. When we know better we should do better.

Thank you for passing along my point of view.

Jill Savage
Concord, NH Ward 10

Sent from my iPad

Bonenfant, Janice

From: BYRON CHAMPLIN <chamby@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 11:51 AM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: COLUMBUS DAY

[CAUTION: *This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe*]

Hi Janice:

My constituent has requested that her remarks below be shared with Mayor and Council.

Thanks.

Byron

----- Original Message -----

From: gail page <gailpage90@gmail.com>
To: BYRON CHAMPLIN <chamby@comcast.net>
Date: 10/24/2021 4:13 PM

Hi Byron, Thanks for your email. I want to let you know that I am one who favors the change from Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day. In recent years we are all learning more of the dark side of our history, hidden for so long. The man Columbus turns out to be not the hero we were taught he was. What happened to the native peoples as a result of his (and others) actions in those times is a tragic part of our history and one that needs exposure. A renamed/repurposed holiday will be a start. I especially think of the school lessons that will change for the better and for a more truthful understanding.
Thanks for including this message in the deliberations.
Gail

The first Columbus Day was born of violence

10/11/2021

Holiday helped president resolve diplomatic crisis

By Ronald G. Shafer

THE WASHINGTON POST

The first national Columbus Day was proclaimed in 1892 by President Benjamin Harrison to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Italian-born explorer Christopher Columbus's supposed discovery of America.

But for Harrison, it served another purpose: to help resolve a diplomatic crisis with Italy — and gain support among Italian American voters — after riots in New Orleans lynched 11 Italian immigrants the year before.

Columbus Day has come under fire in recent years by critics alleging that Columbus was responsible for the enslavement and massacre of Indigenous people. Some cities, including Columbus, Ohio, have pulled down statues of the explorer. And President Biden made history Friday by announcing he would commemorate Indigenous Peoples Day alongside the Columbus holiday.

A group of Italian American organizations is countering the attacks on Columbus Day with advertisements denying the claims against Columbus and urging a broader observance of the holiday by "celebrating all Americans."

The first national Columbus Day grew out of a backdrop of violence. In March 1891, a jury in New Orleans acquitted six Italian immigrants charged with the murder of the local police chief. Rumors spread that jurors had been bribed by powerful Italian



SETH WENIG/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE

The holiday has come under fire by critics who say Columbus massacred Indigenous peoples.

families coming to be known as the Mafia.

The next morning, thousands of people — many of them leading citizens of the Crescent City — descended on Orleans Parish Prison, where the six Italian defendants and 13 other Italian suspects were being held.

"Bring 'em out, we'll kill 'em," came the cry from a thousand throats," the New Orleans Times-Democrat reported. A group of armed men broke into the prison and shot nine of the defendants dead, one falling with 42 bullets in his body, the paper said. The mob took two others to the city square, where one man was hanged on a lamp post and another on a tree.

The article ran under the headline "Avenge!" At a time of widespread discrimination against Italian immigrants, many news reports followed the theme that the killings were justified. The Associated Press said of the killers: "It was not an unruly midnight mob. It was simply a sullen determined body of citizens who took into their own hands what justice had ignorantly failed to do."

The New York Times wrote that "while every good citizen" would agree that "this affair is to be deplored, it would be difficult to find any individual who would confess that privately he deprecates it very much." Civil Service Commissioner Theodore Roosevelt, in a letter to his sister, said of the revengeful violence,

"Personally, I think it a rather good thing."

But Italian Americans and leaders of the kingdom of Italy were outraged. Italy broke off diplomatic relations and recalled its ambassador from Washington. The Harrison administration in turn removed the US legation from Rome. There was even talk of war.

Harrison, a Republican, remained silent on the matter until his December message to Congress when he called the murders "a most deplorable and discreditable incident" and an "offense against law and humanity." The next April, he agreed to Italy's demands to pay an indemnity to survivors of three victims who were citizens of

Italy. Secretary of State James Blaine, in a telegram to Italian officials about "the lamentable massacre at New Orleans," said that at the president's instruction, the US government would pay a total indemnity of \$25,000, equal to about \$760,000 today.

Italy accepted the offer, but Harrison's action drew criticism. "Peace at Any Price. Uncle Sam Humbles Itself Before Italy," declared a headline in the Los Angeles Herald. Some lawmakers argued that Harrison exceeded his executive power by acting without Congress's approval.

With a looming election rematch against former president Grover Cleveland, whom Harrison had defeated in 1888, politics was naturally on the president's mind. One factor in Harrison's action was "the approaching Presidential election and the necessity the President feels under of repairing his political fences in every direction," the Brooklyn Citizen wrote. "He does not want to have the Italian vote massed against him."

Italians were still upset that the United States didn't prosecute the murderers.

The calendar provided an opportunity to further placate the Italians. Many communities already were planning to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Columbus's arrival in the New World. A New York minister, Francis Bellamy, met with Harrison to urge a national holiday to promote patriotism among American schoolchildren. Bellamy had written "The Pledge of Allegiance" for the occasion. With Harrison's support,

Congress passed a resolution calling for a one-time holiday for Americans to celebrate Columbus on Oct. 21 "by public demonstration and by suitable exercises in their schools and other places of assembly." Harrison issued his proclamation on July 21, urging efforts to "impress upon our youth the patriotic duties of American citizenship."

Celebrations took place across the country. The biggest was in New York City on Oct. 12, the date that Columbus had first made landfall in the Western Hemisphere when he arrived in the Bahamas. More than 1 million spectators cheered a parade featuring 40,000 marching military men in uniform, the New York World reported. The New York Times called the turnout "the greatest crowd New York ever held."

The next day, a crowd gathered for the unveiling of a 14-foot statue of Columbus atop a 27.5-foot granite column. The statue at Columbus Circle still stands.

Harrison wasn't able to take political advantage of the celebrations. He declined an invitation to attend the New York City festivities because his wife, Caroline, was dying of tuberculosis.

The next month, Cleveland defeated Harrison to become the only president ever to be elected to two nonconsecutive terms.

Columbus Day became a permanent national holiday in 1934 when Congress, after lobbying by the Knights of Columbus, authorized President Franklin Roosevelt to declare Oct. 12 as the designated date. In 1971, Columbus Day was made a federal holiday on the second Monday in October.

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Councilor <perce4council@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:44 AM
To: * City Clerk
Subject: Document - Oct 27, 2021
Attachments: Doc - Oct 27 2021 - 09-40.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe]

Good morning Janice.
Would you please share this document, sent to me, with the Mayor and Council.
Thank you.

Erle Pierce
603-496-1665

COLUMBUS OR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY?



Indigenous NH Collaborative Collective

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS DID NOT DISCOVER AMERICA

He never set foot in North America. In the United States, Columbus Day was designated a federal holiday in 1934 after a campaign by Italian-Americans and Catholics, who were then targets of ethnic and religious discrimination.

WHO WERE THE FIRST EUROPEAN VISITORS IN NORTH AMERICAN?

In the 500s, St. Brendan and other Irish monks crossed the Atlantic Ocean westward. They have reached a large land mass, which could have been either North America or the Canary Islands.

In 982, a Viking, Erik Thorvaldsson (or Erik the Red) established a colony in Greenland. Another Viking explorer, Lief Eriksson (Erik the Red's son) reached the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador in northeastern Canada. Modern archaeologists have found evidence of Viking settlements from about that time.

IN 1492, ITALIAN EXPLORER CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS LANDED IN THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

Fifty years after the Columbus visit, in 1542, a Spanish priest, Fr. Las Casas, who has converted many native Americans to Catholicism, in his manuscript, titled "Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies," appealed to Spanish monarchs to regulate Spanish cruelty in the colonies. (The island of Hispaniola is now two separate countries – Haiti and the Dominican Republic.)

TAKE AWAY POINTS ABOUT COLUMBUS AND THOSE WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM (AND CAME AFTER)

- Took land that was already inhabited by a people who believed that land could not be owned.
- Had gold fever and would stop at nothing. For example, Columbus cut off the hands of Tainos who didn't bring him enough gold.
- Abused and enslaved local populations. For example, Columbus kidnapped at least five hundred Tainos and sent them back to Spain to be sold as slaves.
- Introduced technologically advanced warfare. The Tainos resisted but were quickly overwhelmed by the Europeans' superior weapons.
- Destroyed the ecological balance of a land that had been tended and respected by the Tainos and others.

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Kretovic, Jennifer
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2021 2:47 PM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: Fw: In Support of Columbus Day

Hello Janice,

The message below is for inclusion in the Public Testimony for Indigenous Peoples Day. Mr. Illiano is a resident in the State of New York , and a member of the Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, and the branch of the organization under the Commission for Social Justice.

Thank you,

Jennifer

Councilor Jennifer Kretovic

City of Concord, New Hampshire

Home Contact: 8 Gallen Drive, Concord, NH 03303, (603) 228-8395

jkretovic@concordnh.gov

From: Andrew Illiano <andyilliano@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 3:41 PM
To: Kretovic, Jennifer
Subject: In Support of Columbus Day

[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe]

Dear Jennifer Kretovic,

As an Italian-American I am all too aware of the unrelenting attacks Columbus Day undergoes yearly. While several books have been published by scholars either countering the attacks on Columbus (ex "Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem" by Carol Delaney, "Christopher Columbus The Hero" by Rafael), or proving Howard Zinn wrong (ex: "Debunking Howard Zinn" By Mary Graber) and fact based websites have

been created to educate the public (ex: KnowColumbus.org, ColumbusTheTruth.org), these attempts have done little to relent the attacks on Italian-Americans. Yes, I said attacks on Italian-Americans, not Columbus.

Italian-Americans observe Columbus Day as a celebration of their heritage and contributions made to this country. From the many Italian explorers that came after Columbus to map out the Americas, to Filippo Mazzei's inspirational words that helped shape our constitution, that "All men are by nature equally free and independent", to the works of Constantino Brumidi whose paintings beautify the Senate and House Chambers and the Capitol Building's rotunda, to the Piccirilli brothers who carved the "Seated Lincoln" in Lincoln Memorial, to Amadeo Giannini who found Bank of America, to Enrico Fermi who was the first to split the atom at Columbia University and lead the Manhattan Project, to Antonio Meucci the true inventor of the first telephone, and other contributions that are too countless to list in this letter, one thing is evident: Throughout history Italians have made great contributions to America and the world!

And now our one day to bring these accomplishments to light, and celebrate our heritage with pride, is being taken away from us every year! Proponents of Indigenous People's Day love to say, "This is not anti-Italian; It's anti-Columbus." But that is a lie. Are they calling to rename the day "Italian Heritage Day"? NO! They are demanding the day be taken completely away from Italian Americans and there is nothing more anti-Italian than this! This is NOT being inclusive. And anyone that votes in favor of eliminating our day of celebration is just as guilty of racism and discrimination as the people calling for it's removal, especially when they're not even calling to rename the day "Italian Heritage Day."

Fact is scholars have proven that Christopher Columbus is accused of crimes committed by his political adversaries and actions of leaders that came after him. Historical research shows that Columbus advocated for the rights of Indigenous People and punished his own men when they committed crimes against the Natives. Time and again writings show that Columbus hoped to peacefully convert Native Americans to Christianity through teaching and not force. By Papal law, once people converted to Christianity they could not be enslaved so how could he possibly have intended to pursue slavery? Yet it seems the flames of uneducated radicalized mobs continue to dictate the course of this country as they strong arm leaders to capitulate to their zealous screams and unjustly take this day of recognition away from Italian-Americans by slandering Christopher Columbus!

Notice when people attack Columbus they either never provide references or proof to their accusations, or they take quotes out of context to fulfill their false narratives. For your convenience I've included the below links to scholarly resources so you can continue your education on Christopher Columbus and see through the lies being perpetrated against the Italian-American community. Please do not turn your back to these truths! A vote for Columbus Day is a vote for education, a vote for truth, and a vote for the Italian-American Community.

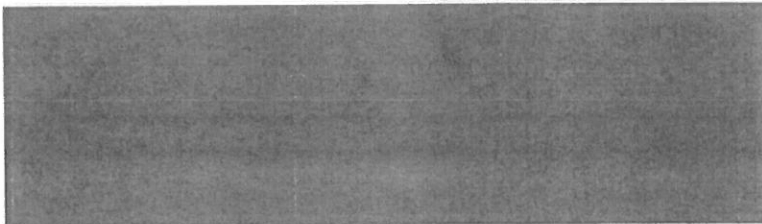
Globally Indigenous People Day is recognized on August 9th. Native American Day is the fourth Friday of September. American Indian Heritage Day is the Friday after Thanksgiving. November is Native American Heritage Month. As Italian-Americans we ask only for ONE day to celebrate our heritage, culture and contributions. Are we not worthy of that?

Sincerely,

Andrew Illiano

1. Rediscovering Columbus: Evidence That Topples the Wall of Lies Around Him <https://franoi.com/columbus/rediscovering-columbus/>

2. Debunking "Top 5 Atrocities Committed by Christopher Columbus" <https://www.officialchristophercolumbus.com/2020/06/debunking-top-5-atrocities-committed-by.html>
3. Columbus: Fact vs Fiction: https://www.osia.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Columbus05_factsfiction.pdf
4. VIDEOS and Links: Courage and Conviction: <https://www.kofc.org/en/news-room/columbus/index.html#>
5. <http://www.truthaboutcolumbus.com/>
6. VIDEO: Columbus: Facts vs Fiction <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVOcXLHj6kQ>
7. Columbus and the Quest for Jerusalem: https://www.amazon.com/Columbus-Quest-Jerusalem-Religion-Voyages/dp/1439102376/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Columbus+and+the+Quest+for+Jerusalem&qid=1615916072&sr=8-1
 1. If you don't have time to read the book here's an article on its research: <https://www.thecollegefix.com/columbus-not-villain-professor-says-explorer-seriously-maligned/>
8. VIDEO: Interviewing Stanford University professor Carol Delany <https://youtu.be/HzezYIARlCU?t=24>
9. Christopher Columbus The Hero: Defending Columbus From Modern Day Revisionism: https://www.amazon.com/Christopher-Columbus-Hero-Defending-Revisionism/dp/1548738123/ref=sr_1_4?dchild=1&keywords=christopher+columbus&qid=1615915539&sr=8-4
10. Exposing the lies of Christopher Columbus: <http://www.officialchristophercolumbus.com/>
11. Debunking Howard Zinn: https://www.amazon.com/Debunking-Howard-Zinn-Exposing-Generation/dp/1684511526/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Debunking+Howard+Zinn&qid=1615917195&sr=8-1
12. "Debunking Zinn's Lies About Columbus" by Rich Disilvio: <http://www.columbusthetruth.org/Documents/DebunkingtheZinnMethodologyRich%20Disilvio.pdf>
13. A Realistic Historical Perspective on Christopher Columbus: <http://www.columbusthetruth.org/Documents/ARealisticHistoricalPerspectiveonChristopherColumbusSteveByas.pdf>
14. Resources that debunk the lies about Columbus: <https://knowcolumbus.org/resources/>
And many more... <http://www.columbusthetruth.org/links.htm>



Bonenfant, Janice

From: BYRON CHAMPLIN <chamby@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: Fwd: Indigenous People's Day

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Hi Janice:

At the request of Rep. Schultz, please forward her email below to Mayor and Council.

Thanks!

Byron

----- Original Message -----

From: Kris Schultz <krisindc@gmail.com>
To: Byron Champlain <chamby@comcast.net>
Date: 10/21/2021 2:08 PM
Subject: Indigenous People's Day

Hey Byron,

Hope you are well!

Just wanted you to know I support Indigenous People's Day. As a Concord Rep, I have heard a total of 9 hours of testimony on this topic as it came through my committee three times. I have championed it as I got to know people in NH who are Indigenous. I think it is cool that - against all odds - we still have a small but vibrant community of Indigenous people who are in the Granite State right now!

Also, as a German Catholic, growing up in Louisville where crosses were burned in the yards of Irish & German immigrants for their heritage & Catholicism, I understand the symbolism to Italian Americans. Anti-Catholicism still pops up now & again but those views are extremist.

I have encouraged folks who are Italian Catholics to look to Pope Francis & how he addresses colonialism in the Americas. It isn't perfect but his approach has inspired me. As an Italian-Argentinian, he has a deep understanding of Columbus & Colonialism & it is still controversial for him & for the Catholic Church too. In his speeches, Catholicism & colonialism is justly viewed through a lens of understanding about racism, genocide, theft & misinterpretation of religion.

Is it possible that Italian Catholics are no longer an oppressed class?

Is it possible to see how hard it is to be an indigenous descendant in Concord?

Is it important for our City to consider how our children will see this issue as a teachable moment about history, morals & values?

As we know better, do we do better?

There's my two cents, and I'd be more than happy to speak with you about this with you if you want. I think I have listened to an accumulative 9 hours of testimony on this issue & it has moved me.

Sincerely,

Kris Schultz

(603) 275-2227

--

NH St Rep Kris Schultz

Concord Ward 9

(603) 856-7279

via iPhone 6s

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Hawkins,Zandra-Rice
Sent: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:57 PM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: Fwd: Indiginous Peoples Day

For public comment.

Zandra Rice Hawkins
Concord City Councilor, Ward 10
(603) 892-2150 (text/call)
zricehawkins@concordnh.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: Priscilla Dube <priscilla2nh@gmail.com>
Date: November 3, 2021 at 5:42:43 PM EDT
To: "Hawkins,Zandra-Rice" <ZRiceHawkins@concordnh.gov>
Subject: Indiginous Peoples Day

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Good afternoon,
I would like to inform you that I am in favor of renaming Columbus Day as Indiginous Peoples Day. I will appreciate your making my statement of preference part of the public record.
Thank you and best wishes,
Priscilla Dube
149 East Side Drive #146
Concord, NH 03301

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Hawkins,Zandra-Rice
Sent: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 8:27 PM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: Fwd: Vote on Indigenous peoples day

Zandra Rice Hawkins
Concord City Councilor, Ward 10
(603) 892-2150 (text/call)
zricehawkins@concordnh.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jessica Wheeler Russell <wheelerjessicaann@gmail.com>
Date: November 3, 2021 at 8:00:12 PM EDT
To: Brent Todd <brenttoddconcord@gmail.com>, pierce4council@comcast.net, "Kretovic, Jennifer" <JKretovic@concordnh.gov>, "Fennessy,Nathan" <NFennessy@concordnh.gov>, "Sexton, Amanda" <AGradySexton@concordnh.gov>, "Keach, Fred" <FKeach@concordnh.gov>, chamby@comcast.net, kmcnamaraward4@gmail.com, "Werner, Robert" <RWerner@concordnh.gov>, "Kenison, Linda" <LKenison@concordnh.gov>, "Nyhan, Keith" <KNyhan@concordnh.gov>, "Matson, Gail" <GMatson@concordnh.gov>, "Bouchard, Candace" <CWBouchard@concordnh.gov>, "Hawkins,Zandra-Rice" <ZRiceHawkins@concordnh.gov>
Subject: Vote on Indigenous peoples day

[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe]

Good evening,

On November 8th I will be unable to provide public comment regarding the vote on Indigenous peoples day. This is something important to my family and neighbors in Concord. The city has been discussing this for over a year now and it is time to make the change to join other cities in NH such as Dover, Durham, Hopkinton, Keene, and Nashua in adopting Indigenous People's Day.

I am first and foremost a scientist. In that training we are taught that when different information is put before us that counters our known narrative we adapt our conclusions to account for this change. As the years have gone on historians and archeologists have discovered that Columbus was not the first individual to "discover" the Americas. Evidence now shows that the Norse landed in North America 500 years before Columbus and in fact some of the oldest evidence of human activity found in the Americas dates over 23,000 years ago, long before Columbus arrived in the Bahamas in 1492.

We know that the history we have been teaching our children is incorrect, but now we have an opportunity to highlight and learn about the cultures of the Indigenous people who were the stewards to the lands we reside on today and continue to live and thrive here alongside us. Imagine how our students and community could benefit from using our local history as a resource instead of keeping up

the same now misguided talking points. This is our chance to expand our knowledge and I cannot imagine not giving this opportunity to the generations that will come after us.

I urge you to vote in favor of changing Columbus day to Indigenous peoples day. Thank you very much for the work you are doing.

Jessica Wheeler Russell
Ward 1