

A collage of fresh produce including corn cobs, tomatoes, and sunflowers. The background is a dark, textured surface. The text is overlaid in white, centered. The main title is 'Indigenous Principles in the Garden'. Below it, the author's name 'Zuleyja Prieto' is listed, followed by the subtitle 'Rooting Through Corn, Planting Families'. At the bottom, the event information 'Indigenous People's Day - Goshen, IN, USA - October 11, 2022' is provided.

Indigenous Principles in the Garden

Zuleyja Prieto

Rooting Through Corn, Planting Families

Indigenous People's Day - Goshen, IN, USA - October 11, 2022

- Respect
- Connection
- Gratitude
- Community





Respect

"Sell a country?! Why not sell the air, the great sea, as well as the earth? Did not the Great Spirit make them all for the use of his children?"

Shawnee Chief Tecumseh, Vincennes, Indiana, 1810

"The Earth is our Mother. She feeds, sustains, heals, and teaches. She receives and transforms us when we pass on. We must caress her face with our bare feet"

Mexica Oral Tradition, Central Mexico



Ask
permission,
aim for
balance, listen

Connection

- Each seed holds the knowledge, tradition and hope of generations of loving hands
- Corn: 8-10 thousand years ago in the Americas
- Seed keeping – saving – sharing = past – present – future
- Stories, ask questions!
- Keep records, share what you know



Gratitude

- Many things happen beyond our control, say “thank you” no matter the outcome
- Give something back: offering, time, compost, intentions
- Land is not a commodity, it is not capital
- What the land produces is a GIFT, it is not entitled, it is not revenue





Community

- *Tekio (Nahuatl) Mink'a (Quechua)*: Collective, non-paid work that everyone in the community does for the good of the community
- Building relationships
- Sharing resources
- Celebration
- Food!



THANK YOU!

- Questions?

Visit the *[Rooting Through Corn, Planting Families](#)* page on Facebook, Instagram

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