



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 8, 2011

MEDIA CONTACT: Amy Blum  
[amy@ganondagan.org](mailto:amy@ganondagan.org); (585) 425-1864

## **GANONDAGAN'S EDUCATORS' DAY NOT ONLY FOR TEACHERS**

*“Eat, Play, Live: The Haudenosaunee Way to Health” is this year’s focus*

Victor, NY—Educators can get a jump on the new school year at **Ganondagan’s annual Educators’ Day on Wednesday, August 24 from 9 am to 4 pm**, with traditional Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) ways of eating, playing, and living as its theme. With a dual focus on healthy living and learning how to impart positive lifestyle choices, this **“Eat, Play, Live: the Haudenosaunee Way to Health”** workshop is intended for everyone who considers themselves an educator, as well as for life-long learners interested in Iroquois history and culture. Using an interdisciplinary approach with the help of Ganondagan Site interpreters, guest speaker Lynn Gatto (2004 New York State Teacher of the Year award winner) will share her expertise on how to teach the NYS required Haudenosaunee Culture Unit.

A continental breakfast will be followed by Ganondagan Site Manager Peter Jemison’s welcome. The morning will concentrate on the “Eat” and “Play” aspects of the theme and will cover traditional Haudenosaunee diet and food practices—including the importance of the Three Sisters (corn, beans, and squash)—as well as the traditional aspects and function of sports and games. Site interpreters will lead hands-on activities educators can use with students such as longball, hoop and javelin, and lacrosse. After a healthy lunch, the “Live” segment of the theme will offer an opportunity to walk part of *The Earth is Our Mother Trail*, learn about fire-making, medicinal plants, and an activity reflecting nature’s change of seasons. Finally, in light of current child obesity and health issues, the video *Reclamation* will be aired, spotlighting how one individual reclaimed his life and his health. Every participant will receive a **Teachers’ Resource Packet** that includes the newly published educational kit, “Haudenosaunee Food and Agriculture.” The kit was developed by the Friends of Ganondagan Education Committee and includes a Teacher’s Study Guide, many lesson plan ideas, bulletin board-ready pictures and a CD.

Space is limited and **pre-registration is required**. Admission is \$75/individual, \$60/Friends of Ganondagan members. For more information or online registration, visit [www.ganondagan.org/programs/EducatorsDay.html](http://www.ganondagan.org/programs/EducatorsDay.html) or call 585-742-1690. This event is co-sponsored by the Rochester City School District and the Pittsford Teacher Center.

**CALENDAR:**

***What: Ganondagan's Educators' Day***

***When: Wednesday, August 24, 9 am-4 pm***

***Where: Ganondagan State Historic Site, 1488 State Route 444, Victor, NY***

***Tickets: \$75/individual, \$60/ Friends of Ganondagan members; pre-registration is required***

**Ganondagan State Historic Site** ([www.ganondagan.org](http://www.ganondagan.org)) in Victor, NY stands at the location of what was one of the largest, most vital 17<sup>th</sup>-century Seneca towns until its destruction in 1687. Today, it is a destination for visitors to explore the replica of a bark longhouse and hunting lodge and enjoy self-guided tours through trails on the Site's 600+ acres. It also acts as a resource for students and educators about the Iroquois Confederacy, or Haudenosaunee, and its message of peace. Every summer, *Friends of Ganondagan* hosts the Native American Dance & Music Festival, attended by more than 4,000 people from all over the world. *Friends* also sponsors the annual Canandaigua Treaty Day and presents lectures, workshops, and programs reflecting the vibrancy of a living culture and promoting a sustainable future.

###