



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NATIVE AMERICAN LECTURE SERIES FOCUSES ON RE-CONNECTING TO THE NATURAL WORLD THROUGH WORDS OF ITS LEADERS

Three prominent speakers bring their wisdom in Ganondagan's
Sadao'hdi:yos (Lend a Good Ear): Messages from Haudenosaunee Leaders

Victor, NY—In the Seneca language, “sadao'hdi:yos” is translated roughly as “lend a good ear,” encouraging people to listen carefully to the words of others. This fall, **Friends of Ganondagan** is expanding on this phrase for its **2011 Native American Lecture Series, “Sadao'hdi:yos (Lend a Good Ear): Messages from Haudenosaunee Leaders.”** Three distinguished speakers will tie together their various areas of expertise with the importance of re-connecting to the natural world. “The impetus for this series was seeing the many serious problems facing us in the natural world today,” says Friends of Ganondagan Executive Director Jeanette Miller. “As human beings, we need to pay attention and refocus on the messages from our Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) elders and leaders about our obligations to the natural world. Returning to these words of wisdom can help direct us back on track.”

This year's Ganondagan Native American Lecture Series is a partnership with both the **Center for Service-Learning and the Religious Studies Department** at **Nazareth College**, which is providing the lecture venue. The lectures will run from **7-9 pm**, and rooms are noted below:

- **Wednesday, September 28: “Words That Come Before All Else,” Nazareth College Shults Center.** Tom Porter, Mohawk elder and lifelong champion for the revitalization of Native languages and traditions will speak about the traditional “Thanksgiving Address” which explains the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) connection to the natural world, and is at the core of the Haudenosaunee view of the universe.
- **Wednesday, October 19: “The Natural World: Our Responsibility as Human Beings,” Nazareth College Shults Center.** Chief Oren Lyons, Jr., faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation, is recognized throughout the world as a human rights advocate, environmentalist, author, speaker, and artist. He will speak about the problems that arise when we neglect our responsibilities in connection to the natural world.
- **Thursday, November 3: “Healing & Balance in the Haudenosaunee Culture,” Nazareth College Arts Center, Room A13.** Trained in herbal medicine from both a

Western and Native traditional perspective, Dr. Theresa Maresca (Mohawk) will discuss the importance of taking care of our physical, mental, and spiritual selves through connections to the natural world.

In a related event following the series on **Tuesday, November 15 from 7-9 pm**, at Nazareth College, (room TBA), Ganondagan and Nazareth will host a **Community Read** featuring the book, *To Become a Human Being: The Message of Tadodaho Chief Leon Shenandoah* by Steve Wall. This event will be facilitated by Ganondagan Site Manager G. Peter Jemison and Nazareth College Professor and Chair of Religious Studies Dr. Susan Nowak, and is free and open to the public. The book, which retails for \$17.95, will be available for purchase at the lectures and at the Ganondagan Gift Shop until October 29.

The three-lecture series admission price is \$50/Friends of Ganondagan members, \$80/non-members. Individual lecture prices are \$20/Friends of Ganondagan members, \$30/non-members. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.ganondagan.org/programs/LectureSeries.html or call 585-742-1690.

CALENDAR:

What: *Friends of Ganondagan's 2011 Native American Lecture Series*

When: *Wednesday, September 28, 7-9 pm; Wednesday, October 19, 7-9 pm; and Thursday, November 3, 7-9 pm.*

Where: *Nazareth College, 4245 East Avenue, Rochester, NY.*

Tickets: *Lecture Series: \$50/ Friends of Ganondagan members, \$80/non-members; individual lectures: \$20/Friends of Ganondagan members, \$30/non-members*

Ganondagan State Historic Site (www.ganondagan.org) in Victor, NY stands at the location of what was one of the largest, most vital 17th-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.

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