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Our Towns & Schools

Mark Schaghticoke heritage, history

ROBERT HAWK STORM
BIRCH
FOR THE POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of columns on the history of the Schaghticoke First Nations which, in partnership with the Town of Dover, is hosting a Unity Gathering in Wingdale with a cultural heritage festival June 4.

Pummean weecheneen netomp
Walk with me, my friend (Algonquian)

Gatherings were formally a way of bringing tribal nations together to share information, socialize and do ceremonies. They followed the equinox cycles; this being the best time for tribes to get together.

The purpose was to highlight the season; the autumn gathering shared the bounty of the harvest, while the spring gathering celebrates new beginnings and the arrival of the summer months, with freedom of worrying about basic survival. Today we celebrate this season in unity with our historic neighbors and family, and newfound friends.

We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce our many speakers and entertainers making this gathering possible.

» Jody Miller, Dutchess County Equal Employment Opportunity/Human Rights officer. She is charged with reestablishing the Human Rights Commission.

» Terry Sloan, Hopi and Navajo United Nations and White House



Drew Shuptar-Rayvis is a reenactor/demonstrator of early Algonquian culture who will be part of Saturday's festival in Wingdale.

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ambassador. He is very active in New Mexico with youth programs, and is on the front lines of human rights activism through his work.

» Hubert de Leeuw, Dutch New Netherlands ambassador, works extensively with New York indigenous people's groups to understand the history of early trade agreements and heal the wounds caused by European settlement.

» Roberto "Mukaro Agueibana" Borrero, Kaskie, Taino Iukaieke Guainia, president, United Confederation of Taino People and Human Rights ambassador to the United

Nations. Established Brook Park in the Bronx, active in many cultural heritage and human rights organizations. (Also performing.)

» Lynch & Fredericks, country and folk music band. (Ed Fredericks also sits on the Schaghticoke First Nations Council.)

» Drew Shuptar-Rayvis, archaeologist and anthropologist, historian and re-enactor/demonstrator of early Algonquian culture.

» Spirit of Thunderheart, award-winning all woman traditional native drum group. (Led by Donna Coane, who also sits on Schaghticoke First Na-

tions Council.)

» Monika Mamona'naru Ponton Arrington, Southeastern Regional representative at United Confederation of Taino People and executive director at Indigenous Women's Knowledge, committed to restoring traditional knowledge, wisdom and spiritual beliefs among indigenous women and children.

» Sicanni Purizaca, Music for the Soul, has been playing Native-American flutes and Native Peruvian flutes for 25 years. He is also a Native American model and actor.

» Vincent "Eagle Spir-

If you go

What: Schaghticoke First Nations Intertribal Unity Gathering

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., June 4; activities run June 3-5

Where: Thomas J. Boyce Park, 6416 Route 55, Wingdale

Information: Visit

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1028255333879446/>;

www.unitysfn.org

it" Mann, Turtle Clan Chief of the Ramapough Lenape Nation and recent recipient of the Russell Berrie Foundation's top award for his unwavering fight to ensure cleanup of the Ringwood, New Jersey superfund site. (The Ramapough also will be performing.)

» Commodore Hickory Edwards, representing the Onondaga Turtle Clan, known for his well-received work for the Two Row Wampum Renewal.

» Linda French, supervisor of the Town of Dover and board member of the Dover Historical Society.

» Wampatuck Wompi-meequin, Sachem of the Mattakeeset Tribe of the Massachusetts Nation and activist for indigenous rights.

» Dakota Sundance Chief Calvin Pompana, spiritual leader of the Dakota people from Manitoba, Canada, and ambassador of peace.

» Shoran Waupatuquay Piper, head mother and tribal hereditary leader of our sister tribe, The Golden Hill Paugussett, protectors of one of the oldest reservations in the United States.

» Fidel Moreno, director of the award-winning documentary "Wiping the Tears of Seven Generations," the story of the Lakota Sioux Horseback

Riders. He travels New York, Vermont and Massachusetts, working with veterans and PTSD trauma victims, and holding powwows and spiritual healing events.

» Connecticut Against Violence bridges the cultures of law enforcement and the hip-hop community, with the intent of bringing the real truth about gun violence and its negative ramifications to children and young people in Connecticut, along with positive alternatives and opportunities.

» Chip Perry of the Knickerbocker Historic Society in Schaghticoke, well-versed in the history of King Philip's War and the Witenagemot Treaty with the Schaghticoke Indians.

We look forward to a great gathering among family and friends, dovetailing our mission: to live harmoniously with purpose upon the Earth Mother, honoring the Creator and manifesting this honor through our relationship with all things, to acknowledge the sacred gifts given to us and live with honor and respect.

Sachem Robert Hawk Storm Birch is the hereditary leader of the Schaghticoke First Nations. He serves on the United Nations and is an active teacher and lecturer.