



# MUSEUM NOTES

324 Caverns Road, Howes Cave, NY 12092 • (518) 296-8949 • [www.iroquoismuseum.org](http://www.iroquoismuseum.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Iroquois Indian Museum is an educational institution dedicated to fostering understanding of Iroquois culture using Iroquois art as a window to that culture. The Museum is a venue for promoting Iroquois art and artists, and a meeting place for all peoples to celebrate Iroquois culture and diversity. As an anthropological institution, it is informed by research on archaeology, history, and the common creative spirit of modern artists and craftspeople.*

Vol. XXXX No. 1

April 2020

## MANY THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS...

Once again you've made all the difference! Thanks to your memberships and contributions we ended 2019 on a positive note. Museum attendance continues to be on the upswing with a 26% increase in visitation from just 5 years ago. Whether you were in a position to contribute a little or a lot, we sincerely appreciate that you've chosen to make the IIM one of your priorities. Your support is indispensable to our ability to have the resources in place to cultivate and sustain this promising trend.

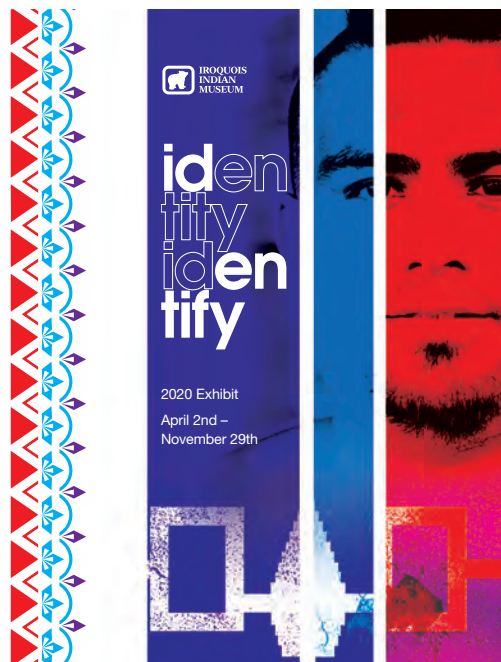


## 2020 SEASON OPENS WITH Identity/Identify ...

Who is Haudenosaunee? Who is not, and who gets to decide? These are the questions at the center of a thought-provoking new exhibit in our main gallery. Praised as "quite timely" by the Oneida Trust & Enrollment Department in Wisconsin, Identity/Identify presents individual and collaborative artistic responses from across Iroquois Country that speak to these issues. The exhibit explores how membership determines access to tribal and federal resources, rights, residency options, and other components of cultural and community participation.

Artwork from the IIM collection and work created specifically for the exhibit will address the political and polarizing issues surrounding blood quantum standards, the position and challenges of mixed race individuals, those whose connections to heritage are through their father's (rather than mother's) lines, and those who grew up off reservation.

The exhibit features video, sculpture, beadwork, mosaic, and photography by Peter Jones, Hayden Haynes, and Michael Jones from Seneca territory; Margaret Jacobs, Natasha Smoke Santiago, and Ionawiienhawi Sargent from Akwesasne; Brenda Hill, Rick Hill, and Robert D'Alimonte from Tuscarora; Karen Ann Hoffman from Oneida, Wisconsin; Tahatie Montour, Angel Horn, and Danielle Soames from Kahnawake; Andrea Chrisjohn from Kingston, NY; Shelia Escobar and Lance Hodahkwen from Syracuse; Rosy Simas from Minneapolis; Ric Glazer Danay from California; and Melanie Printup Hope from Toronto. The exhibit runs through November 29, 2020 with an opening reception on May 2 with guest speaker Drew Hayden Taylor. Partial support for Identity/Identify was provided by a Humanities NY Action grant.



## WELCOME CASSANDRA MILLER...

Little Boy has a new staff person to supervise! After a rigorous and rewarding search the Iroquois Museum offered the position of Marketing & Community Relations Manager to Cassandra Miller of Oneonta, NY. Cassandra is a seasoned communications professional with broad experience in the arts and skills applicable to the challenges of the IIM. Formerly, she worked as an arts publicist, a writer and entertainment editor, and a public relations manager. In her most recent position at Motor House Arts in Baltimore Cassandra was responsible for overseeing and developing social media and marketing campaigns, media contacts, and strategic partnerships. She graduated from Boston University with a major in Journalism and a minor in Art History.

In addition to her position at the Museum, Cassandra maintains a teaching position in English and Communication at SUNY Oneonta. Outside of her (now even busier!) professional life, she enjoys “performing in, reviewing, and attending theater productions; playing volleyball; seeing live music and art shows; exploring new areas of upstate New York; and looking at Havanese puppies on Instagram.” Asked what she anticipates enjoying most about her new position, she responded, “Helping raise awareness of all of the wonderful programs and resources at the museum, as well as learning more about the Iroquois.” You’ll hear much more about Cassandra’s creative ideas for promotion and reaching new audiences as we swing into our season.



Cassandra

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020...

- Sat. April 18 from 10 to 4 - Early Technology Day
- Sat. May 2 from 1 to 4 – Opening Reception for “Identity/Identify”
- May 30 - June 14 Cobleskill-Richmondville Student Art Exhibit.
- Sun., June 7 from 2 to 4 – Opening reception for Cobleskill-Richmondville Student Art Exhibit
- Sat., July 11 – Echoes of Tradition: Social Dancers
- Sat., July 18 – Echoes of Tradition: Artist Demo - Anna Thompson – moccasin making & beadwork
- Sat., July 25 – Echoes of Tradition: Artist Demo - Jamie Jacobs - porcupine quillwork
- Sat., Aug. 1 - Echoes of Tradition: Social Dancers
- Fri, August 7 from 5 to 9 - Roots, Rhythm & Ale. Featuring The Rubber Band, & the blues harmonica, guitar & original music of Mike Jones & Kari Kennedy
- Sat., August 8 – Echoes of Tradition: Artist Demo - Marilynn Hill – the art of fingerweaving
- Sun., August 9 – Fingerweaving with Marilynn Hill. **Registration & workshop fee required.**
- Sat., August 29 – Echoes of Tradition: Artist Demo - Teio Elijah - traditional Haudenosaunee outfits.
- Sept. 5 & 6 - 39th Annual Iroquois Indian Festival

*These events are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, Humanities New York, Poets & Writers, and friends and members of the Iroquois Indian Museum.*

## ANY LIBRARY FANS OUT THERE? ...

If you’re like most of us you probably love your local library. And, if you’re reading this, it’s likely you also value our educational value as a museum. Did you know that we offer library passes that can be checked out by library patrons for visits to the Iroquois Museum in the same way they check out books? Each year, with the exception of Cobleskill and Middleburgh (which we provide complementary passes to), many of our regional libraries purchase these passes out of their library budgets to share with their patrons. If you’re looking for a way to support your local library, give something back to your community, and benefit the Museum all with one action, this might be the ticket! 2020 Family Passes are \$35, admit 2 adults and up to 5 children, and are good for one year. For information on how you can sponsor a library pass, please give us a call at 518.296.8949 or email us at [info@iroquoismuseum.org](mailto:info@iroquoismuseum.org)

## OPENING RECEPTION FOR Identity/Identify...

Mark your calendars! The IIM will host an opening reception for our new exhibit on Saturday May 2 from 1 – 4 pm. Join us to meet Robert D’Alimonte, Andrea Chrisjohn, Danielle Soames and some of the other artists whose boldly direct work is showcased in the exhibit. Reception will also feature special guest speaker Drew Hayden Taylor. Taylor is an award winning writer, journalist, and playwright whose works speak to his experience as a mixed race individual and the role of humor in negotiating difficult issues such as tribal membership, colonization, and adoption. He resides on Curve Lake First Nations in Ontario, Canada.

Self-described as a 21st Century storyteller, Drew’s credits include over 70 plays, numerous nonfiction books (including *Confessions of a Blue-Eyed Ojibwa* and *Funny You Don’t Look Like One*), and a performance at Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. A small selection of his multiple accomplishments include the production of *Redskins*, *Tricksters*, and *Puppy Stew*, a documentary on native humor for the National Film Board of Canada and the co-creation of *Mixed Blessings*, a television comedy series on APTN (Aboriginal Peoples Television Network) in Canada. As always, delectable refreshments and pleasant company will be part of the day. Drew’s presentation is funded in part by Poets & Writers with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



Drew



Jim working a test pit.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT...

Each spring we highlight one of the IIM’s most important assets – the core of irreplaceable volunteers who assist with research, cataloging, gift shop inventory, building and trail maintenance, and school programs. This issue is dedicated to volunteer Jim Chant of Albany, NY. Jim joined the Museum in 1981 and worked with co-founder, Dr. John Ferguson, on the first formal excavations of the Schoharie Mohawk Site south of Middleburgh, NY. Since that time Jim has been involved with all of the IIM’s archaeological investigations accumulating enough hours to earn him the IIM’s rarely awarded Gold Bear (over 1000 hours). Jim is a longtime member of the Van Epps-Hartley Chapter of the NY State Archaeological Association and, in the 1970’s and 80’s, assisted with the professional excavation of Fort Paris, north of Palatine Bridge, NY. In 2002, he retired from his position as an elementary school teacher for Albany City Schools. After 35 years of teaching, Jim jokes that he knew it was time to step down when one of his students announced, “my grandmother had you as a teacher!” Jim served on the IIM board from 2002 to 2012. He can be found most Wednesdays pursuing his ongoing interest in unraveling the mysteries of the original inhabitants of what is now New York State. Thank you Jim for all that you’ve contributed to our knowledge and success through the years.



## ARCHEOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWS...

In late October 2019 a high-water table, with resulting flooded test units stopped all fieldwork, so the Archaeology Department volunteers backfilled all excavated test units and put the Smith Garden Site to bed for the winter.

Beginning in early January 2020, volunteers from the Museum's Archaeology Department began to meet weekly at the Museum. The Department had previously accepted a large collection of prehistoric and historic artifacts, on a long-term loan from Landmark Archaeological Associates. Landmark had been hired by Constitution Pipeline to investigate a variety of river plain sites along the proposed natural gas pipeline corridor extending from Central Bridge to the Binghamton area to determine if any cultural resources would be impacted if the pipeline were to be built in this area. This collection was loaned to us to add to our knowledge of the area surrounding the Early Archaic Haviland Site located west of Cobleskill where the Department and Cobleskill College had jointly conducted an archaeological field school during the 1990s. For the past two months the Department's volunteers have inventoried literally thousand of artifacts from this collection to both glean information from this collection as well as repackage all of the tools, fire cracked rock and debitage (tool manufacturing debris) contained in the collection. A small portion of this collection will be cataloged into the Museum's permanent collection, while the remainder will be stored.

The artifacts collected from the 2019 field season conducted on the Smith Garden Site near Central Bridge are also being inventoried and studied with a report due out in early April covering this work.

Since we have so many new volunteer members in the Department, several short illustrated talks are being presented during our Wednesday work days at the Museum this winter. Topics covered are earlier field work on the Westheimer Knoll (Schoharie Mohawk) village near Middleburgh and later field work on the Strontium Mine Site,



My work on completing my paper, "The Prehistory of Schoharie County" is coming along well with a great deal of support from our Director, Stephe Shultes who is supplying digitized photographs and Archaeology Department volunteer Karen Putnam who is entering the digitized photos into the report and providing general editing of the report contents as it develops. This report will be essentially done and available by mid-year as an unpublished manuscript for anyone interested in our rich history of the Schoharie County area prior to the arrival of the first Europeans.

Finally, we will continue to support Michele Troutman, a Doctoral candidate from SUNY-Binghamton, in her research of the lithics and manufacturing techniques used in producing the many oval thin chert preforms found on the Haviland Site during the field school jointly held by the Museum and SUNY-Cobleskill during the 1990s.

*Submitted by Fred Stevens, March 6, 2020*



*Little Boy is resting up so he's ready for opening day!*

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2019

The Iroquois Indian Museum is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation. Funding comes from individual & business contributions, memberships, grants, foundations, admissions, shop sales, benefits and events, and investment income.

	Jan - Dec 19
<b>Support &amp; Revenue</b>	
Admissions	\$44,000.00
Contributions	\$147,700.00
Festivals	\$13,150.00
Grants	\$29,100.00
Membership	\$21,100.00
Shop	\$44,400.00
Other	\$9,050.00
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT &amp; REVENUE</b>	<b>\$308,500.00</b>
 <b>Operating Expense</b>	
Artist Honorarium & Travel	\$12,000.00
Interest on Mortgages	\$14,865.00
Principal on Mortgages	\$12,950.00
Payroll	\$122,500.00
Utilities/Repairs/Maintenance	\$16,800.00
Shop	\$25,580.00
Insurance	\$13,600.00
Public Relations	\$9,200.00
Contractual Services	\$7,625.00
Other	\$25,925.00
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$261,220.00</b>



We want to share with our members our annual financial statement. Fifty-five percent of our 2019 income came from memberships and contributions, nine percent from competitive state and federal grants, and the remaining from earned income such as admissions, shop sales and special events. As you can see our members are an important source of financial support for the Museum through their contributions, membership fees and other expenditures. In 2019 we began a multi-year funding initiative to support our educational programs. We received a \$30,000 grant from the Nicholas Juried Family Foundation, \$30,000 from the A. Lindsay and Olive B. O'Connor Foundation, and a \$15,000 grant from a private donor.

We receive no annual commitment of support from the county, state or federal government. Our Endowment at the end of 2019 was valued at \$349,800. Should it be necessary to cover expenses we can draw up to 5% in a particular year of its appreciated value. The Board elected to withdraw \$5,000 from the Endowment for staff bonuses in 2019.

Forty seven percent of our expense is for payroll. We have a staff of eight, five of whom work three days a week. Three are seasonal workers. Eleven percent of our expense is the principle and interest for our mortgage. The remaining forty-two percent pays for visiting artists, researching and mounting yearly exhibitions, promotion, insurance, utilities and maintenance, etc.

The trustees are very appreciative of a staff that is dedicated to educating the public and promoting Iroquois creativity. Trustees work with the staff to assist in projects and fund-raising. The yearly exhibitions and public programs are all professionally conceived and presented.

Volunteers are essential to the Museum and allow us to have a productive archeology department and busy education programs for school children. We are currently attempting to increase the number of volunteers to assist the Museum in many areas of our operation. If you are interested in learning more about the Museum's finances, please contact Steph Shultes at [info@iroquoismuseum.org](mailto:info@iroquoismuseum.org).

# WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN A TRADITION OF GIVING

**Make a Gift:** Make a donation to the Annual Appeal or give online through our website.

**Matching Gift Program:** If you work at a company that has a matching gift program, ask your employer for a matching gift form and send it in with your contribution.

**Give Appreciated Securities:** By donating directly to the Museum appreciated stocks or other securities held for at least one year, as a general rule you can avoid the federal capital gains tax that would be incurred if you sold the securities and you can obtain a charitable deduction equal to the fair market value of the securities.

**Include the Museum in Your Will:** Bequests can help transform the future of the Museum and the process is simple. You may specify a portion of your estate or a specific dollar amount for the Museum. We urge you to consult your attorney for appropriate bequest language to carry out your charitable goals. The following sample language may help in the preparation of your will:

*I give and devise to the Iroquois Indian Museum, located in Howes Cave, New York, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (or percentage of your estate) as an unrestricted gift to be applied to the Museum's general uses and purposes (or for the support of a specified fund or purpose).*

**Type of Gift or Bequest:** An unrestricted gift or bequest allows the Museum to determine the best use of your donation at the time the Museum receives it. An earmarked gift or bequest allows you to support the program of your choice. Earmarked donations are welcomed for the following established funds and purposes: Iroquois Indian Museum Endowment Fund; William N. Fenton Research Fund; Staff Support; Public Program Support; and Long Term Debt Reduction (mortgage).

To discuss your proposed gift or bequest, please contact us at: Iroquois Indian Museum, P. O. Box 7, Howes Cave, NY 12092 or at [info@iroquoismuseum.org](mailto:info@iroquoismuseum.org) or call us directly at 518-296-8949. Ask for our Director, Stephanie Shultes

## SUPPORT US THROUGH AmazonSmile.com

**AmazonSmile.com** is a simple and automatic way for you to support us every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to IIM. Just visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select the Museum from the list of charitable organizations. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and every eligible future purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation.

## SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC MUSEUM NOTES

In an effort to reduce our ecological footprint, we are offering members the choice of receiving future Museum Notes in digital rather than print form. **Better yet the digital form features full color photos!**

If you prefer to have Notes e-mailed to you in pdf format, please send us an e-mail at: [info@iroquoismuseum.org](mailto:info@iroquoismuseum.org)

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2020

President - Christina Hanks

Treasurer - Fred Stevens

Secretary - Lisa Anderson

Sue Beatty

Andrea Chrisjohn

Kathy Condon

Perry Ground

Peter Johannsen

Barry Keegan

Andrea Lodovice

Susan McGiver

Don Quigley

Emily Tarbell

### MUSEUM STAFF

Stephanie Shultes - Director

Colette Lemmon - Curator of Exhibitions

Cassandra Miller - Marketing & Community Relations Manager

Kanaka Urbano - Bookkeeper

Mike Tarbell - Educator

Brenda LaForme - Cultural Interpreter

Yvaine Melito - Receptionist

Ralph Castro - Maintenance