Daswöndio:go’

The Ga’da:gësgë:ö’ Onöndowa’ga’ Gawë:nö’ department has moved to a new building, the old ECLC. We are settling in as the rooms are transformed into usable space for both our purposes and for the Native Roots Artists Guild, who will be sharing the building with our program.

Having more space has opened up numerous opportunities to host classes for our community. We are currently offering several: winter moccasins, beaded earrings & language classes in the evenings. We are planning several more classes at various times. If you have any suggestions on classes you would like to see offered, please don’t hesitate to call and let us know. Look for forthcoming information on our grand opening in the next issue of the Gae:wanöhge.’

Please feel free to contact the Onöndowa’ga’ Gawë:nö’ Nadö:diyeö:je’ koh Department if you have any comments or questions at (716) 532-8162. We will be happy to assist you in anyway we can.

Gawë:nö’ lesson: Ji’idë’ö:h - Bird

In Onöndowa’ga’-

1. Dzâ:hgo:wa:h
2. O’owa:’
3. Dzoâšâ’h
4. Gaji’da:s
5. Hö:ga:k
6. Dzonyödah
7. Ga’ga:’
8. Nö’dzáhgwë’
9. Sa’sa’
10. Jisha:ö:n
11. Jitowëdöh
12. Dza’gwï:yö:h
13. Oji’da:geh
14. Dë:di:’
15. Ji:nyöae’
16. Disdis
17. Odëno:d
18. Wadehsö:nih

In Ganyoö:ka’-

1. Pigeon
2. Owl, also moth
3. Heron, Great Blue Heron
4. Hawk, literally it eats birds
5. Goose
6. Eagle
7. Crow
8. Snipe
9. Mockingbird
10. Oriole, Baltimore
11. Hummingbird
12. Cardinal, scarlet tanager
13. Buzzard
14. Blue jay
15. Bluebird
16. Woodpecker
17. It’s singing
18. It’s making a nest
Seneca Language & Culture Class
Monday Nights
6pm - 8pm
Buffalo Native Resource Center
135 Delaware Ave, Suite 300, Buffalo
Instructor: Judd Logan
Dinner included!

Beaded Earrings Class
March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
5pm - 7pm
Stanley “Sully” Huff Heritage Center
Pre-registration required
To register, call: 716-532-8161

Corn Husk Doll & Flower Class
March 13th & 17th
6pm - 8pm
Allegany Community Center, MPR
To sign up, call: Karlene @ 716-945-8119 ext. 3706

Challenges Native women face in prison
March 23rd
Seneca Iroquois National Museum
Lecture by Nicky Thompson
As part of the Spring Lecture Series 2017
For more info, call: 716-945-1760

Cancer & Native Americans
March 30th
Seneca Iroquois National Museum
Lecture by Rodney Haring
As part of the Spring Lecture Series 2017
For more info, call: 716-945-1760

Fish Fry
March 3rd
4pm - sold out
C.I.R.V.F.D.
$10, Includes: Fish, French fries, macaroni salad, cole slaw, roll & dessert
Dine in, take out
Delivery to: Oak tree & Bingo Hall
For orders, call: 716-200-6391

Gadeyësta’ - I am learning, Agwadeyë:sta’ - We are learning, Jagwadeyë:sta’ - Where we are learning
Ahsoh Nödaeyawëhsé:'

Seussical Magician: Cris Johnson
March 4th
10am
SNI Cattaraugus Library Branch
Magic show, Oobleck Transformer, Kid friendly comedy & more!
To sign up, call: 716-532-9449

Dr. Seuss 113th Birthday Party
March 4th
11am - Noon
SNI Allegany Library Branch
Would you, could you, come and play?
For more info, call: 716-945-3157

4 on 4 Women’s Volleyball Tourney
March 11th
9am
Allegany Community Center
Entry fee: $100, cash prize to champs
Registration due March 3rd
For more info, call: Chad @ 716-945-8119 ext. 3713

Kids Movie Days
Saturdays in March
10am - Noon
SNI Cattaraugus Library Branch
11th - Rio, 18th - Rio 2, 25th - Home
Free event
No drop offs please
Popcorn & Drinks
For more info, call: 716-532-9449

Women’s Talking Circle
Fridays
1pm
Catt. Seneca Strong office
11 Thomas Indian School Drive
Build support & learn tools to help with addiction
For transportation, call: 716-532-8456

Men’s Talking Circle
Wednesdays
9am
Catt. Seneca Strong office
11 Thomas Indian School Drive
Share, heal, support in a safe confidential circle
For transportation, call: 716-532-8456
When people learn their language...

For Frazer Sundown, learning the Oneida language and performing traditional powwow music has helped define his identity — and his plans for the future.

A student in the First Nations Studies program at Western, Sundown is a member of the Turtle Clan of the Oneida Nation of the Thames. Learning the Oneida language has helped him develop a better sense of self and has inspired him to complete his teaching degree and teach the language — one that has a mere few dozen surviving speakers today — to the next generation.

“When people learn their language, they have a better sense of identity, and become more confident in the world,” said Sundown. “They experience a closer connection to the world.”

While he learned some of the language growing up, taking language courses has given him a deeper understanding of its implications and its cultural significance. It is a language that thoughtfully reflects on action, he explained.

“The Oneida language is a verb-based language, so when we say something, it has much more meaning,” Sundown said. The language and words used change dependent on how the subject interacts with the environment, making the language more nuanced.

Sundown, who is also an artist, creates traditional powwow music and visual arts, both of which have taken him on performances around the world, helping him define his cultural identity along the way. He has collaborated with other artists to expand and redefine the understanding of Indigenous music. Among the collaborations, Sundown worked with DJ Shub, formerly of a Tribe Called Red and cellist Cris Derksen, who mixes traditional powwow music with orchestral instruments. He was featured on Bryden Gwiss Kiwenzie’s album Round Dance & Beats, which was nominated for a Juno Award for Indigenous Music Album of the Year. He partnered with his father on an album and has released a solo album, Love is a War Dance.

Powwow step and other expansions of the music are a doorway for people to develop a better understanding of their own Indigenous culture, Sundown noted.

“I’m happy the new form of music has come about in the mainstream,” he said. “There are a lot of people who don’t understand the traditional ways because they may not have access to music. As an Indigenous person in the city, they can get drawn away from their roots. Traditional music mixed with mainstream opens doors to find out more about tradition.”

“History has made us put up a shield around our ways and teaching,” Sundown continued. “Our culture has been stripped from and us, and we work to protect that. With the DJs, the shield has been taken down from our identity.”

Sundown is careful to respect the purpose of a song. “There is a line in the music I create — some (music is) ceremonial, and others for social gathering. The ceremonial music doesn’t get put out there for remixing,” said Sundown. “I want to be authentic by not putting out too much, and to keep what is sacred, sacred.”

At the end of the day, however, the music he creates is about bringing people together.

“We live in times where we don’t gather the way we used to. Songs are meant for everybody, people of all traditions and backgrounds,” he said, adding music could help others discover and define their identity, too.

“If that music is heard, it could spark an interest into looking into who they are, and could open their minds to find someone who carries that knowledge,” said Sundown, “We’re in a new era, where there is more interaction with all people. Creativity is good; It creates a sense of belonging.”

On March 6th, in celebration of Canada 150, the Don Wright Faculty of Music will host two workshop presentations on the transition from powwow music to powwow step with Frazer Sundown and dancers and DJ Classic Roots.

Powwow Music: Frazer Sundown, Dancers and DJ Classic Roots is scheduled for March 6. Performances and presentations will be in von Kuster Hall, Music Building – 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Additional presentations and workshops will be in Talbot College, Room 204 – 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Gaga:' time: Why the Owl has big eyes

As told by Kay Olan...

Long ago the Creator called a meeting of all the animals. He said “I have made each of you in a special way so that each of you is special, each of you is unique. Each of you has what you need in order to survive. You are all handsome, you are all beautiful. I am proud of each and every one of you. But I’ve been thinking, that maybe I should give you the opportunity to change one thing about yourselves if you would like. Maybe you have a long neck or would prefer to have a short neck. Perhaps you have spots and would rather have stripes. I’m going to give you the opportunity to tell me if you would like to have one thing changed. But think hard. Think about it. Because if I change you, that’s how you will stay forever.”

Right away Owl started flapping his wings, he said “I know what I want, I know what I want. Pick me first.”

The Creator said “Owl, be patient. Wait for your turn” Creator reached down and picked up rabbit, he stroked rabbit. He said “Rabbit, what would you like? Do you want to stay the way you are? Or would you like something changed?”

Now in those days, Rabbit had four short legs and two short ears. That little Rabbit looked at Creator and said “You know, I don’t have to think about it. Not any longer because I have been thinking about it for a long time already. I can’t believe I have the opportunity to tell you what I’ve been thinking.” Rabbit said “For a long time Fox has been chasing me. He has been trying to catch me to eat me. He is a fast runner and I just have these four short legs. I would like to have four long legs so I could run away from fox. That’s my wish. I have thought about it already.”

Creator said “I can do that for you. I’m glad you already put a lot of thought into it. Don’t worry, this won’t hurt a bit. But while I am making this change, I don’t want anyone to look. I don’t want anyone to see what I’m doing. So all of you other creatures, all of you other animals have to close your eyes and cover your eyes so you can’t see what I am about to do.”

That’s what the animals did. They closed and covered their eyes. Now Owl made a great show of stretching out his wings and moving them in front of his eyes so his eyes were covered but every now and then he would peek between the feathers.

Creator looked at Rabbit. He said “I’m going to have to hold on to something while I stretch your legs.” So he held on to Rabbits little ears and started to pull on Rabbit’s legs. He pulled one leg and then he pulled the second leg. He went back and pulled the first leg again. And then the second one. He kept doing this while those legs got longer and longer and longer. But as he was working on those legs, he noticed that those ears, which were once short, were getting longer. And he thought to himself, Rabbit didn’t ask for long ears, he just asked for long legs. That’s ok, I’ll push those ears back in, when I’m done, after I lengthen all of the legs. All of a sudden Creator got a feeling. He got a feeling on the back of his neck like someone was watching him. He put Rabbit down and he spun around. He said “Owl! How could you! You’re peeking at me!” He grabbed Owl and push Owl’s head down onto his shoulders. Now Owl was so startled, that his eyes grew big with amazement and fear. In fact his eyes got so big that they got stuck that way. Even to this day, Owl’s eyes are big. When Creator pushed his head down into his shoulders, his head got stuck that way too! It looked like Owl had no neck at all.

Creator said “Owl you peeked. I asked you not to look but you peeked anyway. I don’t want to see you again. From now on, you will hide during the day. You will only come out at night to do your hunting.” He let Owl go and he flew into the forest. To this day, Owl hides during the day and hunts at night.

An audio version of this story can be found at: https://youtu.be/v9Hv2UQaZ7c?list=PL0w3DFW5apXrz5OV8ShCatBD7nWHXbDZK

Gadeyësta′ - I am learning, Agwadeyë:sta′ - We are learning, Jagwadeyë:sta′ - Where we are learning
Eight tips on bird watching for kids:
1. Start in your own backyard, create a bird friendly backyard.
2. Strike up a conversation about birds. What kind of birds do you see? Where do you see them? What are they doing?
3. Invest in a field guide. Having a reference will help identify the birds common to your area.
4. Improve the view, a kid-friendly pair of binoculars will help bring the birds closer into view.
6. Explore nearby nature with a guide or a group.
7. Make bird watching fun and safe.
8. Follow your kids' lead.

Eight tips on bird watching for kids:
1. Start in your own backyard, create a bird friendly backyard.
2. Strike up a conversation about birds. What kind of birds do you see? Where do you see them? What are they doing?
3. Invest in a field guide. Having a reference will help identify the birds common to your area.
4. Improve the view, a kid-friendly pair of binoculars will help bring the birds closer into view.
6. Explore nearby nature with a guide or a group.
7. Make bird watching fun and safe.
8. Follow your kids' lead.

Directions:
1. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, thoroughly combine shortening, sugar, applesauce, and vanilla.
2. In a separate medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder, and salt with a wire whisk.
3. Add to shortening mixture, and mix on low until combined.
4. Chill dough in refrigerator for 1 hour or more.
5. Preheat oven to 400°F, and line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Set aside.
6. Roll dough to a 1/4-inch thickness on floured board. Dip cookie cutters in flour, cut out desired shapes, and place on baking sheets.
7. Bake 8 to 10 minutes, or until very light golden. Cool completely on baking sheets.

Submitted by Jillian Jimerson

Ingredients:
¾ cup dairy-free shortening
1 cup granulated sugar
½ cup unsweetened applesauce
1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract
2 ¾ cups unbleached all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt

Utensils:
Stand mixer
Measuring cups & spoons
Mixing bowl
Whisk
Rolling pin
Parchment paper
Baking sheets
Cookie cutter