

# The Enlightenment

November 2016



## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH NOVEMBER

### Opening Ceremony:

Nov. 1st 7pm

Williams MPR

2016

Native Art Museum display

Oct. 31- Nov. 14th

Reed Library

"Remembering is a  
political Act"

Nov. 3rd 2 pm

Williams S204 ABC

"Our art and Our Way of Life"

Nov. 3rd 6 pm

Williams G103B

Storytelling- Perry Ground

Nov. 15th 2-4pm

Williams S204ABC

"Health Issues in the Native  
American Community"

Nov. 17th 2pm

Williams S204ABC

Cranston

Thanksgiving

Nov. 17th

Porcupine Quill

Arts

Nov 28th 6pm

Williams

S204AB

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Sponsored by: Native American Student Union, the Center for Multicultural Affairs, Native American Western Consortium, and Student Association

*Knowledge of the past,  
Wisdom for the Future*

Closing Ceremony

Nov. 29th 7pm

Williams G103B



## **A Word from Native American Student Union**

### **Native American Heritage Month Events**

The Native American Student Union has an array of events planned to help mark Native American Heritage Month (NAHM) at Fredonia. Native American culture will be recognized through performances, demonstrations and discussions with experts in their respective fields. All events are free and open to the public.

NAHM kicks off on Tuesday, November 1st with Opening Ceremony at 7:00 PM in the Williams Center Multipurpose Room. The Native American singing group “Old Bridge Singers,” a Haudenosaunee drum group, will demonstrate traditional drumming and singing. Refreshments will be served.

On Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 2 PM, David George-Shongo, Jr., Acting Director of the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum, will present on the topic, “Remembering is a Political Act” in Williams Center S204ABC. With a background in Anthropology, George-Shongo is committed to preserving and teaching traditional arts and culture of the Haudenosaunee.

Storyteller Perry Ground (Onondaga) invites audiences of all ages to rethink the traditional ideas of Thanksgiving by narrating the history of Thanksgiving through a Native American lens. After this academic recounting, Ground will switch into storytelling mode, sharing the story of Native American Thanksgiving. Ground’s presentation will take place on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM in Williams Center S204ABC.

Dr. Rodney Haring (Seneca) will be speaking on the topic of “Health Issues in Native American Community” on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM in the Williams Center S204ABC. Dr. Haring is part of the research faculty at Roswell Park Cancer Institution with a focus on Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences.

On Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM in Williams Center S204AB, Michael Galban (Washoe/Paiute), curator and content expert at the Ganondagan State Historic Site, will introduce us to porcupine quill arts. Galban will bring many examples of porcupine quill arts for the audience to examine.

The closing ceremony for NAHM will be held on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in Williams Center room G103B. This ceremony will be featuring Megan Red Shirt-Shaw, a University of Pennsylvania graduate and Oglala Lakota Sioux member, who will be speaking about activism and education. She will be emphasizing the ways that a college education can change one’s opportunities and life forever.

**WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!!**

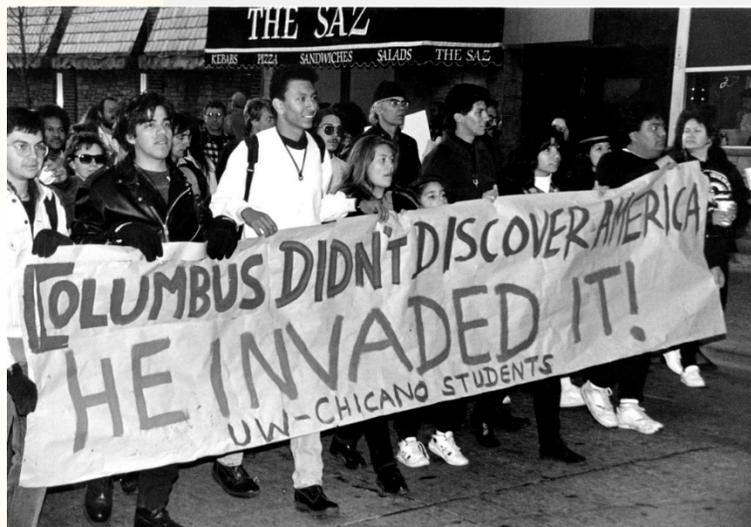
## *Celebrate Indigenous People's Day, Not Christopher Columbus Day*

**Written by: ZOE KIRIAZIS**

In too many cases, Native American culture has been erased from our understanding of U.S History or falsely represented. To this day, we rarely hear anything about Native Americans; the world is trying to silence the people who were here first.

Every year, one day has (indirectly) brought Native American history into the spotlight: Columbus Day. For some it invokes a sense of absolute dread, while others find it an exciting opportunity to celebrate.

Naming the day "Columbus Day" perpetuates the narrative that Christopher Columbus "discovered" the new world. As children, many of us were taught to celebrate the arrival of the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. However, they did not arrive in an empty, unpeopled land. Indigenous people inhabited what we know today as North and Central America, long before men in Europe traveled the Atlantic Ocean.



In fact, Columbus did not touch the land now known as the United States of America at any point during his 1492 voyage. There were people on American soil, Native Americans, before Columbus ever thought of his voyage. Rather than "discover" the United States, Columbus and his crew landed in the West Indies. For the inhabitants, their arrival meant theft, rape, enslavement, and ultimately genocide. For this reason, the SUNY-wide Student Association passed a resolution at their Spring 2016 conference calling on SUNY to replace "Columbus Day" with "Indigenous Peoples Day." Discussions about Fredonia's transition to the more historically correct name are underway.

Still, there is much to be done. The Dakota Access Pipeline is just one of several current events related to Native Americans' tribal or civil rights that has received mass media attention. We forget that the United States was not founded on virgin territory; it came about through violence and bloodshed from its original inhabitants.

Indigenous People's Day has passed, but we need to celebrate them every single day. It's not enough to acknowledge indigenous people for one day, and it certainly isn't appropriate to expect them to share that day with Columbus, their brutal conqueror.

# Taking Back the Night:

## Introduction to an International Event

By: A. Clark

*Take Back the Night*, a protest which first began in the early 1970s, is now a national organization and charitable foundation that focuses on eliminating sexual violence in all its forms. Most often hosted by college campuses, *TBTN* most generally serves to generate awareness of sexual violence, provide support for survivors, and protest the social causes that permit such violence to occur. The event also serves as a criticism of how colleges as institutions of power and authority are ill equipped to effectively respond to reports of sexual violence.

The concept of “taking back the night” relates directly to the unsettling fear many people have of walking alone at night. It is arguable that women and non-binary people “can be scared to participate in [our] own communities because we have been taught to feel unsafe in them” (Andrews). Independence is stripped away from people who have internalized this fear of the night because they must always be wary of the potential for violence - walk down this street, not that one; carry keys between your fingers; don’t wear clothing that is ‘too provocative’ or conspicuous. Though a perpetrator of sexual violence is far more likely to be an acquaintance of an individual than a random stranger on the street, the fear of walking alone is unfortunately still justified. Even if a sidewalk interaction does not escalate into physical violence, a catcall or sexualized comment is still a nonconsensual act that disenfranchises and dehumanizes the target.

Part of living in a rape culture means the onus of prevention is given to those who are the targets of the sexual objectification and violence. People are taught how not to get raped rather than to not rape. Instead of teaching about the importance of consent in relationships, people are told how necessary it is to carry pepper spray and take self-defense classes. If an incident were to occur, part of the blame is put on the victim rather than exclusively on the perpetrator: the victim is told that they have failed to do all that they could to prevent the act of violence. To place the burden of both prevention and blame on those who have or might experience sexual assault is a core precept of rape culture. *Take Back the Night*, through both the charitable foundation and each singular event, seeks to dismantle such a culture in which victims are taught that they are responsible if raped, particularly if they engaged in ‘improper’ behavior like walking alone at night. Creating a space for people to tell their personal stories fosters both community awareness and individual healing. *Take Back the Night* events on the Fredonia campus invite survivors of sexual assault, domestic abuse, or other forms of interpersonal violence to share their stories with others in a safe and supportive environment. The goal in sharing such difficult stories is to reach emotional catharsis, serving as an uplifting experience for both the speaker and those attending in support. After the stories are shared, the event ends with a culminating experience, such as a march around campus, chanting protests into the dark, or with a silent candlelit vigil and a circle of held hands to commemorate those who did not survive. A lively protest could be a liberating experience after having heard or told such emotionally taxing stories, whereas the silent vigil is more of a reflective moment, uncovering the seriousness of an epidemic of violence.

This year’s *TBTN* organizers have elected to conclude with a silent vigil. **Please join us on November 2<sup>nd</sup> from at 7 PM in McEwen 202 to share a story or show support for others.** Counseling center staff will also be in attendance. The event is co-sponsored by the Fredonia Feminists and S.T.E.P.S.

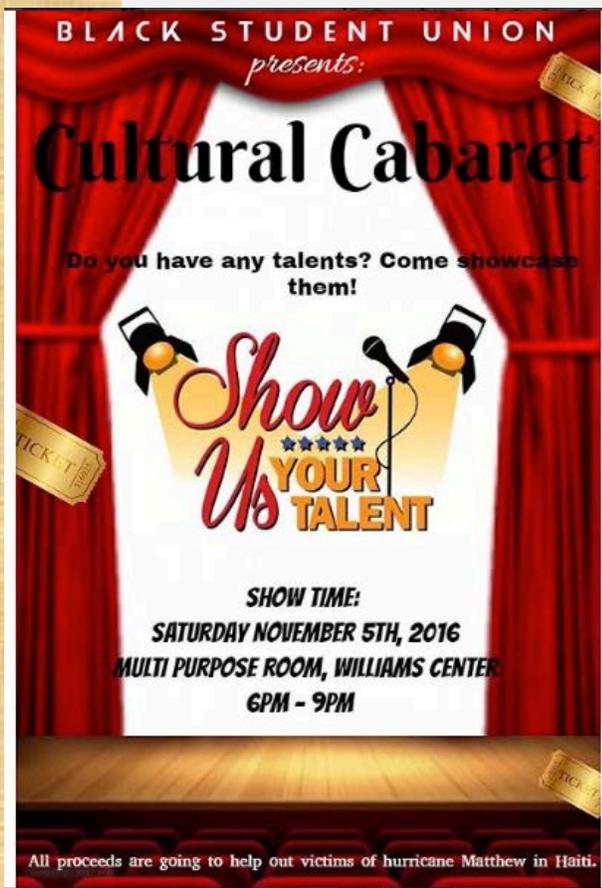
“About – Take Back the Night.” *Take Back the Night*. Take Back the Night, Web.

Andrews, Eve. “Why Women Shouldn’t Be Afraid of Walkin’ after Midnight.” *Grist*. Web.

Wisdom, Phylisa. “I’m Sick Of Being Afraid To Walk Alone At Night.” *Role Reboot*. 18 Aug. 2014. Web.



# Upcoming Events



THE CENTER OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS  
PRESENTS

## Culturefest

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016  
WILLIAMS CENTER MPR  
7:30 PM- 9:30 PM

Tickets are not required to attend the event **unless** you would like a garbage plate. Tickets for meals are available at the ticket office free of charge.



## Culturefest

Join the CMA along with several other student groups on Monday, November 14th for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Culturefest: A Culture Expo! There will be tons of activities, performers, prizes and food.

Check it out if you can!

This event is **FREE** however a ticket is required.

# *In Case You Missed It!!*

*See what we've been up to!*



## **Clockwise:**

Oliver Clozoff rockin the stage at the Fall 2016 drag show!

Fredonia Feminist's eboard celebrating a successful Women, Rock, and Soul!

Sukkot Dinner sponsored by Hillel!



Latinos Unidos' own Activities Director, Kanard Lewis and Language Chair Destiny Martinez coordinated an evening of poetry and scenes written by Latino writers. We would like to congratulate these two for planning an absolutely spectacular event and all who were involved!

## *General Body Meetings: We Hope to see You There*

NASU – Thursday 8 PM Williams Ctr G103C  
WSU - Wednesday 8 PM Williams Ctr S204ABC  
BSU - Thursday 7 PM Williams Ctr S204ABC  
LU - Wednesday 8 PM Williams Ctr G103B  
Pride - Tuesday 9 PM Williams Ctr S204ABC  
Hillel -Wednesday (bi-weekly) 7 PM Williams Ctr G103C  
(next meeting will be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup>)



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*Multicultural Affairs Program Assistant: Khristian King*

*Secretary: Kim Miller*

*GA: Lee Coletti*

*Contact us for more information or stop by any day between 9 AM – 5 PM!*