

WABC-TV

congratulates

Honorees

LaDonna Harris

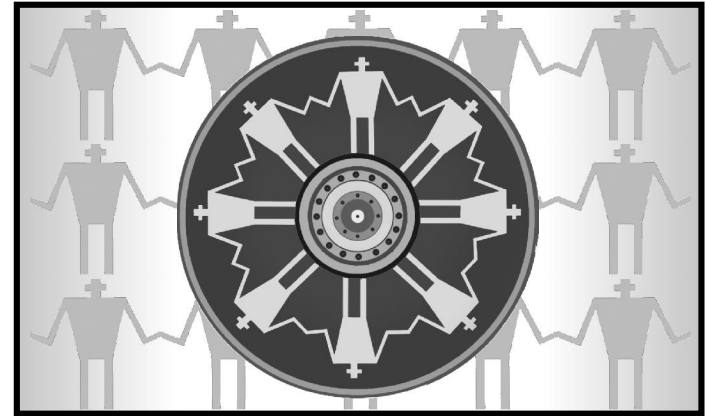
&

Jane Schachat

for their contributions to
humanitarian and environmental
causes at the Tenth Annual
Drums Along the Hudson



Lotus Music & Dance presents the Tenth Annual
DRUMS ALONG THE HUDSON[®]
A Native American Festival



Based on a design by Toby Allan Schust

Sunday, May 20th, 2012 - 11 am to 6 pm - Inwood Hill Park
218th Street & Indian Rd. New York City, at the north tip of Manhattan

Honoring:

LaDonna Harris President of Americans for Indian Opportunity
and Jane Schachat Former N. Manhattan Parks Dept. Administrator

Featuring: The Thunderbird American Indian Dancers

Tom Porter - Mohawk Elder

The Mohawk Singers and Dancers

with Special Guests: The New York Chinese Cultural Center

Jacques d'Amboise's National Dance Institute

Kasibahagua Taino Cultural Society

Harambee Dance Company

Kahurangi Maori Dance Company

Tetiana Anderson, Producer & Reporter

Hosted by Sandra Bookman

Weekend Anchor Eyewitness News WABC-TV



City of New York
Parks & Recreation



A FREE EVENT

Please visit one of our Wishing Wells
in the park to make a donation in
support of Drums Along the Hudson
and Lotus Music & Dance,
or go online to

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As the producer of DRUMS ALONG THE HUDSON,
LOTUS MUSIC & DANCE gratefully acknowledges the support of...

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The tireless Lotus Music & Dance Staff
 ...and to all the wonderful people who support Lotus all year round and the volunteers
 who devoted their time and effort to make this day a success.

Ten years ago in September of 2002, with a generous grant from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Lotus Music & Dance established **Drums Along the Hudson: A Native American Festival**. It began with a traditional Pow Wow to celebrate Native American heritage and culture and to commemorate the Lenape people who first inhabited Inwood Hill Park, or Shorakapak ("edge of the water"). This event takes place annually and each year we added something new and different-- including a Shad tasting, a White Pine tree planting (the Iroquois symbol of peace), international dancers and drummers, a Native American Education Initiative--to make the event more exciting and enjoyable. The first *Drums* had 400 attendees, but recent festivals have had upwards of 8,000 attendees.

Our Environmental Tent has become a *Drums* tradition where attendees can learn more about practical ways to implement green living. Participating organizations have included the Audubon Society, Clean Air NY, Lower East Side Ecology Center, Hudsonia, the Council on the Environment of NYC and the Captain Planet Foundation. **Attendees who ride their bikes to the park this year can have a free bicycle valet park their bikes for them.**

Kamala Cesar, Artistic Director
Carl Nelson, Producer

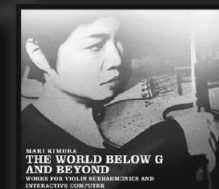
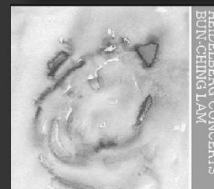
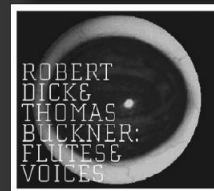
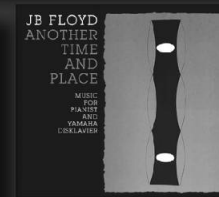
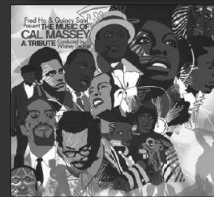


Lotus Music & Dance is grateful for the support from:



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www.drumsalongthehudson.org • dah@lotusmusicanddance.org
telephone 212-627-1076x18

Lotus Music & Dance, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in 1989 by master Bharata Natyam dancer Kamala Cesar. It is a performance space, sanctuary, and center of education for traditional and indigenous performing arts forms. The mission is to keep alive and accessible the music and dance traditions of all world cultures. Lotus Music & Dance remains the only institution of its kind in New York City where master artists from India, Korea, Burma, the South Pacific, Middle East, China, the Mohawk Nation, West Africa, and Spain collectively call home.

Aside from our varied schedule of unique, multicultural performances, we offer instruction in traditional ethnic forms of dance and music as well as Arts-In-Education programs to schools throughout the tri-state area. Lotus Music & Dance also presents Manhattan's only open air Pow-Wow, the annual Drums Along the Hudson®: A Native American Festival, now in its tenth year.



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website: <http://www.lotusmusicanddance.org>
email: info@lotusmusicanddance.org
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Drums Along the Hudson®
Inwood Hill Park - 2012

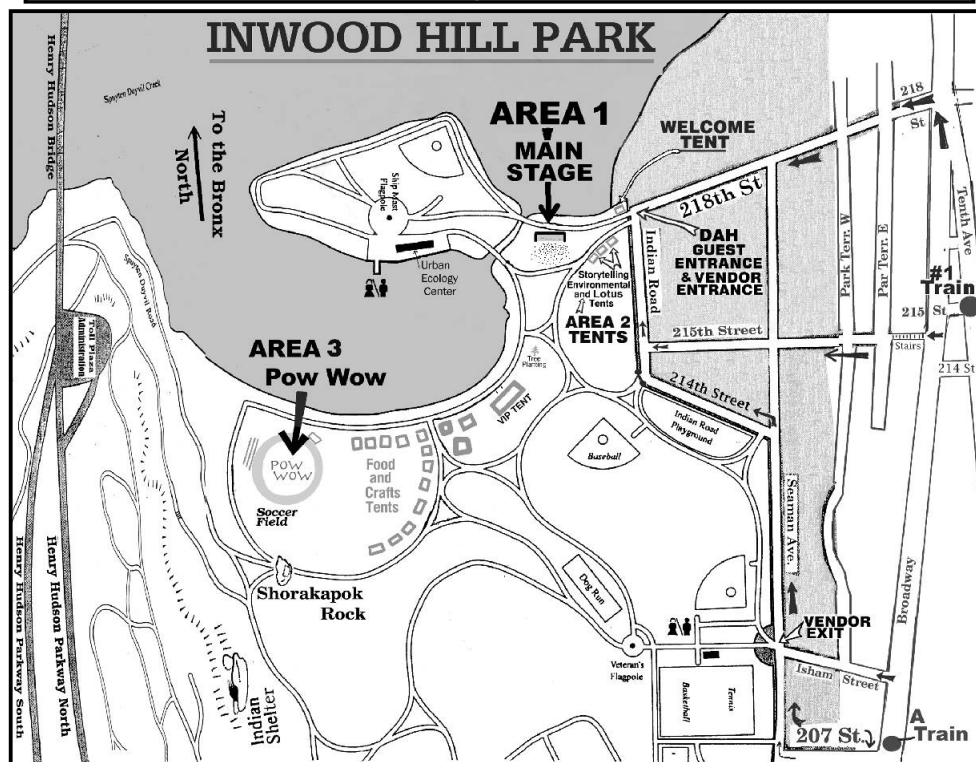


In Inwood Hill Park, we find the only remaining old-growth forest and natural salt marsh in Manhattan. As long as 3,000 years ago, it served as a bountiful place for hunting and gathering. Here, Drums Along the Hudson connects the past and the present - the ancient traditions of New York's first inhabitants and the richness of contemporary Native American culture. Inwood Hill Park, called Shorakapok ("the edge of the river") by the Lenape people, is reputedly where Peter Minuit "purchased" Manhattan in 1626. A giant tulip tree marked the legendary spot of this transaction until 1938. In 1954, the Peter Minuit Post of the American Legion rededicated the site with a plaque at Shorakapok Rock. The history of this location makes it ideally suited for this festival and pow wow.

The POW WOW

To some Native peoples of northeastern North America, a 'powwow' was originally a man with special abilities to cure or offer advice from the spirit world. Pow wows, as individuals, were revered for their knowledge; the Narragansett word for "a wise speaker" is 'taupowaw'. Powwow's were needed to help to drive away sickness, ensure success in battle, interpret dreams, or to help individuals or tribes in other ways. Prayers, singing, dancing and drumming were all used by pow wows in those ceremonies; and wherever Native American people gathered there was feasting, socializing and trading. So, the gatherings themselves came to be called Powwows.

ALL people are welcome at Powwows! The spiritual center of a Powwow is THE CIRCLE; a place to be respected and honored, it is a sacred place that is blessed by a spiritual leader. The singing is a gift and praise to the Creator; and the drum is the heartbeat of our People. The singers and drummers together are called THE DRUM. Ceremonies start with a "Grand Entry" of the dancers to pay respects to our Creator and to greet one another. Honoring songs, and dances for veterans and ancestors follow.



Drums Along the Hudson – Program – May 20th, 2012

Program is subject to change.

11:00 A.M. _____ Area 1 – Main Stage

Opening Ceremony

WABC-TV Weekend Anchor, Sandra Bookman

Welcomes Everyone to the 10th Annual Drums Along the Hudson
Opening Blessings, Tom Porter, Elder & Mohawk Spiritual Leader
and the Mohawk Singers & Dancers
All Native People in Regalia on Stage

11:15 A.M. _____ Area 1 – Main Stage

Kasibahagua Taino Cultural Society
Indigenous Caribbean Drummers & Dancers

11:15 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. _____ Area 2 – Environmental Tent

Exhibition of Environmental Art supplied by Casa Frela Gallery,
Mushana, Shumei America, Green Mountain Energy, GrowNYC,
Book Artist - Gunnar A. Kaldewey – All Day Long

11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. _____ Area 2 – Storytelling Tent

Storytelling by Nitchen Children's Museum of Native America
All Day Long

11:00- 11:15 A.M. _____ Area 2 – Storytelling Tent

Appearance by: Captain Planet

Meet and take pictures with Captain Planet (*at 15 min after every hour*)

11:45 A.M. _____ Area 1 – Main Stage

Jacques d'Amboise's National Dance Institute

12:10 P.M. _____ Area 1 – Main Stage

Sandra Bookman Introduces Elected Officials and Honorees

LaDonna Harris - President of the Americans for Indian Opportunity
Jane Schachat - Former Administrator for the NYC Parks Department
in Northern Manhattan

12:30 P.M. _____ Tree Planting Location

Planting of the White Pine Tree ❖ Iroquois Symbol of Peace
Dedicated to the Memory of Brad Bonaparte, member of the
Mohawk Singers & Dancers and David Greene, Cayuga sculptor

Tom Porter leads procession from main stage to the
Tree Planting location along with The Mohawk Singers & Dancers

Tom Porter, Mohawk Elder and Spiritual Leader

Adrian Benepe, NYC Commissioner of Parks & Recreation

Kamala Cesar, Artistic Director/Founder of Lotus Music & Dance

LaDonna Harris - Drums 2012 Honoree

Jane Schachat - Drums 2012 Honoree

Jennifer Hoppa - Director, North Manhattan Parks & Recreation

Sandra Bookman – Weekend Anchor, WABC-TV

Carl Nelson – Producer, Drums Along the Hudson

Visit www.lotusmusicanddance.org/drums to view highlights from this year's festival and to enter your name into a drawing for fantastic prizes.

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Photo: Hassan Hajji

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Malabika Biswas,
Chairperson & Secretary,
Lotus Music & Dance
Board of Directors

Congratulates the 2012
Drums Along the Hudson
Honorees
LaDonna Harris
&
Jane Schachat

Congratulations to the honorees
& performers in this year's Drums Fest!

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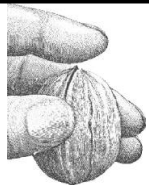
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9:30A-3:30P

Just across the street from the Inwood Hill Park entrance to "Drums Along the Hudson"

**Congratulations from Dan Kobin
to the honorees, performers,
speakers and volunteers
of Drums Along the Hudson.**

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548

EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

548 West 22nd Street, New York, NY 10011
www.center548.com

*The Planting of the White Pine Tree of Peace is followed
by a processional to the Pow-Wow field*

1:00 P.M. _____ Area 3 –Pow Wow Field

Grand Entrance of Native People in Regalia into Pow Wow Field

Presentation of Blanket to Honorees LaDonna Harris & Jane Schachat

Honor Dance

**Singing, Dancing and Drumming with the Thunderbird American
Indian Dancers, Heyna Second Son, and Silver Cloud**

All Native People in Regalia

The Pow Wow will continue throughout the afternoon

VISIT the Food, Arts & Crafts vendors
along with The Environmental and Storytelling Tents

1:30 / 2:30 / 3:30 P.M. **Storytelling and Crafts** Area 2 – Storytelling Tent
Every 15 min. after the hour... Meet and take pictures with Captain Planet

3:00 P.M. _____ Area 1 – Main Stage

Welcome back to the Main Stage by Tetiana Anderson

3:15 P.M. _____ Area 1 – Main Stage

Val-Inc - Afro-Electronica Music

4:15 P.M. _____ Area 1 – Main Stage

Harambee Dance Company - African Drummers & Dancers

4:45 P.M. _____ Area 1 – Main Stage

New York Chinese Cultural Center Dancers

5:15 P.M. _____ Area 1 – Main Stage

Kahurangi Maori Dance Company

5:15 to 5:30 pm: _____ Area 2 — Storytelling Tent

Last Appearance By Captain Planet [Meet and Take Pictures]

5:45 P.M. _____ Area 1 – Main Stage

Closing Remarks

by **Tom Porter**, Mohawk Elder and Spiritual Leader
and **Mohawk Singers and Dancers**

5:55 P.M. _____ Area 1 – Main Stage

**Drummers, Dancers and Everyone
are invited for the
Unity Stomp & Closing Ceremony**



Please consider making a contribution to support
Drums Along the Hudson and Lotus Music & Dance at the
Wishing Well or **online** or **Buy a Raffle Ticket** at the Lotus Tent



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

May 20, 2012

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to Inwood Hill Park for the 10th Annual "Drums Along the Hudson: A Native American Festival," hosted by Lotus Music & Dance.

New York City's diversity is our greatest strength and we're glad to recognize the traditions and customs of all our residents who trace their histories back to thousands of points around the globe. Native American and countless cultural communities have been instrumental to the development of New York City, and for the past 10 years, Drums Along the Hudson has provided all New Yorkers with the chance to sing, dance, and honor our diversity and Native American culture. Today's event will draw more than 5,000 attendees from across the five boroughs and beyond to celebrate traditional performing arts in one of our City's most distinctive neighborhoods, and we're pleased to commend the leaders of Lotus Music & Dance for organizing this truly one-of-a-kind event.

On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations to today's honorees: LaDonna Harris and Jane Schachat. Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable pow wow and continued success.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor



City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation

NYC Parks and all of its Parkies extend our warmest congratulations to Jane Schachat, this year's honoree. Her passion for improving the ecology, horticulture, beauty and stewardship of Northern Manhattan Parks over the course of her tenure as the Administrator was an incredible gift to Uptown's Parks and future generations of park users.

– Commissioner of Parks and Recreation
Adrian Benepe



This year's Tree of Peace planting will be dedicated to the memories of

Brad Bonaparte,
Mohawk singer, dancer, artist and storyteller
David Greene,
Cayuga sculptor



Brad Bonaparte, from the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation located on the Quebec-New York border, was an accomplished artist. He worked in a variety of mediums, from traditional Iroquois crafts to painting and drawing. Brad was also a teacher, primarily of visual art and Native Studies. His many years with the Akwesasne Mohawk Singers & Dancers took him on tour throughout North America and Europe, gracing stages from Woodstock II to Carnegie Hall, with repeat performances at the Smithsonian

Folklife Festival. Throughout his career he developed his talents in the creative art of storytelling. Each of Brad's stories was an entertaining and educational look at Native American life and culture. He will long be remembered for his vibrant performances at Lotus Music & Dance including *Mohawk Heartsong: Journey Through the Longhouse*, *Eagle Spirit: A Tribute to the Mohawk Ironworkers*, *Message of Peace*, and *Drums Along the Hudson*.



Eagle Spirit
Sculpture
by
David
Greene



David Greene was a Cayuga soapstone sculptor. His work is represented in the Iroquois Indian Museum, Howes Cave NY, and many private collections. All of David's work reflects his tribal traditions, but speaks of their application in the present. He started working with stone when he was twelve years old, working primarily with stones such as soapstone, steatite, African wonderstone and alabaster. Some of the recognition he received included: Hunter Mountain Eagle Festival First Place in Stone Sculpture (1996) and Otsiningo Pow-wow (1996) - Best in Show.



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Biographies



Tetiana Andron has over ten years of reporting experience. She is dedicated to bringing quality news and features to viewers, readers and listeners in the United States and abroad. Her work has appeared on television and radio networks including: The Weather Channel, NBC, MSNBC, CNN, Voice of America, Vatican Radio and Al Arabiya. After attending Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, a fellowship took her to the Middle East and eventually she stayed in Egypt as a journalist. She taught journalism to undergraduate students at the American University in Cairo and transitioned her career from print to radio and then to television. Her travels have taken her to Cairo, Beirut, Khartoum, Jerusalem, Iraq and beyond. She joined The Weather Channel as the network's Northeast Reporter, covering weather and its impact on individuals, communities, the environment, and industry. Her segments were aired not only on The Weather Channel but NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, The Today Show and other affiliate stations across the country. She currently works at NY1 and CBS Newspath as a reporter, as well as a producer at CNN.

Sandra Bookman joined Eyewitness News in 1998 as a reporter and shortly after was named as a weekend anchor of Eyewitness News. Previously, she worked at WSB-TV in Atlanta, another dominant ABC affiliate, where she worked for nine years and served as the weekend anchor. Prior to WSB-TV in Atlanta, she worked as a weekend anchor at both WRAL-TV in Raleigh, North Carolina and KFDM-TV in Beaumont, Texas. Sandra served as an Olympic Reporter for seven years. She was the only local TV reporter to cover the games before Atlanta won the bid, until the Olympic bombing in 1996. Sandra covered the '92 games in Barcelona, Spain as well. She has also reported internationally, including a series of reports from South Africa following the release of Nelson Mandela from a South African prison in 1990. Sandra has been honored with three local Emmys including statues for her Olympic coverage and reporting in the aftermath of the fatal Valuejet Airlines crash in the Everglades. Sandra has been the host of Drums Along the Hudson since the beginning.

Kamala Cesar is the Founder and Artistic Director of Lotus Music & Dance, a center for multicultural, traditional performing arts. She is one of the few specialists of T. Balasaraswati's style of Bharata Natyam dance in this country and has been teaching since 1978. She has performed in Europe, India, the Philippines and the U.S. Ms. Cesar is Filipino and Mohawk Indian and resides in New York City where she guides Lotus Music & Dance's efforts to promote multicultural programs through classes at Lotus, Lotus-sponsored performances and events (such as Drums Along the Hudson). In 2002, Kamala was honored as Thunderbird American Indian of the Year. In addition to her tireless activities in promoting and organizing Native American dance and cultural events, she has participated in the Mohawk Language Immersion Program at Kanatsiohareke in Fonda, NY from 1999 to 2005.

The Harambee Dance Company was founded by Sandella and Frank Malloy in 1992. Harambee is an innovative dance company that explores the roots of African and African - American dance and music from a contemporary perspective. The company's repertoire reflects a strong vision that celebrates and also expands traditional uses and vocabulary of African Dance consistent with this vision. High energy choreography weaves African-based movement, modern dance forms, live percussion, and vibrant costumes into captivating performances.



Harambee Dance Company At Drums in 2008

Harambee, meaning "let us pull together" in Swahili, offers audiences enlightening and thought provoking experiences designed to strengthen social connections and social responsibility. They present a new style of African Dance that incorporates contemporary themes and ideas. Comprised of more than twenty skilled dancers and musicians, Harambee performances are a captivating experience for audiences. Harambee has performed at a wide range of venues, both nationally and internationally including Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Lincoln Center, The Kennedy Center, Jamaica Center For Arts and Learning, Hudson River Festival, Yonkers River Festival, Harlem Week, Family Arts Festival, Snapple Diversity, First Night of New York, Bryant Park Celebration of Cultural Diversity, Harambee Movement Festival, Panafest 2003 in Ghana, West Africa and in May 2005, Harambee also performed with the Ju Percussion Group in Taiwan. (www.harambeedancecompany.com)

Congratulations to all of this year's
Drums Along the Hudson honorees,
performers, presenters, and participants.

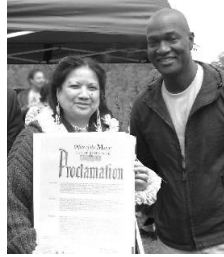
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DRUMS ALONG THE HUDSON NYC PROCLAMATION

In 2009, The Mayors Office of NYC issued a
Proclamation declaring Drums Along the Hudson
to be an Official NYC Event!

Kamala Cesar, Artistic Director of Lotus Music and Dance,
holds the Proclamation. Also in the photo is
Carl Nelson, Drums Along the Hudson Producer



IROQUOIS LEGEND & SYMBOLS



The
Tree
of
Peace

The story of the Peacemaker and the Tree of Peace as we know it today originated in a time of terrible conflict. The Peacemaker was born a Huron, His mission was to restore love, peace and harmony back to the people. To do this, he proposed a set of laws which the people and Nations could live in peace and unity. It was a system of self-rule and was guided by moral principles called the Great Law of Peace. When he had gathered others from the Five Nations who would help him do this, he and they set out amongst the peoples and like the roots that spread out from the tree - Peace spread amongst the Five Nations. The Peacemaker then took an arrow from each one of the Five Nations and bound them together. By each Nation contributing an arrow, it symbolized the combining of individual powers into one great power. The union now could be complete, a union which no one can bend or break. The Peacemaker then said:

"We have now completed our power so that we the Five Nations Confederacy shall in the future have one body, one mind, and one heart. If any evil should befall us in the future, we shall stand or fall united as one man."



The Five Arrows bound
together on the reverse
of the US \$1 coin

The Five
Nations United



Scene from the Pow-Wow, Drums Along the Hudson - 2010

Biographies continued

Tom Porter (Sakokweni6nkwas or "the one who wins"), is a member of the Bear Clan of the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne, an Iroquois territory located on the St. Lawrence River. Porter was acting Bear Clan Chief in the traditional longhouse movement, opposite the state-sanctioned Tribal Council and has served numerous positions on the Mohawk Nation of Chiefs Council for over 25 years.



Tom Porter is one of the last generation of his people to be raised as a Mohawk speaker from birth. Like his ancestors, who listened to traditional stories during the long winter months by the fire, Tom was weaned on the teachings of his great-grandparents' and his grandparents' generation. This unique background paved the way for him to become a champion for the revitalization of First Nations languages and traditions. Now a respected elder, he has devoted his life to educating both Native and non-Native people about the true history, culture and spirituality of the Iroquois or, as they prefer to call themselves, the Haudenosaunee.

Mr. Porter has been a nationally recognized figure in Indian Country since the 1960s when he co-founded the **White Roots of Peace**, a group of Iroquois Elders who toured the country sharing traditional teachings and encouraging Indians to embrace their respective Native traditions. Recognizing that Mohawk language and culture were dying out, he also co-founded the **Akwesasne Freedom School** for grades K-8, with a curriculum entirely in Mohawk.

Since 1993, Tom has been the founder, director and spiritual leader of the traditional Mohawk Community of **Kanatsiohar6ke**, located in the homeland of his ancestors, near Albany, New York. In 2008, Tom Porter published the book *And Grandma Said... Iroquois Teachings*, in which we get to see in print a lifetime of teachings and memories, in words direct from the heart of, in Doug George's words, "a person who has devoted his life to preserving the heritage of his Nation." (www.mohawkcommunity.org)



Jane Schachat is a former Administrator of North Manhattan for the City of New York Department of Parks and Recreation. Her 26-year career with the Parks Department began with positions in Queens and Lower Manhattan. Driven by a desire to learn about and protect the city's natural areas, she found her way to North Manhattan, where the parks had suffered more than a decade of neglect, including damage done by dumping, unchecked proliferation of invasive species, severe erosion, and the general decline of the city's neighborhoods

In her work as the Manager and later as Parks Administrator of North Manhattan (she was the first to hold this title), Schachat redefined the parks in her district and the relationships of local communities to the many diverse landscapes and amenities of these parks. She secured millions of dollars in public and private funding for renovating park infrastructures and reimagining existing facilities and public programs. At a time when it was unsafe to venture deep into many parks, she helped redefine these parks as true neighborhood spaces. While her tenure saw upgrades in the facilities of the parks she served, Schachat worked to build and better the communities of Northern Manhattan through interaction with the parks. She supported and strengthened existing Friends Groups in some parks while she helped establish new groups in others. Schachat came to know these the parks' communities through events spearheading fundraising drives, supporting efforts to improve playgrounds and green spaces, and leading community coalitions to restore once great parks. She was instrumental to the establishment of ongoing programs like A Toast to Tryon, the Medieval Festival, and Drums Along the Hudson. Her role has been as an advocate, a leader, and a friend to those who live and play in Northern Manhattan's gardens, waterfronts, pools, playing fields, and natural areas.

The Thunderbird American Indian Dancers were established in 1963, making them the longest running resident New York City Native American Dance Company. Their performances feature a diversity of dance forms that reflect the group's multicultural tribal membership. Their mission is to preserve and perpetuate American Indian cultures and promote a more realistic understanding of Native American cultures through their performances and other activities. The Thunderbird American Indian Dancers have performed around the world. All of the money raised by the Thunderbird Dancers goes to a scholarship fund for Native American youth. To date, they have assisted over 200 Indian youth with their educational expenses. The Thunderbird American Indian Dancers conduct pow wows across the country during the summer season, a monthly pow wow at the McBurney YMCA during the winter, and perform an annual benefit at New York's Theater for the New City. (www.ctmd.org/touringartists/thunderbird.htm)



Congratulations,
LaDonna!

With Love,
Liz Sackler

*Congratulations to Kamala and Lotus Music & Dance
on your Tenth Year of Drums Along the Hudson
and best wishes to Honorees
LaDonna Harris & Jane Schachat*



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LaDonna Harris, President of Americans for Indian Opportunity, is a remarkable statesman and national leader who has enriched the lives of thousands. She has devoted her life to building coalitions that create change. She has been a consistent and ardent advocate on behalf of Tribal America. In addition, she continues her activism in the areas of civil rights, environmental protection, the women's movement, and world peace. Harris began her public service as the wife of U.S. Senator, Fred Harris.



She was instrumental in the return of the Taos Blue Lake to the people of Taos Pueblo and to the Menominee Tribe in regaining their federal recognition. In the 1960's, she founded Oklahomans for Indian Opportunity to find ways to reverse the stifling socio-economic conditions that impact Indian communities. From the 1970's to the present, she has presided over Americans for Indian Opportunity which catalyzes and facilitates culturally appropriate initiatives that enrich the lives of Indigenous peoples. Harris also helped to found some of today's leading national Indian organizations including the National Indian Housing Council, Council of Energy Resource Tribes, National Tribal Environmental Council, and National Indian Business Association. In 1994, Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown appointed her to the Advisory Council on the National Information Infrastructure. In addition, she was appointed to the following Presidential Commissions: National Council on Indian Opportunity (Johnson); White House Fellows Commission (Nixon); U.S. Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year (Ford); Commission on Mental Health (Carter); and she represented the United States on the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) (Carter). She was a founding member of Common Cause and the National Urban Coalition and is an ardent spokesperson against poverty and social injustice. As an advocate for women's rights, she was a founder of the National Women's Political Caucus. In 1980, as the Vice Presidential nominee on the Citizens Party ticket with Barry Commoner, Harris firmly added environmental issues to national debate and future presidential campaigns. (www.aio.org)

Val Jeanty performs Afro-Electronica-Ambient-Rhythms and Chants. She will take your soul on a Afro-Experimental Journey, Val-Inc music is for the Psyche and Soul. Her work embodies live samples, digitally processed Afro-rhythms, and ambient ethnic chants, creating her own level in the genre of Electronica Music. Her agenda as a Cutting Edge Artist and Inspiring Influences come from her Ancestors. Her music is a median where the Old (her Ancestors) and the new (technology) are joined as one. Combining and Incorporating the Musical Traditions of her Ancestors' Past into the Future. (www.val-inc.com)

Kahurangi Maori Dance Theater of New Zealand is the only full-time professional caliber Maori dance company to maintain a consistent presence in North America for the past fifteen years. Kahurangi was formed in 1983 to provide cultural, recreational, educational and employment opportunities for graduates of Takitimu Performing Arts School, based in Hastings, New Zealand. It established itself as a pioneer in the field of Maori Performing Arts. Since 1985, they have presented over 2000 performances in New Zealand, Australia, China, Singapore, Mexico, India and Malaysia, the United States and Canada. They appear at festivals, conferences, public and private schools, presenting unique cultural performances, demonstrations, lectures and workshops relating to Maori and Polynesian cultures and ways of life. They bring the ihi or life force of the Maori through their songs and dances that are a part of the history and fabric of Maori life. They bridge the past and the present with genealogical chants, martial arts, songs and pride in being Maori. (www.kahurangi.com)

Kasibahagua Taino Cultural Society. Established in 1993, is an inter-Tribal, inter-generational community-based organization of indigenous Caribbean singers, musicians, speakers, and artists dedicated to transmitting their ancestral indigenous heritage to their present and future generations with dignity and honor. Members of Kasibahagua have presented various aspects of Taino culture at such notable institutions as the American Museum of Natural History, the United Nations, the Institute for American Indian Studies, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian Heye Center, NY Botanical Gardens, NY Open Center, and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center as well as numerous festivals and Native American Pow Wows, schools, and universities locally nationally, and internationally. (www.tainoculture.blogspot.com)

Louis Mofsie is a Native American from the Hopi and Winnebago tribes. His father is from Second Mesa, Arizona and his mother is from Winnebago, Nebraska. He is a retired art teacher

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Saturday, June 9th, 2012 - 4pm

Featuring students of Lotus instructors: Sol "La Argentinita" (Flamenco) Kamala Cesar (Bharata Natyam), SN Charka (Kathak), Elissaveta Iordanova (Bulgarian Dance)

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with Kamala Cesar, in the style of T. Balasaraswati and Sonali Skanden, Kalakshetra style

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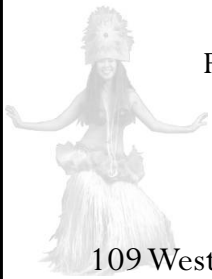
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Biographies continued

and taught for 35 years at the Meadowbrook Elementary School located in East Meadow, New York. Louis is a founding member of the American Indian Community House and served as the chairman of the board for over 15 years. Louis is currently the Director of the **Thunderbird American Indian Dancers**, the Dance Company he helped originate in 1963.

The **Mohawk Singers and Dancers** are among the foremost performers of Iroquois dance and song in North America today. They live on ancestral Akwesasne land along the St. Lawrence River, where northern New York meets southern Ontario and Quebec. Their performances of Iroquois dance and song are augmented by engaging storytelling of the history and culture of the Iroquois peoples. The Mohawks have presented their program at Carnegie Hall, the Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife, the National Museum of American Indian and the Canadian Museum of Civilization, as well as at many cultural organizations and schools throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. The group performing today consists of Hennes Porter, Sherri Porter, Ron La France, Katsitsionni Fox and Bear Fox.

Carl Nelson is pleased to have produced *Drums Along the Hudson* for the tenth year. Carl's expertise for creating synergies that reflect humanity and the arts is well-known in society and entertainment circles the world over. From intimate book-signings to full-scale performances, he is known for producing quality events that have heart. He has produced events nationally for the Southern Christian Leadership Council, The Congressional Black Caucus, The Dance Theater of Harlem, The Hair Fashion Group Against Domestic Violence, and for Lotus Music & Dance. He produced his first Off Broadway play, "Miracle Rwanda," which toured all over the world. Carl producing a new play, "Incognito" which was presented at the NBTF in Winston-Salem, NC in August of 2011. He currently has a number of projects that you will hear about in the future. (www.carlnelsonandassociates.net)

National Dance Institute (NDI) was founded in 1976 by Jacques d'Amboise in the belief that the arts have a unique power to engage children and motivate them toward excellence. Each year, NDI transforms the lives of over 40,000 New York City public school children and their communities through weekly classes, short-term residencies, and public performances. Under the artistic direction of Ellen Weinstein and a staff of professional teaching artists, programs are offered to all children, transcending barriers of language, culture, physical and cognitive challenges. Children learn to work together and develop personal standards of excellence, a pride of achievement, and a curiosity about the world that supports their success in school and in life. No child pays a penny for NDI's core programs.

Children who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment throughout their training are invited to join the NDI Celebration Team, a scholarship program for the organization's most advanced dancers. The NDI Celebration Team will present dance works from their repertoire, including *The Drum Speaks*, a West African-inspired piece choreographed by Bianca Johnson and Júlio Leitão; and *Appalachian Clog*, a high-energy, foot-stomping celebration of African-American, Cherokee and Irish music and dance traditions. (www.nationaldance.org)

The New York Chinese Cultural Center (NYCCC) was founded in 1974. A nonprofit cultural and educational institution, it is dedicated to deepening the understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture in the global community and celebrating the art of Chinese dance. NYCCC fulfills its mission by offering professional classes, workshops and performances while nurturing creative and innovative new works that reflect the rich cultural heritages and diverse communities of today. NYCCC's core programs aim to support and present artists of the highest caliber. They provide a vital link between communities and across generations. NYCCC produces and presents cutting edge concert productions, including Annual Lunar New Year Festival, the largest of its kind on the East Coast. NYCCC also host collaborative programs with other organizations including Metropolitan Museum of Art, Central Park SummerStage, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Queens Botanical Garden, Families with Children From China, Asian Americans for Equality, and many others. (www.chinesedance.org)

Nitchen, Inc. is a community based, non-profit corporation comprised of Native American parents from North, Central, South America & the Caribbean whose goal is to ensure that youth grow up strong, healthy and proud as American Indians. Nitchen serves Native American families who need assistance in a variety of areas including health, education and cultural enrichment. Representing Nitchen/The Children's Museum today are Candice Tarpley and Irma Lagurree.