

Iroquois Indian Elders in Historical Perspective: Three Portraits

September 28 at 2 pm at the OHA Museum

A lecture by **Laurence M. Hauptman**

This presentation focuses on the lives of three major Iroquois Indian elders who lived in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Through the eyes of these three centenarians, the lecturer examines the history of the Iroquois (Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, Tuscarora) Indians and their struggle to maintain their culture and territory. The three elders to be discussed are:

- **Dina A. John** (1774? - 1883), a famous resident of the Onondaga Reservation and survivor of the Van Shaick Expedition. She served in the War of 1812 and became a leading artist-entrepreneur in Central New York.
- **Skenandoa** (1706? - 1816), the famous but controversial Susquehannock (Andaste) adopted by the Oneidas, who served the Americans in the American Revolution. Two of his daughters were married to Joseph Brant. A founder of the First Christian Party who was strongly influenced by Rev. Samuel Kirkland, his name appears on many "land sales" in so-called "New York-Oneida Treaties" after the American Revolution.
- **The:wo:nyas** (1753 - 1859) (He breaks wire, needles, awls there) - Chainbreaker or Governor Blacksnake. A Seneca who fought on the British side during the American Revolution, he was the nephew of Ganyodaiyo (Handsome Lake) and an outstanding Allegany Seneca of the early nineteenth century. He helped save the Oil Spring Reserve, laying the basis of the recently-settled land claim (June, 2005) over Cuba Lake.

In addition to the lecture, Professor Hauptman will also be signing copies of his latest book: ***Seven Generations of Iroquois Leadership: The Six Nations since 1800***, published by Syracuse University Press. By focusing on the distinct qualities of Iroquois leadership, Hauptman reveals how the Six Nations have survived in the face of overwhelming pressure. Employing a biographical approach and extensive research, the author explores how leaders use the past to enable a cultural, economic, and political survival.

Professor Laurence M. Hauptman

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Laurence M. Hauptman is a SUNY Distinguished Professor of History at SUNY New Paltz, where he has taught for the past 37 years. He is the author, co-author, editor or co-editor of 15 books that focus on the history of Native Americans. He has testified as an expert witness before committees of both houses of Congress and in the federal courts and has served as a historical

consultant for the Wisconsin Oneidas, the Cayugas, the Mashantucket Pequots, the Senecas, and the Seneca-Cayugas. Dr. Hauptman has been honored for his research by both the Iroquois nations and by the New York State Board of Regents.