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Program Series Celebrates Oberlin's Indigenous Heritage

All are welcome to attend a two-part, free program series at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street) focusing on the achievements of local Indigenous Peoples as well as the challenges they face in today's world. The first event takes place on **Wednesday, August 9 at 7:00 p.m.** in observance of the *International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples* as proclaimed in 1994 by the United Nations General Assembly. This program provides an opportunity to learn more about the ongoing struggle for native rights and a local citizen-led effort to change the Columbus Day holiday in Oberlin to a commemoration of Indigenous Peoples Day. Committee members include Cindi Byron-Dixon, Joella Byron-Dixon, Mary Hammond and Jean Foggo Simon. The discussion will include local indigenous history, facts about Columbus, and how celebrating Columbus Day impacts indigenous peoples.

The series continues on **Saturday, August 19 at 2:00 p.m.** with a family-friendly event that celebrates the native origins stemming from the immediate geographic area. *Connecting with Oberlin's Indigenous Heritage* includes an introduction to Native American roots in the community followed by outdoor demonstrations of drumming and dancing. The event begins at the Oberlin Public Library and progresses to nearby Martin Luther King Jr. Park for the cultural demonstrations.

The Indigenous Heritage series is a collaborative venture of many organizations and individuals throughout the community. For more information, contact Mary Hammond at mary.hammond@oberlin.edu or Jean Foggo Simon at foggo@oberlin.net.

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