



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virtual Abenaki Heritage Weekend 2021 is Free and Online this Week *Full Schedule of Events*

VERGENNES, VT – All are invited to join this free 5-day online celebration of Abenaki heritage, hosted by the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association, the Abenaki Arts and Education Center, and Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. Daily and special weekend sessions give audiences the opportunity to meet Abenaki culture bearers, artists, and experts as they share their indigenous arts, traditions, stories, and language through demonstrations and conversation. All sessions will be held on Zoom. Register in advance for free to receive the session link. A full schedule of Virtual Abenaki Heritage Weekend is below. Join us and gain a richer experience and understanding of the Abenaki contribution to life in the Champlain Valley:

- **Wednesday, June 16 at 7–8:45 p.m.**
The Wabanaki Wampum Laws: A reading and interpretation with Frederick M. Wiseman, Ph.D
An online screening with Frederick M. Wiseman, Ph. D. interpreting an important wampum belt that brought together many Native American Nations, followed by a live discussion and Q & A with Vera Sheehan, director of Vermont Abenaki Artists Association. Register for free: <https://forms.gle/xw2Hx9JMA5sNQwmL6>
- **Thursday, June 17 at 7–8:30 p.m.**
Interview with Abenaki Potter Vicki Blanchard
A live online conversation with potter Vicki Blanchard about her career and special project to create works that reflect older styles of Abenaki pottery. Register for free: <https://forms.gle/HVwRmyBW3CwH6MxJ9>
- **Friday, June 18 at 7–8:30 p.m.**
Interview with Abenaki Basket Maker Sherry Gould
A hybrid online conversation with basket maker Sherry Gould and Vera Sheehan, director of Vermont Abenaki Artists Association that will start in the Abenaki language with English subtitles before switching to a live discussion in English about Sherry's artistic process. Register for free: <https://forms.gle/X9k3UsUkAB1yxXKs9>
- **Saturday, June 19 at 11 a.m.**
Dancing Blue Wolf Shares Songs with Little Ones
An online screening for children of all ages with Francine Poitras Jones, Dancing Blue Wolf, who will drum and share songs, sing-a-longs, and stories. Register for free: <https://forms.gle/z1URQD9EP5AEWu8B9>
- **Saturday, June 19 at 5–6 p.m.**
Animal Tracks with Doug Bent

An online screening with live discussion and Q & A with outdoorsman Doug Bent of the Koasek Abenaki Tribe about how to identify tracks of some animals and birds from Vermont's wetlands, woods, backyards, and gardens. Register for free: <https://forms.gle/EPqECTCQ3h2Toh1DA>

- **Sunday, June 20 at 5–6:30 p.m.**

The Abenaki Canoe Build with Bill Gould and Reid Schwartz

An online screening with live discussion and Q & A with Abenaki basket maker and artist Bill Gould, citizen of the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki, and tool maker Reid Schwartz about their project together to build a birchbark canoe from start to finish. Register for free: <https://forms.gle/MKWkL7o14sqVZ8FK8>

Learn more about the Weekend and these events on the event page for Abenaki Heritage Weekend: <https://www.facebook.com/events/769094757307528>

Abenaki Heritage Weekend is funded in part by Vermont Humanities Council, New England Foundation for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Sessions will be recorded by Vermont Abenaki Artists Association and the Abenaki Arts and Education Center. This event is free for all to attend, donations welcome.