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**Abenaki Heritage Weekend June 29-30 at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum  
Connects Heritage, Health, and Wellness**

On June 29-30 citizens of the American Abenaki community will gather at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vergennes, Vermont to celebrate their history and heritage, and all are welcome! Organized by the [Vermont Abenaki Artists Association](http://www.abenakiarts.org), this free, family-friendly event is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

Throughout the weekend there will be activities for all ages. Children and adults alike should not miss storytelling and book-signing by celebrated Abenaki author, musician and historian Joseph Bruchac on Saturday. All weekend, bring a picnic lunch. Enjoy singing and drumming by the Nulhegan Drum. A table hosted by the Abenaki Toddler Group welcomes families to stop by for storytelling, drumming, and free children's books. Visitors can also participate in animal-tracking games and visit the "make and take" table.

Inspired by our three-year Storytelling Project, the VAAA's Waolowzi Health and Wellness committee encourages the healing that is possible through community projects connecting with cultural heritage, arts, and education. VAAA has partnered with Wobanaki Inc. and Haven Heritage Productions to publish *Always Coming Home*, a graphic novel about an Abenaki family in the 1880s.

A new special exhibit, *Deep Roots, Strong Branches*, will open during Heritage Weekend in the Schoolhouse Gallery, and will be on view all season. "Abenaki culture is a complex network of people, places, relationships and ceremony that links the people with the living land," says curator Vera Sheehan. "For this exhibit we have selected artwork and stories by contemporary American Abenaki artists that illustrate the resilience of the region's Indigenous people."

One of the highlights is the Native Arts Marketplace of the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association, where visitors can talk to artists, watch craft demonstrations, and purchase outstanding beadwork, paintings, jewelry, wampum, woodwork, leatherwork, drums, and other items. "The variety and quality of the work created by our Abenaki artists is outstanding," said Vera Sheehan, Executive Director of the Vermont Abenaki Artists Association. If you are looking to purchase a special gift or something new for your collection, be sure to visit the Native Arts Marketplace."

VAAA's Waolowzi Health and Wellness committee has partnered with the Open Door Clinic and Vermont Department of Health to host a pop-up clinic on site all weekend offering check-ups, referrals, and advice.

Special thanks to Lake Champlain Maritime Museum for hosting this annual celebration since 2007, and Vermont Department of Health for their support. For more information on Abenaki Heritage Weekend, visit: [AbenakiArt.org/abenaki-heritage-weekend](http://AbenakiArt.org/abenaki-heritage-weekend).

June 29-30 - [Abenaki Heritage Weekend](http://Abenaki Heritage Weekend). At Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Vergennes, VT

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#### Images:



Nulhegan Drum and the Native American Arts Market are featured at the Abenaki Heritage Weekend, June 29-30 at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

Credit: Vermont Abenaki Artists Association

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<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CuE13mX2XCuOeryHvepYoJQCjNeCcbeK/view?usp=sharing>



Joseph Bruchac, celebrated author, storyteller and musician shares stories of Abenaki history and heritage.

Credit: Vermont Abenaki Artists Association

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<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bDJUqILGS1oQjrGuxH9uAJcJFkIkBPXQ/view?usp=sharing>

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**About Vermont Abenaki Artists Association (VAAA):** The VAAA mission is to promote awareness of state-recognized Abenaki artists and their art, to provide an organized central place to share creative ideas, and to have a method for the public to find and engage state-recognized Abenaki artists. For more information about VAAA, please visit <http://abenakiart.org> or follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

**About Abenaki Arts & Education Center (AAEC):** The Abenaki Arts and Education Center provides authentic curriculum materials, programs, and other resources about Abenaki culture and history for educators and interested learners. For more information about AAEC, please visit <https://abenaki-edu.org/> or follow us on Facebook.

**About Abenaki Alliance:** Abenaki Alliance is an inclusive community of four Western Abenaki tribes recognized by the State of Vermont — [Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi](#), [Elnu Abenaki Tribe](#), [Koasek Traditional Band of the Koas Abenaki Nation](#), and [Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation](#). In partnership with associated businesses and non-profit organizations, the mission of Abenaki Alliance is to build a strong, sustainable, and united presence that shares Abenaki heritage, culture, and values with those around us.

**About Lake Champlain Maritime Museum:** Lake Champlain Maritime Museum uses the discovery and stewardship of Lake Champlain's underwater cultural heritage and environment to inspire life-long learning. LCMM brings Lake Champlain's storied past to life through active boat building, on-water ecology programs, nautical archaeology, collections and exhibits, and cultural heritage events. From late May through mid-October visitors explore LCMM's 4-acre campus, antique boats, lake history, shipwreck discoveries, and step aboard 1776 gunboat replica *Philadelphia II* "on the hard." Located at 4472 Basin Harbor Road, 7 scenic miles from Vergennes. Find Museum dates, hours of operation, events and reservations at [www.lcmm.org](http://www.lcmm.org) or call 802 475-2022.