

# NJ American Indian Commission Newsletter

[www.nj.gov/state/njcaia.shtml](http://www.nj.gov/state/njcaia.shtml)



February 2025



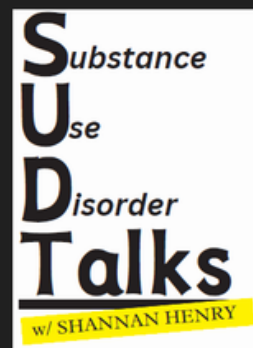
## Top News

### SUD Talks is Back!

## Intertribal Veterans Suicide Prevention Coalition

The VA holds a monthly Intertribal Veterans Suicide Prevention Talking Circle at the VFW Post in Bridgeton, NJ. Virtual is now also an option! If you or a family member would like to join, feel free to email Lewis Fragoso at [lewis.fragoso@sos.nj.gov](mailto:lewis.fragoso@sos.nj.gov) or Rhonda Hart at [rhonda.hart@va.gov](mailto:rhonda.hart@va.gov).

SUD Talks is back starting February 26th at 6:30pm and will continue every 4th Wednesday of the month at the same time. Go to the Commission website to join!



Substance Use Disorder Talks with Shannan Henry

# Commission News

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+1 609-341-2737



## Our Current Projects

### IYC 2025

- The time has come to begin planning for our 2025 Intertribal Youth Conference! If you are interested in being part of the planning process reach out!

### Elder Voices Project

- As we enter 2025 we would like to continue to work with our Native elders and veterans by helping their voices be heard. We are organizing a project to record the wisdom and history of the elders in the community to archive for future generations.



## Intertribal Youth Conference

One of the goals of our Intertribal Youth Conference is to educate and provide resources for Tribal youth preparing for college. This year we are organizing the conference to be held during the summer - yay warm weather! You can look forward to experiencing more fun activities, cultural knowledge, and abundant college resources.

While we are still in the early planning stages, we are always open to input and suggestion from the community. If you would like to get involved reach out to Lewis Fragoso at [lewis.fragoso@sos.nj.gov](mailto:lewis.fragoso@sos.nj.gov).



## Elder Voices Project

There comes a time when we must all face the reality that nothing in life lasts forever. It's important to hold on to the words and wisdom imparted to us by our elders, as they will help us to build the foundations of our community for generations to come. To this end, we are planning the Elder Voices Project: An archive of recorded conversations, wisdom, and history as told by the elders in our very own community. These recordings will be made available to all in the community so that they may always be able to hear the voices of their loved ones.





## Upcoming Community Events

**3/10 - 10:00am:** The Salem-Cumberland Regional Action Toward Community Health Coalition (SCRATCH) will hold its next monthly meeting on Monday, March 10th. The address is 1338 N Delsea Dr, Vineland, NJ 08360.

**3/13 - 2:00pm:** The Intertribal Veteran's Suicide Prevention Coalition will hold its next talking circle on Thursday, March 13th. The address is 75 Manheim Ave, Bridgeton, NJ 08302.

**3/22 - 11:00am:** The University of Pennsylvania will be holding its 14th Annual Penn Powwow on Saturday, March 22nd. The event will be held at Houston Hall - Hall of Flags. The address is 3417 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

**3/26 - 6:30pm:** The NJ Commission on American Indian Affairs will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, March 26th. The meeting is virtual and you can join on our website.

**3/29 - 1:00pm:** The Women Veterans Suicide Prevention Coalition will be holding its Luncheon for Healing and Hope event on Saturday, March 29th. The address is 351 Charleston Road, Willingboro, NJ 08046.

### **Future exhibits-**

Claudis Ocello, President of Museum Partners, is working with NJ State Archives on an exhibit to be housed at the NJ State Museum in 2026 around the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and would like to include voices from NJ Tribal communities.

# Commission Connection

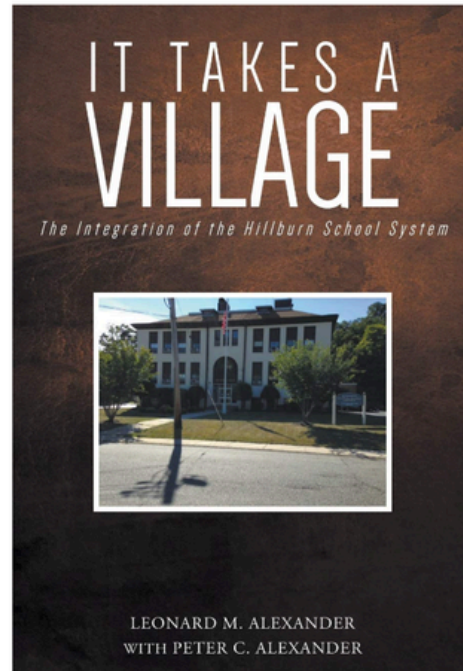
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## Recommended Read!

With this issue of our newsletter we continue our segment on recommended reads! This month's recommendation comes to us from Pat Osterhoudt:

"It Takes a Village by Leonard and Peter Alexander tells the history of the small village of Hillburn, NY and how segregation impacted its youth. In this book you will read the story of Thomas Ulysses Alexander and Thurgood Marshall and how they changed the course of history for the village of Hillburn."



## Our Contact

Lewis Fragoso

- lewis.fragoso@sos.nj.gov

Shannan Henry

- shannan.henry@sos.nj.gov

Patricia Osterhoudt

- patricia.osterhoudt@sos.nj.gov

Emmanuel Ogedegbe

- emmanuel.ogedegbe@sos.nj.gov

## Month of Awareness

February is Heart Health

Awareness Month! What is the best way to survive a heart attack?.. By never having one! Learn how you can prevent becoming one of millions of people who suffer from heart attacks.

