

## Museum Notes

for the week of September 7-13, 2025  
by Kristen Parrott, curator

Wisconsin's tribal nations will be the topic of our first free public history program of the fall season. Professor Annie Jones, tribal nations specialist with UW Extension, will talk about "Indigenous Ways of Knowing about Wisconsin's Tribal Nations" on Tuesday, September 16, at 6PM, at the Vernon County Museum and History Center. Note that the date and time are different from our usual programs.

Prof. Jones will provide an introduction to Wisconsin's Native peoples, and will explore some key concepts of the Native world view. Tribes in Wisconsin include the Ho-Chunk, Ojibwe, Oneida, Menominee, Potawatomi, Brothertown, and Stockbridge-Munsee. She will talk about how Native and non-Native people can engage with each other in a meaningful way.

The program will involve the use of a Native American medicine wheel. The medicine wheel is a traditional symbol used ceremonially by many tribes. A medicine wheel can be an object, or it can be a structure in a landscape.

As an object, a medicine wheel is often a circle with a cross in the middle, with each segment a different color, usually black, white, red, and yellow. Several Wisconsin tribal nations include a medicine wheel in their great seals, including the Forest County Potawatomi, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians. As part of a landscape, a medicine wheel is often a circle of boulders with many spokes made of rocks.

Annie Jones has worked with the Extension service of the University of Wisconsin for 25 years, including as an Associate Dean and as a county-based Community Development Educator. Her area of research is Indigenous methodologies, like the use of the medicine wheel and cultural teachings.

Everyone is welcome to attend this fascinating program. Programs are free and open to the public. This event will be held in the first-floor conference room of the history center. It is being provided by "Badger Talks".

Badger Talks reflects the tradition of the Wisconsin Idea — to extend the resources of the university to citizens of the state. Over 300 Badger Talks are hosted around the state each year, featuring faculty and staff with expertise in a variety of disciplines. Talk topics range from cutting edge discoveries to happiness in the workplace and everything in between. Professional, community, and civic organizations, as well as schools, are invited to request a UW–Madison speaker. For more information about Badger Talks or to find a speaker, contact 608-262-3880 or [badgertalks@uwmad.wisc.edu](mailto:badgertalks@uwmad.wisc.edu).