

16 **Native Harvest Festival held at Van Cortlandt House Museum**

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by Nelson Blackman  
Despite an overcast sky, the sun managed to shine for the 4th annual Native Harvest Festival held on Sunday, September 24 at the Van

Cortlandt House Museum in Van Cortlandt Park. The festival kicked off with a lecture about Native American Indians and celebrated the traditional Woodland Native

American Harvest of the Eastern Woodland American Indians. The day was filled with plenty of native ancestral music and songs provided by the Drum Circle Singers, followed by

tribal and group dances in which audience members joined in. For the children, there was storytelling done with puppets by master of ceremonies Bobby Gonzalez,

a Taino storyteller and lecturer of Puerto Rican descent. Exhibitors were on hand with Native American delicacies, books, and arts and crafts. The eventful day was

free to the public and sponsored by the National Society of Colonial Dames in New York State, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park and the Parks Department.



(At left) Bobby Gonzalez (far right) joins the Drum Circle Singers. (Photo above) Audience members participate in a native ancestral dance. — PHOTO BY NELSON BLACKMAN



Portrait of Indian women (back row, l-r): Quiet Fire May, D. Doval, Kai and Zira Wamb-Naghi (c). — PHOTO BY NELSON BLACKMAN



Bobby Gonzalez tells a story with a hand puppet. — PHOTO BY NELSON BLACKMAN