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338 Plush Mill Road
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FEBRUARY 5, 2018 • 7:30-9:00 PM • THE BARN

Hidden in Plain Sight: The Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware *A talk by Chief Dennis J. Coker*

The Lenape, the original inhabitants of this region, were among the first Natives to come into contact with European settlers in the mid 17th century. How did they navigate the immigrant invasion and its alien culture? Contrary to widely-held myth, the Lenape live on in unified communities in the Mid-Atlantic today. How has this resilient people succeeded in maintaining its identity through over 325 years of a domination culture that devalues their lives and ways?

Dennis J. Coker has been honored to be elected Principal Chief of the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware since 1996. During his term, successful collaborations with the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office and the Federal Census Bureau led to his Tribe being awarded a Census Designation Area allowing Tribal members to include their ethnicity as Lenape on the 2010 Census for the first time in history. On August 3, 2016, Delaware's Governor, Jack Markell, signed legislation officially recognizing the long and continued history of the Lenape Community in the state of Delaware.

Chief Coker's service as a past Chairman of the Confederation of Sovereign Nanticoke-Lenape Tribes of the Delaware Bay has allowed him to effect progress towards recognition of the Indigenous human rights of all member Tribes. His membership in the National Congress of the American Indian (NCIA) and founding membership in the Alliance of Colonial Era Tribes (ACET) has brought recognition, furthered understandings, and developed collaborations for the betterment of Delaware's Indigenous population.



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