Daughters, Sisters, Mothers & Wives

An Onondaga Language Work Book
Acknowledgements

Sgę:nǫˀ' 

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This Language workbook was completed to be included in the Daughters, Sisters, Mothers & Wives Educational-Kit. It is done in the Onondaga language and includes some introductory phrases and speeches often associated with a Hodenosaunee woman’s role, but not exclusive to her. I would like to thank Gloria Williams for the translations, Kawenni:i:o/Gaweni:yo Preservation Project, Elizabeth Doxtator, Barbara Miller and Simon Hill for the assistance in putting this together.

This learning language workbook has a cd that will accompany it.

This is only one part of the Haudenosaunee Woman’s Role Educational-Kit.

Nia:wen,

Michelle Davis
ONLC Executive Director

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ganǫhę:nyǫh/Thanksgiving Address</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greetings</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introducing Oneself</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ga’seyädenyǫh/Clans</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gasthowa’s/Feather Hats</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Gift From Our Creator</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeds Song</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This is a very short version of the Thanksgiving Address which is said at the beginning and the end of each day or when there is a gathering of people.

GANQHE:NYQH / THANKSGIVING ADDRESS

Swagwe:gih swadahqhsiyohsda’ Nigaehwa’ah.

Everyone listen for a little while.

Da:onęh nigędyohgo’dǝ’.

So now this kind of crowd.


You will all listen for a little while that we will pull the message the Creator has given us Thanksgiving.

Sga:dah dędwadadnqhe:yq’.

As one we will greet each other.

Dęyetinohq:nyq’ ne’ Etinoha’ Ohwejya:de’.

We will thank her, Our Mother, the Earth.
Dędwanǫhę:nyǫ’ ne’ owęnohgä’shǫ’ah dę’she’ onǫhgwatshä’shǫ’ah.

*We will give thanks to Growing Weeds and Medicines.*

Dędwanqhe:nyǫ’ ne’ ha’deyohya:geh wahyaniyǫtha’.

*We will give thanks to all kinds of fruits, hanging fruits.*

Dędwanqhe:nyǫ’ ogwe:gih gähedq:nyǫ’ na’ o’ ne’ othdōq:nyahę’.

*We will give thanks to all kinds of trees and a lot of whips.*


*We will give thanks to all Animals who run about and who fly about.*
We will give thanks to the water all the big and small water.

We will give thanks to all he gave us, Our Sustenance.

We will give thanks to the Stirring Winds.

We will give thanks where the sun goes down, that way they always come from. Our Grandfather The Thunders.

We will thank him, our Elder Brother, the Sun, it travels along.
We will thank her our Grandmother, Nighttime, Moon.

We will give thanks to shining stars all across the sky.

We will give thanks to him Our Leader Handsome Lake.

We will thank them the Four that many beings, sky people, he protects us with his hand.

We will thank him in the sky he lives Our Creator.
Thogo’ nwa’gatgwe:nye’ I’ geh hagwah wa’gayagędha’ ne’ Ganqhe:nyoh.

This is the best of my ability from me that come out the Thanksgiving Address.

Da:nethoh - That is all.

The Thanksgiving Address compliments of Kawenni:io/ Gaweni:yo Preservation Program
GREETINGS

In this brief conversation you will be communicating with someone, saying “Hello”, and “How are you?”. You will be asking their name, telling yours, then ending with a “Goodbye”.

Hae hae, sgęno’jik khęh?

Hello, how are you? (Is everything peaceful?)

Sgę:nǫˀ, oyanä:dye’ khęh?

Hello, Is it going well?

Sgę:nǫˀ gęnǫhdǫ:nyǫk.

I am fine. (I have great peace about me)

Nę’ nie’ ihs?

And you?

Oya:nä:dyeh.

It is going well.

Nwa’dę’ nihs sya:jih?

What is your name?

_____ ni’ah gya:jih, nę’ ne’ ihs?
My name is ______. And yours?

______ ni’ah gya:jih.

My name is ______.

Onęh go’ hya’.

Goodbye for now.

Nyoh.

Okay.
INTRODUCING ONESELF

Sometimes when you are at a gathering or meeting you are asked to introduce yourself. It is nice that you can do this in your language to say your Ḍeqwehǫ:weh name, clan, and nation.

Nwa:ɗę’ nihs sya:jih?

What is your name?

____Gwideh____ ni’ ah gya:jih.

My name is __Pete__.

Nwa:ɗę’ nihsa’se:deh?

What is your clan?

____Ha’no:wa:____ ni’wage’se:ɗęh.

_Turtle_ is my clan.

Nwa:ɗę’ nihsǫhwęjyo’dęh?

What is your nation?

____Gay:gwę’ga’____ nihwagǫhwęjyo’dęh.

_Cayuga_ is my nation.
Gaę:di’nq:h sna:ge’?

*Where do you live?*

_Ahya’k nihonqhwęjya:geh no:h _ gna:ge’.

_Six Nations_ is where I live.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clan Name</th>
<th>Animal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hodiswę’gai:yoh</td>
<td>Hawk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hodi’nehsï:yoh</td>
<td>Snipe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degaęhyagahä:’</td>
<td>Heron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osgęndod’</td>
<td>Deer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohgwa:ih</td>
<td>Bear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Othahyönih</td>
<td>Wolf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ha’no:wa:’</td>
<td>Turtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogq:de:na’</td>
<td>Eel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odna:ga:ya’gih</td>
<td>Beaver</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GASTHOWA'S
FEATHER HATS

The Gasthowa’sho’ah (feather hat) is the representation of the nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

Ganyę’gega’
Mohawk

Onęyóga:’
Oneida

Do:na’ga’
Seneca

Gayogwę:ga’
Cayuga

Onǫ:da’gega’
Onondaga

Dahsgai:wę’
Tuscarora

Compliments to Kawenni:io/Gaweni:yo Preservation Program for the use of headdresses artwork.
WELCOMING A NEWBORN BABY
OUR GIFT FROM OUR CREATOR

G Wahs ǫ:weh owihowa:nęh onęh we’senagä:t thǫ:nęh ohweįya’geh.

It is truly a great importance now that you are born here on earth.

Ǫgwadä:’swiyoh dahyadenyehda’ ne’ Shǫgwaya’dihsa’ih.

We are lucky He sent you, Our Creator.

Dęgohsnye’nha’ dę’she’ Ęgį:yȩhsdę’

I will look after you and teach you.

Agwi:ya’ dyotgıt Ęgonquoię’ khwak.

My baby, I will always love you.
SEEDS SONG

In the spring we prepare the soil in which we will plant the seeds for our garden. These seeds we are planting—corn, beans, squash—are our gifts given to us for sustenance. As Qgwehǫ:weh people, we are also grateful and give thanks. This speech and song can be used before we plant. The song can also be sung while keeping the garden clean and watching the plants grow.
WORDS TO SAY BEFORE SINGING THE SEED SONG:

Onęh ękhewęnǫ:gohda’ ne’ Dyọhehgwiḥ.
   Now I will bless our Sustenance.

   I am praying they will grow all of what I will plant.

Onęh ęgathǫ:wihs’a’.
   Now I will sing their songs.

Wa:ho:heyane: (Lead)  (3 times)

Wa:ho:heyane: (Crowd)  (3 times)

Onęh wa’khewęnǫ:gohda’ ne’ Dyọhehgwiḥ.
   Now I have blessed our Sustenance.
This workbook is intended to be used with the accompanying cd.

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Cornhusk Dolls created by Beverly Doxtator