

ONEIDA

QUARTERLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE:

A Message from the Nation Representative pg. 2

Bringing Our Ancestors Home pgs. 3-5

Veterans Honored pg. 5

Wynn Hospital Mural Unveiled pgs. 6-9

Scholarship Program Enables Students to Excel pgs. 10-13

Community Center Activities pgs. 14-15

Elders Festivities pg. 16



Winter 2024/2025



This summer, we opened the Mary C. Winder Community Center, a transformative project that has already begun to bring our community together in ways the Center's namesake envisioned. We now have one central location to bring every generation together to share in our traditions and heritage that will benefit our community for years to come.

Over the course of the past year, we gained sovereign control over more of our homelands, which now total more than 18,000 acres - more than at any time in two centuries. With these lands, we are exploring new ways to diversify our economic development and expand our community. New homes have been constructed in the Oneida Neighborhood development and will soon become available to occupy. New units for our Elders will be built this year as well.

We also undertook steps to repatriate the remains of several of our ancestors, along with multiple funerary and associated artifacts. For too long, our ancestors were treated as relics; memories of the past and property for sale by collectors or hoarding by museums and universities. The efforts we make to reclaim their remains and return them to our homelands are just a small part in righting the wrongs of the past, but they are as important as any of our initiatives.

Our investment in the future of Turning Stone Resort Casino and in the financial stability of the Nation – the Turning Stone Evolution – is well underway with foundation and steel work creating hundreds of construction jobs at both Turning Stone. We also have undertaken a major expansion of our property at Point Place Casino in Bridgeport. These investments are not just for the betterment of the future of the region, but for the future generations of the Oneida People as well.

All of these are substantial signs of progress. They illustrate how our Nation is turning back the tide of poverty, taking care of its people, preparing for the future, and ensuring that we also carry on our heritage and our legacy as a unique People.

We are fortunate to be in a place to do so much for our People today and to prepare for the generations yet unborn. The Creator has been good to us. Now, as snow begins to settle on our lands, we must remember to be thankful for these gifts and the renewal of our Nation.

N^h ki' wa,

Ray Halbritter
Nation Representative

A Message from the Nation Representative

Shekólih. In many communities around the world, and sometimes even our own, we take for granted the blessings the Creator has bestowed upon us. It is not often that we express true gratitude and thankfulness for the opportunities we have been given.

As Oneida People, we must make it a point to celebrate the treasure we have in our family, friends and community. This is what our ancestors have taught us and is part of our culture to this day. We also must never waiver from our focus on the future and protecting the sovereign rights many generations have fought and sacrificed for. Our right to self-determination and our commitment to self-sufficiency have been unifying principles of our Nation for countless generations – as they will be for countless generations to come.

In every respect, 2024 was a remarkable year for the Oneida Indian Nation, one filled with the kind of events and activities which speak to the lifelong dreams and aspirations of our Members. And it was a year for which we are truly grateful.

ONYOTA' A:KÁ:

This newsletter is an official publication of the Oneida Indian Nation, published under the authority of the Oneida Indian Nation Representative(s), Ray Halbritter. Any reproduction without the express authority of the Oneida Indian Nation is strictly prohibited.

TOLL-FREE MEMBER PHONE:

1.800.685.6115

Contact: The Oneida Indian Nation, P.O. Box 1, Vernon, NY 13476 or use the Member App. Visit www.OneidaIndianNation.com for news, information and the latest edition of The Oneida newsletter in PDF format.

ONYOTA' A:KÁ:



A delegation from the Oneida Indian Nation traveled to Harvard University in Boston on Dec. 3 for the repatriation of seven Oneida ancestors and associated funerary objects that had been held at the university's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

Nation Focused on Return of Oneida Ancestors

Repatriations have been a cornerstone of the Oneida Indian Nation's cultural preservation efforts for many years. The 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) requires the identification, protection and return of any Native American, Native Alaskan or Native Hawaiian ancestral remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony in the possession of any institution that receives federal funding. Since 1994, the Nation has worked with 15 cultural institutions across the country to repatriate more than 120 ancestors and more than 9,500 associated funerary objects.

In recent history, Oneida ancestors, along with sacred funerary objects and cultural artifacts, have been restored to the Nation from institutions such as the American Museum of Natural History, Cornell University, Colgate University and the Rochester Museum & Science Center (RMSC). Partnerships between the Nation and leading museums, colleges and universities such as these play an important role in forming productive relationships between tribal communities and cultural institutions, and affirming the sovereignty and dignity of Native people as is intended by NAGPRA.

The journey of bringing these ancestors home and the struggle to reconcile the wrongs of the past, were a recent focus of an ABC News feature that included an interview with Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter and Nation Member Kandice Watson (Wolf Clan).

ABC News followed Halbritter as he traveled to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City to begin the process to return the remains of an Oneida ancestor that were stolen from Nation lands in 1898 and then sold to a collector who later gifted them to the museum.



Colgate University President Brian W. Casey and Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter sign official documents for the repatriation of 21 Oneida ancestors at the Mary C. Winder Community Center Dec. 16.



The repatriation event held recently with Colgate University reaffirms the University's longtime commitment to the return of ancestral remains and cultural artifacts to Native American tribes.

Oneida Ancestors

Continued from page 3

“For institutions, they’re remains,” Halbritter told ABC News. “For our people, it’s our grandmothers and grandfathers. It’s people who we descended from. Anyone can imagine how they would feel if their relatives were being held in an institution, their bones were being pulverized to do radio-carbon testing,” Halbritter added. “What NAGPRA envisioned is to return these people.”

Through repatriation, the Oneida Indian Nation is able to make claims to the remains and associated artifacts of our ancestors, and bring them home for proper reinterment and care.

ABC News also visited the Oneida homelands, talking with Halbritter and Watson at the Mary C. Winder Community Center, where the Nation is furthering its efforts to rebuild its community for the future generations.

“We have no idea what they hold in their archives,” Watson told ABC News when speaking about the institutions holding remains. “There’s no way that we could start the process. So, we really do have to rely on these universities and their morals and ethics to return these items to their rightful owners.”

These efforts continue, as more and more institutions come forward in accordance with NAGPRA to begin the process of returning the long-held remains of Indigenous peoples and their associated artifacts to their rightful communities.

In early December, a small delegation from the Oneida Indian Nation traveled to Harvard University for the repatriation of seven Oneida ancestors and associated funerary objects at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. The ancestors repatriated to the Nation were removed from their burial sites in 1878 along with associated funerary objects at Brier Hill in Upstate New York’s St. Lawrence County by Samuel W. Garman. In 1870, Garman became the assistant director of herpetology and ichthyology at the university’s Museum of Comparative Zoology.

“There is much work to be done in righting the wrongs of the past, yet today, we came together with Harvard University to set a new course,” said Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter during the event. “From ensuring that one day no Native American ancestors are insensitively displayed or forgotten in storage rooms to prioritizing our voices in discourses of history and culture, this is a unique opportunity to forge a better future as partners.”

The event at Harvard is the result of a three-year dialogue between the Nation and Harvard University that began in 2021. At that time, Nation representatives reached out to establish affiliation and confirm details about remains and culturally significant objects within the university’s collections, specifically those taken from its ancestral homelands in Upstate New York. This ongoing dialogue will continue in the months to come as Harvard University and the Nation work together to identify other remains and culturally significant artifacts within the museum’s collections and restore them to the Oneida People.

Later in December, the remains of 21 Oneida ancestors were repatriated from Colgate University's Longyear Museum of Anthropology.

The repatriation was part of a visit from Colgate University President Brian Casey and a delegation of university leaders, who had the opportunity to meet with Nation leadership, tour the new Mary C. Winder Community Center and the Shako:wi Cultural Center, and learn more about the rich history and cultural legacy of the Oneida People.



The ancestors repatriated to the Nation included the remains of seven individuals from burials at the site of a 17th-century village in Madison County within the Oneida Treaty of Canandaigua Reservation boundaries. The remains were removed from their resting place by avocational archaeologist Theodore Whitney, a member of the Chenango Chapter of the New York State Archaeological Association, sometime in the 1960s and donated to the Longyear Museum at Colgate University in the early 1970s.

Remains of another 14 Oneida ancestors removed by avocational archaeologists associated with the New York State Archaeological Association – Chenango Chapter from an unknown number of sites were also repatriated during Monday's event. These ancestral remains were disinterred from Oneida ancestral lands between 1950 and 1980.

President Casey shared his thanks for the collaborative nature of the work between the Nation and Colgate University.

"Working alongside the Members of the Oneida Indian Nation is an honor for our faculty and staff, and we are appreciative of their strong partnership in this important endeavor," Casey said.

In 1995, the University made its first repatriation to the Nation, returning the remains of seven Oneida ancestors and eight funerary objects.

Most recently, in November 2022, more than 1,500 funerary belongings and other cultural items were transferred from the collections of the Longyear Museum to the Oneida Indian Nation in one of the largest repatriations of its kind in New York State history. During the 2022 repatriation event, President Casey offered an official apology on behalf of the university for its past acquisitions of Native American remains and cultural objects and expressed a strong commitment to righting these wrongs in the future. ❖



Nichola Aregano-Diaz (Turtle Clan), veteran of the United States Marine Corps, and Chip Isaacs (Turtle Clan), United States Army and Vietnam War veteran, at the Nation's annual Veteran's Recognition Ceremony.

Nation Honors Veterans

In November, the Oneida Indian Nation honored nearly 400 local veterans for their military service during its annual Veterans Recognition Ceremony and Breakfast at Turning Stone Resort Casino. Among those recognized were several Nation Members and Turning Stone Enterprises team members.

Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter and Deputy Commanding Officer – Support 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) Colonel Eric Johnson of Fort Drum shared remarks during the event that expressed gratitude for the efforts of the region's veterans and recognized the Oneida people's role as America's First Allies, a bond that began when Oneida warriors and American colonists fought together during some of the Revolutionary War's bloodiest battles.

During the event, Halbritter paid tribute to the life and memory of James Bigtree (Turtle Clan), who was killed in action while serving in the United States Army during the Vietnam War in 1966. James is the only known Oneida to have been killed in the conflict.

The Nation also presented a donation to Feed Our Vets – Utica Pantry, a local organization that maintains a fully stocked food pantry and offers other resources for area veterans and their families.

The Nation takes great pride in its legacy as America's First Allies and is committed to supporting those who served through a number of initiatives throughout the year. ❖

Oneida Indian Nation Unveils Striking Works of Art at Wynn Hospital, Celebrating Legacy and Partnerships

In November, the Oneida Indian Nation unveiled two significant public artworks at Downtown Utica's Wynn Hospital, part of the Nation's \$1 million donation to support the state-of-the-art medical facility. The artworks—a massive outdoor mural and a striking interior piece—celebrate the Oneida people's historical and cultural legacy, including their pivotal role as America's First Allies during the Revolutionary War.

The unveiling ceremony on Columbia Street brought together Members of the Oneida Indian Nation, Mohawk Valley Health System representatives, local officials, and community members. The event showcased the outdoor mural, a 200-foot-long and 10-foot-high display adorning the hospital's Central Utility Building. This expansive artwork provides a vivid depiction of the history of the Oneida Indian Nation, from its Creation Story to its modern resurgence.

"It is fitting that this mural is located outside the Wynn Hospital," said Oneida Indian Nation Representative and Turning Stone Enterprises CEO Ray Halbritter. "This facility, the first of its kind constructed in New York State in a half century, offers Mohawk Valley residents highly advanced medicine and world-class, technologically progressive care where they need it most. Above all, the hospital is dedicated to the well-being of this community – those who call it home today and all who will call it home in the future."



Lighting installed along the mural allows for viewing at any hour of the day. The hospital has designated special parking spaces nearby for visitors who would like to park and examine the mural.



Singers Brian Patterson (Bear Clan Councilmember), Levi Confer (Turtle Clan), Travis John (Seneca) and Wes Halsey (Wolf Clan), began the event with a welcome song.

Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente described the mural as a marker of regional renewal, signifying new development, improved healthcare, enhanced education, and stronger community ties. He highlighted the mural's role in symbolizing ongoing growth and progress in the region.

"This artwork which adorns Wynn Hospital testifies to the spirit of friendship, partnership and community that characterizes the Oneida Indian Nation's relationships with their neighbors as is evidenced by this gathering here today," said New York State Deputy Secretary for First Nations Dr. Elizabeth Rule, who was in attendance. "For each of these reasons, we should all be proud to have this mural and the story that it tells shared here in Utica for all New Yorkers to see, draw strength from and to be inspired by."

Inside Wynn Hospital, visitors are greeted by a second mural inspired by the Allies in War, Partners in Peace sculpture displayed at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. This artwork features General George Washington holding a two-row wampum, symbolizing the agreement between the Oneida Indian Nation and the United States to coexist in mutual respect and independence, like two vessels traveling along the same river on parallel paths.

"The Oneida Indian Nation mural at Wynn Hospital in Utica caught me a little off-guard," said Kandice Watson (Wolf Clan) who was among the Members to attend the unveiling. "At first, it simply looks like some pictures of our culture, but as you examine it more closely, you see the progression of our Nation's history from the Creation Story, through to the Revolutionary War, the fire in the 70s that prompted our economic development, and then into the current status our



Nation holds today in this community. Our history in this area is long and was not always pretty, but we are still here and we are thriving.”

These murals are the latest in the Oneida Indian Nation’s efforts to honor its history and strengthen community connections. These initiatives include a large-scale bronze sculpture in Downtown Rome commemorating the historic Oneida Carrying Place and \$10 million donations to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian and the Museum of the American Revolution.

Together, these contributions underscore the Oneida Indian Nation’s commitment to preserving its legacy and celebrating its ongoing partnerships with the Mohawk Valley and beyond. ❖



The interior mural was also unveiled after the ceremony outside. It is located in the Wynn Hospital lobby.



ONYOTA' A:KÁ:



ABOUT THE MURAL

The exterior mural at the Wynn Hospital measures 10 feet high by 200 feet wide consisting of 50 single-sided panels, each 120 inches in height and 48 inches wide. Made with a custom high-pressure laminate, each panel is digitally printed, thermally stable, impervious to moisture and high-impact resistant.

There are 10 scenes depicted in the mural, telling the story of the Oneida Indian Nation, from the Creation Story to the current community. Each scene carries a caption to help tell that story:

Scene 1: Intro – It is written in the wampum ... the three clans of the Oneida - the Turtle, the Wolf, the Bear - all descendants of the woman from the sky, are of one mind and united.

Scene 2: Three Sisters – Blessed with the bountiful gifts of the Three Sisters, the people thrive.

Scene 3: People of the Longhouse/Council Fire – Within their longhouses their council fires burn brightly and all the nations enjoy peace and prosperity.

Scene 4: Great Carry – The Oneida welcome the people from across the Great Water and aid their commerce.

Scene 5: Oriskany – When fighting for their freedom, the new Americans find a strong ally in the Oneida.

Scene 6: Canandaigua – After the war, the partners endorse a treaty of cooperation so that each may follow their own path.

Scene 7: Unkept Promises – But soon after, the Oneida are forgotten allies. They see their lands diminished; their way of life threatened.

Scene 8: Renaissance – Yet the people are resilient. They move forward on their own, transforming adversity into strength and opportunity. Oneida culture thrives.

Scene 9: Hospital – The great gift of peace proves once again to be the foundation of prosperity. The Oneida pass this gift to their children and their children's children so that generations yet to come may enjoy its benefits.

Scene 10: Future – On this day, in this place, let the wampum record a future of peace, health and wellbeing for all.



Nation Scholarship Program Enables Students to Excel without Financial Burden

Kathryn Halbritter-Cloete Graduates Medical School, Begins Residency in Loma Linda

For over 30 years, the Oneida Indian Nation's Scholarship Program has played a crucial role in empowering Nation Member students to pursue higher education without the heavy burden of rising tuition and living expenses. By reducing the financial burden, the Oneida Indian Nation enables its Members to focus on their education and personal growth, rather than worrying about how to fund each semester or pay for rent, groceries, and other living necessities.

The peace of mind provided by the Scholarship Program goes beyond just monetary relief; it also empowers students to fully immerse themselves in their studies, internships, and extracurricular activities. With the freedom to dedicate themselves to academic and career goals, students can excel in their chosen fields and contribute positively to their communities.

By supporting its Members through education, the Oneida Indian Nation invests in the future of its community, fostering a generation of well-educated, empowered individuals who can carry forward the values and mission of the Nation. Kathryn Halbritter-Cloete (Wolf Clan) has been a role model for the popular program.



Kathryn Halbritter-Cloete.

For most of her life, Kathryn dreamed of getting into the medical field. With her hard work and dedication to her studies, she finally fulfilled that dream.

Her journey to this point goes back to her grade school days. As a high school senior, Kathryn spent a year working on a neuroscience project, and from that experience, she knew she wanted to pursue a career in the medical field as a physician.

"I initially switched to wanting to become a vet during my second semester of my first year of undergrad," Kathryn recalled. "But then after thinking about it for a while, I decided I wanted to switch back to pre-med after finishing my second year. I realized that I love building those relationships, and that's one of the reasons why I went into medicine."

After graduating magna cum laude from Andrews University in 2017, she decided to take a gap year to prepare for medical school. In that time, she returned to Oneida to scribe for Dr. Newton at Oneida Indian Nation Health Services.



Sisters Kathryn and Kristen don 'doctors in training' outfits in a family photo.

“It takes a special person to be able to do the relationship part of family medicine,” Kathryn said. “Working with and scribing for Dr. Newton reinforced my love for medicine before I went to medical school. So I really am grateful for that experience that I had there.”

Kathryn wanted to get as much medical experience as she could.

“It worked out perfectly and I was grateful to get more experience, which reinforced to me that medicine was what I wanted to do...I wouldn’t have wanted it any other way.”

The process of applying to medical school can be a daunting task. On top of the MCAT, potential applicants have to write a personal statement, and oftentimes, secondary applications specific to each school. There’s no guarantee applicants will even get an interview.

“Working with and scribing for Dr. Newton reinforced my love for medicine before I went to medical school. So I really am grateful for that experience that I had there.”

- Kathryn Halbritter-Cloete

In addition to her scribe duties, Kathryn also gave back to the Nation community with youth workshops on healthy eating and exercise as well as talks with participants of the Nation’s Elder’s Program about staying active and diabetes prevention and maintenance.

Finding the Right Medical School

Going into 2019, Kathryn was patiently waiting on her admissions decisions. She applied to the University of North Dakota and Loma Linda University in California, among others. The program at UND had a specialized Native program, which was something important to her. She accepted an offer and was ready to head out to North Dakota, but she received a phone call just before her scheduled move. Kathryn had been accepted to the Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

Loma Linda University’s medical school has around 170 students per class year, which is on the larger side. The first two years focus on bookwork, and then the third and fourth years offer more applied learning, which is when the clinical rotations begin.

The required clinical rotations include internal medicine, pediatrics, OB-GYN, neurology, psychiatry, surgery and family



Karen Halbritter with daughters, Kathryn and Kristen.

medicine. With her prior experience and interest in family medicine, Kathryn knew that would be her choice when the time came.

In the meantime, Kathryn was getting used to life at Loma Linda. The community has been a welcoming environment throughout her four years of medical school. In addition to her cohort, which she grew close to, having a church community to get support from was – in a word – “unbeatable.”

It was through her church that she met her future husband, Joshua Cloete. Josh’s family is originally from South Africa, though he has now made Loma Linda his home. Recently, his parents relocated to Idaho, and his brother, Luke, moved to Maine for a job opportunity.

While adjusting to her new community, Kathryn also stayed in touch with her sister, Kristen, who was enrolled in a veterinary medicine graduate program at Iowa State University. It was the first time the two lived apart from one another for an extended period of time.

“I feel like we’ve kind of blossomed in our own way because we were able to develop our own friend groups,” Kathryn said. “But of course, I miss having her around. We’re still really close.”

While they were in separate programs, both were struck by just how many similarities existed in their curriculums. Being able to compare and contrast was helpful.

Toward the end of her first year, the COVID pandemic uprooted Kathryn’s normal routine. All of a sudden she was isolated in a place far from home. So she decided to take action to fix that.

Continued on page 12

Scholarship Program Enables Students to Excel

Continued from page 11

“I drove from California to Iowa and stayed with Kristen for a month or so,” she said. “I was living alone at the time and I didn’t want to be there all by myself...So we were able to study together. It’s nice to have someone going through a program of similar intensity.”

Loma Linda’s med school faculty also produced several mentors for Kathryn. Dr. Daniel Reichert, a family medicine physician, was always encouraging and supportive of her, especially during her third-year clerkship rotation. He chairs the family medicine residency, which Kathryn began over the summer.

Getting accepted into residency is another intense process. Students apply to the programs they are interested in and rate them on a scale – some students apply to over 200 programs and interview with 50 of those. On “Match Day,” they will learn where they have been accepted.

Loma Linda’s family medicine residency with Dr. Reichert was Kathryn’s top choice. It is a three-year residency.

Lifestyle medicine is another area Kathryn is really passionate about. The lifestyle aspects of health, especially in Native communities, are essential to overall wellbeing. That is where another professor of hers, Dr. Andrew Mock, shined.

“He actually has the title of strongest man in California,” Kathryn said. “I really appreciate him as my mentor, too, because he does apply lifestyle principles to each patient that he sees and I hope I can do that someday as well.”

Instead of just focusing on medicines, a healthy lifestyle can make a big difference in a patient’s life. Whether it is diet, exercise, or mental health, doctors need to encourage people to realize their health depends on all of those things – which has typically been difficult to do in practice.

“That’s the hard thing to get across now because everyone just wants a pill,” she added. “And if you’re not doing it yourself, you can’t really expect your patients to.”

Dr. Mock walks the walk. When doctors do that, patients are more willing to listen.

“You can tell he’s living a life that the patient should be living,” Kathryn said.

Mentors have helped Kathryn throughout her time in school – from the undergraduate level to medical school. They have also helped her think about what the next 5-10 years look like. She has several options that are of interest to her, but she is also cognizant of letting her path play out organically.

Being able to see how doctors do things differently, and similarly, will help Kathryn develop her own unique style as a practicing physician – and it is transferable to any of the areas she hopes to work in. Whether she decides on sports medicine, opening her own practice, or returning to Oneida to give back to the community, Kathryn’s mentors have prepared her for success.

“You can tell when someone is being genuine and I think that’s what makes patients feel comfortable,” she said. “Dr. Newton, Dr. Reichert, and Dr. Mock are really genuine and you can tell they care and that gets people willing to open up a little bit more.”

Future Holds New, Exciting Opportunities

Fitness and healthy living are also important aspects of Kathryn’s personal life. She says sports medicine is a logical subspecialty to go into after her family medicine residency.

“I also like the idea of kind of just being a small town doctor somewhere in the middle of nowhere and everyone knows who you are,” Kathryn said. “I just love that idea.”



Kathryn and her husband, Joshua.

Continued on next page.

For now, though, Kathryn is focused on her first year in residency. It's been a long journey and the light at the end of the tunnel is finally visible.

Education has long been something that's been emphasized and encouraged by her mother, Karen. Seeing the ambition and determination needed to get through school left an indelible mark on Kathryn.

"I don't know what I would have done if I didn't have the Nation help me through medical school. Achieving this goal is a dream come true. I am so beyond grateful and blessed."

- Kathryn Halbritter-Cloete

"I'm very grateful," Karen said. "I thank God for their abilities and that they stuck to it to become what they hoped to be."

The Oneida Indian Nation's Scholarship Program enabled Kathryn to go to school without the financial worry of exorbitant tuition at private institutions or the growing costs of living. From Andrews University to Loma Linda University, the Scholarship Program allowed her to focus solely on her studies.

"I don't know what I would have done if I didn't have the Nation help me through medical school," Kathryn said. "Achieving this goal is a dream come true. I am so beyond grateful and blessed."

Kathryn hopes to inspire other young Nation Members and Native youth as a whole. She is living proof that it is possible to achieve your dreams with encouragement and support from family and friends.

"That's a huge passion of mine," Kathryn said. "I hope that I can be an inspiration to those who are coming after me – that it's possible to go after your dreams."

"You just have to set your mind to it," she added. ❖

If you have news about your educational achievements that you would like to share with The Oneida, please email MemberAdvocate@oneida-nation.org with your news and contact information.



Scholarship Program Reminders

The Oneida Indian Nation Scholarship Program offers a variety of choices for Members seeking financial assistance for their education as well as incentive rewards for those who demonstrate the commitment, dedication and hard work needed to achieve success. Financial aid and cash incentives are available through the program for eligible Members in kindergarten through doctoral level educational institutions.

Any enrolled Member of the Oneida Indian Nation in good standing is able to file an application to receive financial aid from the Oneida Indian Nation to pursue post-secondary education in a college degree program at a regionally, nationally, or internationally accredited institution; or a certificate program from a regionally, nationally, or internationally accredited institution.

More information about the program guidelines, eligibility and incentives is available at the Scholarship Program Office or online at:

www.oneidaindiannation.com/scholarship-program/

The Scholarship Office is open weekdays 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Members may make an appointment to meet one-on-one with the Scholarship Program Coordinator for assistance with the program guidelines and application, or to use the student study space provided in the office.

The office is located in the Ray Elm Children and Elders Center, 5000 Skenondoa Way, Oneida, NY 13421.

Activities Kick into Gear at the Mary C. Winder Community Center

Programming for all ages is bringing the Oneida community together

From cooking lessons and story times, to traditional corn soup making classes and more, the staff at the Mary C. Winder Community Center has been busy putting together a variety of programs and activities to offer its membership.

The beginning of the school year brought the launch of the Oneida Indian Nation's reimagined After School Exploratory Program for students in kindergarten through 6th grade. The program offers participants multiple areas of 'exploration,' including Oneida language learning, tutoring assistance, swimming and creative building activities, with options to switch up after 8 weeks.

Brooke Dowdy (Wolf Clan), recently hired as the Center's culture and community engagement coordinator, has jumped right in to develop the youth programs and cultural classes for the community, including hosting craft workshops, story time in the library and working with youth in the After School Exploratory Program. "It's something that I absolutely love," said Brooke. "I've always dreamed of being in the position that I am today."



The new Teen Leadership Group began in November and has several participants in grades 6 through 12. Simple exercises such as a recent egg cooking class help build teamwork and communication skills while promoting independent life skills.

Events such as the Family Fright Night in October and a Corn Soup Class in November have proven to be popular, and the new Community Dinner Nights on Tuesdays in December have been selling out. There are also opportunities to get plenty of exercise with open basketball and volleyball nights, times to work on lacrosse skills, an adult swim and walking club and more.

If you have any questions about the Mary C. Winder Community Center programming, you can call 315-829-8227. The Center is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oneida Indian Nation Members, children of Enrolled Oneidas, and Oneida Indian Nation Health Services clients must sign up for Community Center memberships in-person at the welcome desk. ❖





The Oneida Indian Nation Mary C. Winder Community Center has come to life with events and activities bringing the Oneida community together.



Elders Enjoy Festivities

Oneida Elder's Program participants were treated to a special holiday dinner at Turning Stone Resort Casino's Shenendoah Clubhouse and a holiday luncheon at the Ray Elm Children & Elders Center in December. These events provide an opportunity for our most cherished generation to come together and visit with other friends and family.

Yawá to our Elders for attending as well as the banquet staff at Shenendoah and the kitchen staff at the Elders Center, with assistance from a few members of the Oneida Indian Nation Police Department, for their hospitality. ❖



PLEASE VISIT, LIKE AND SHARE THE ONEIDA INDIAN NATION SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS.

