

ONYAHSA TIMES

The YMCA Camp Onyahsa Newsletter
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Auld Lang Syne to 2006!



Don't forget your old acquaintances from Camp! We had a great year in 2006 through summer camp, family programs, school-year camp-outs, and group use events. We'll build on this success for the New Year so lets "take a cup of kindness yet for Auld Lang Syne."

Summer camp 2006 was one to remember, with great weather, a wonderful staff, and fantastic campers. Remember little Jocko, bat-spin relays, King Arthur, Skit Night!, waterfront orientations, swim tests, Top Notcher, and extended rest periods?

Campers attended from Chautauqua County, Western New York, the wider U.S., and internationally. Many backgrounds helped to make one genuine community during our *Legends and Heroes* summer.

Our staff also represented this diversity, with long-time veterans, new counselors from the

area; and international staff from Japan, Ireland, Sweden, South Korea, Quebec, and Spain. They really became a great team, and fulfilled the Onyahsa mission by keeping Camp safe, healthy, and happy.

In 2006, for the second year, Onyahsa ran youth overnight camps each month. There were cold ones from January through March, with indoor fireplace campfires; clean-up Camp in May, and a Haunted Staff Lodge for Fall Camp. In November, we saw an Erie Otters hockey game. These weekend camps are a great way to keep the Onyahsa spirit going all year!

Thank you for supporting Onyahsa as our 108th year comes to a very successful conclusion. Please continue to help us to foster the Spiritual, Intellectual, and Physical well being of participants of varied backgrounds and abilities within this nurturing outdoor environment, while creating a meaningful sense of Community among them.



Going Glow Ball in 2007!



“What up” for the New Year? Our staff is busy working on the themes and programs, but here’s a hint; we will be Going Global for the 2007 summer! Each fun week will look to a nation or region of our world for programming inspiration. For example, Caribbean Week’s pirate beach party is going to rock!

More adventure will be infused into the total program, with the expected construction of permanent tent platforms in the New Land, and the installation of big tents there for overnights *for all village groups*. We will also work to collaborate with local organizations and institutions to provide a wider array of specialty programs.

Our monthly programs; youth camp-outs, parent-child overnights, and family afternoons will run from January through June. The youth camp-outs are really special and fun for small groups. It’s like a week of camp in one weekend. The Parent-Child programs also run from Saturday mornings through Sunday lunchtime. Family afternoons are offered on Sundays once each month.

During the rest of the time, Camp is available for day and overnight rentals; birthdays, weddings, business meetings, church retreats, etc. Site and program information is available in real-time on the Camp’s website calendar; www.onyahsa.org/calendar

Continued Improvement

Onyahsa is all about “growth,” for its participants, but it continues to develop too. Recently, landscaping improvements have created park-like settings in Camp, complete with benches. Improvements to the Staff Lodge have continued, and apartments above the Mess Hall have been completed. We are currently improving Sheldon Hall, with the installation of a wood stove and new furnishings to make this year-round building more comfortable and useful.

Recently, a community service crew under the supervision of Property Manager Rick DelCalzo cleared an old concrete foundation near the archery range. This foundation was installed for a barn in the 1940s, which was never built. We hope to construct a new Arts House on this foundation in the next few years.

We are also excited to note that Onyahsa has retained the services of Schmidt, Copeland, Parker, Stevens, a national camp planning firm, to update our long-range Master Plan. This plan was last revised in 1997, and it has served as our roadmap for the successful development evident at Camp today. Central to this new update will be the bathhouse concept. This plan might include the installation of restrooms in some of our cabins. It will form the basis for a major fund drive to coincide with Onyahsa’s 110th anniversary in 2008.



Group Use and Site Rentals

Onyahsa is available to individuals, families, and groups for daytime and rental events. Recently, Camp has hosted weddings, birthday parties, business meetings, and church retreats.

The main lodge is heated and includes a full kitchen, and Sheldon Hall offers dormitory and private room accommodations for up to 40 people. Warm-season capacity is 150, and program assistance is available. For more information on site availability and cost, please check the Onyahsa website and online calendar, or call the main office.



The Promise Raffle helps to subsidize the cost of Camp for local kids, and our Café is managed year-round as a healthy lunch counter at the Jamestown YMCA by Camp Food Service Director Jeryl Hinson.

The Yard Sale offers donated household items for sale at Camp in the late summer. Please think of us as you approach Spring Cleaning. Items are accepted throughout the year.

Thanks to all who supported these vital endeavors, which help to offer quality camping experiences at reasonable rates of tuition to middle class families.



Fundraising Success in '06

Onyahsa raised over \$16,000 through several crucial fundraisers this past year. These events included our Pathways to the Future brick drive, our spring Onyahsa Promise Raffle, our year-round Camp Café, the Labor Day(+!) Yard Sale; and our signature event, the Annual Dinner Dance.

Our 5th annual Dinner Dance was coordinated by volunteers Jan and Brad Jones, and held at Onyahsa on November 4th. It alone raised approximately \$9,000. The Pathways Brick drive offers engraved paving bricks for \$50, and will be repeated beginning in February 2007.

Vehicles & Boats Accepted

As a charitable organization, Camp will accept donated vehicles and boats for use or sale. Thanks to Walt and Alice Williams, who donated a used Chevy S-10 pick-up truck, this year. Please contact the Camp office if you would consider donating a similar item.



The Onyahsa Association

Assembly! All campers, and staff, ... and alumni, and supporters.... The Onyahsa Association is a membership organization that includes all current campers and staff. Ideally, it would also include our alumni. The annual dues are only \$25, and these proceeds endow the Camp for the future.

Membership provides alumni with access to our historical online photographs, an alumni message board, a special newsletter, decal, membership card, and lunch or dinner at Onyahsa during the summer season at your convenience. Please join the campers and staff to reconnect with Onyahsa and to protect our future.



Camp Onyahsa's Top Ten

Music is a big part of Camp, from Rest Period wake-up to Candlelight. What were the top ten songs at Camp this summer? Survey says...

10. *Eyes Open*- Snow Patrol
9. *When September Ends*- Green Day
8. *Let's Get Together*- The Youngbloods
7. *Better Days*- Goo Goo Dolls
6. *Walk On*- U2
5. *Reach for the Sky*- Social Distortion
4. *Move Along*- All American Rejects
3. *Yahweh*- U2
2. *Fix You*- Coldplay
1. *Taps*- the Directors!

New Parents' Organization

Onyahsa would like to form a Parents' Organization, consisting of a local committee and an online group. These teams would meet with (or communicate with) the Camp Director on program, site, policy, promotion, and other matters. The local group would meet four times during the year for coffee at a local café. The online group would communicate regularly as well.

We value your time, so will not ask for a deep investment, but we also value your perspective and expertise, so welcome your input. If you are an "Onyahsa Parent," and would like to join a committee of this new team, please contact the Camp Director.



Staff Goes Glow Ball Too

In addition to our great staff from around the world, two Onyahsans will promote Camp in Asia in December. Chris Blitz, Village Director and Kitchen Boss, is studying in China, and Jon O'Brian is heading to Japan. They both hope to recruit campers and staff to enhance our international experience, as we look forward to the summer of 2007.

In Memoriam

We honor the lasting contributions made to Onyahsa by our recently deceased alumni and friends; Al Bonadonna, Cameron DePasquale, and Al Jones.



December 2006

Dear Friend,

YMCA Camp Onyahsa needs your help. The costs associated with quality camping continue to rise, as the need for this experience becomes more critical for the youth of our society. In many ways, the YMCA movement has always faced this challenge. From its inception, the Y has had a social contract that adheres to the adage, "to whom much is given, much is expected."

Can you help us to ensure quality resident, day, and school year camping programs for the kids who really need this experience? We are asking our alumni and supporters to help us by:

1. Joining the **Onyahsa Association** for \$25/year to re-connect with Camp and to build an endowment for its future. (Other benefits are listed in the newsletter).
2. Consider making a gift to one of our core funds: (Please use the form below).
 - a. **General Operations.** This helps to keep Camp affordable for middle-class kids.
 - b. **Camp Scholarship Fund.** This fund provides camp financial assistance to deserving children from families facing financial challenges.
 - c. **Development Program.** This fund assists Onyahsa in major construction, site improvement, and property acquisition.

Thank you for your consideration at this special time of the year. Most importantly, we hope that each of you; camper, parent, staff member, volunteer, alumnus/alumna, or supporter will stay connected to Onyahsa. Our success now depends on you, the way our past achievements depended upon an earlier generation of supporters who understood the Camp's social contract, and met the challenge to provide for its fulfillment.

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season,

Jon O'Brian, Camp Director

.....
Dear Jon and Camp Kids:

OK, I'll help out! Please accept my donation of \$_____ to be used towards the following fund(s).

Onyahsa Association Camp Operations Scholarship Fund Development

I have enclosed a check Bill my credit card Contact me at _____

Credit Card _____ Number _____ Exp. Date _____
Visa MC Discover

Address: _____

Please fax this form to (716) 487-1174, mail it to YMCA Camp Onyahsa, 101 East Fourth St., Jamestown, NY 14701, or email your information to onyahsa@cecomet.net Thank you!

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**DURING THIS SEASON, AS WE THINK
OF THOSE WHO ARE SPECIAL TO US,
WE'RE THINKING OF YOU!**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND MERRY
CHRISTMAS TO OUR CAMPERS, STAFF,
FAMILIES, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS!
'SEE YOU IN 2007!**