

# THE ONEIDA



## ONYOTA AKA

ONEIDA INDIAN NATION NEWS

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### Elders Dinner Highlights Nation Success

Everyone was in good spirits inside the Oneida Room of the Turning Stone Resort Casino for the Oneida Indian Nation's annual Elders Dinner on Sunday, April 9.

The dinner honors Oneida Elders and provides an opportunity to share how the Nation continues to build and expand for a prosperous future. Nation Representative Ray Halbritter acknowledged not only Turning Stone's recent achievements, but the advancement of several of the Nation's government programs and services aimed to keep Elders healthy and provide a secure future for the next generation.

Halbritter recognized the huge success of Health Services' move to a brand-new facility at Dream Catcher Plaza where the Nation will continue to provide affordable, quality health care for Oneida Members and other American Indians. He noted that nearly 70

Members are enrolled in higher education programs and are receiving financial assistance for tuition and room and board; a vital investment in future generations. He also mentioned the growth of Oneida Heritage, a store not yet one year old, which sells Oneida hand-crafted jewelry, baskets, artwork, lacrosse sticks and other American Indian pottery in addition to housing a large collection of historical artifacts.

The Nation's investment in the health, education and cultural enrichment of its people is the cornerstone of its mission. With the continued success of the Nation enterprises, the government programs and services have continued to expand, providing new opportunities and an improved quality of life for Oneida Members.

The first Elders Dinner was held at the old bingo hall on Territory



Judy Chrisjohn (Wolf Clan) receives a corsage as she enters the Elders Dinner.



Elders Dinner attendees enjoyed dancing to the music of the Beadle Brothers.

Road, but for the past several years the event has been held at Turning Stone – the world-class resort, which now holds numerous awards and honors, and provides thousands of jobs for the Central New York region. It was the ideals and principles the Oneidas maintained for generations that enabled the Nation to get past its hardships and on the path toward success.

"It's important to stay ahead of the competition," Halbritter said in his address. "We must remember our shared vision and the values we learned when we grew up as we move forward."

The dinner was preceded with the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address recited in the Oneida language by Mary Blau (Turtle Clan). The menu, prepared by Turning Stone, featured a wide-variety of meats and vegetables, bread rolls, traditional corn soup and savory dessert choices. The latter included peach blackberry upside-down cake, cannoli pops and espresso mousse – no wonder everyone was going back for seconds and getting to-go bags!

Sheri Beglen (Wolf Clan) attends the dinner every year and loves seeing how far it's come. "The food is

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INSIDE: Three Sisters Dinner - Pages 5 & 6

# Language Department Expands Reach

Fresh off its move to the old Health Services building, the Oneida Indian Nation Language Department looks to continue building on its language preservation and education programs. Led by its primary instructor, Mary Blau (Turtle Clan), the department is excited to reach and interact with the Nation's youth.

The program currently enrolls three Nation Members: Chelsea Jocko (Wolf Clan), Clairese Patterson (Wolf Clan) and Karen Pierce (Turtle Clan). All of whom have been in the program for over five years and are eager to pass down what they've learned to the next generation.

"I want to learn my language and be able to teach my kids," says Patterson. "I like the challenge, but you have to use it every day or you'll lose it."

Providing the groundwork to effectively and practically teach the language is the main goal for the department. That would enable anybody to learn the language and that is how the program plans to advance into the future.

With the direction of Nation leadership, Blau and the language program participants are adding phonetics to all written materials used to teach new words and phrases.

"We are amending children's books with the Onyota'a:ka: word and a phonetic spelling," Blau says. "There aren't many people that are

proficient in writing [in Onyota'a:ka:] so it's important to add phonetic spelling so progress isn't lost in the years to come."

Simple phrases in English are often more complex and descriptive in Onyota'a:ka:, which makes it difficult for new learners to pick the language up quickly. That is why the department is targeting the younger generation.

Kids pick it up quicker than adults because they are able to connect the pictures in books with the proper

pronunciation. Adding phonetics will make it easier for everyone to remember the pronunciation and provide a written record of how to pronounce each word or phrase.

The Onyota'a:ka: language can be challenging. It's a lot of work to keep that piece of culture alive, but Karen Pierce loves working with the younger children.

"There could be 15 different ways to change one word so it's easier when you have someone that can participate with you."

Blau's current project is maintaining the production of an annual calendar to distribute to Nation Members. The calendars are made in collaboration with Madison-Oneida BOCES (MOBOCES) and contain a common phrase, a common action, a kid-friendly food or drink and an animal for each month of the year. The



**"I want to learn my language to be able to teach my kids."**

- Clairese Patterson



Karen Pierce (Turtle Clan).



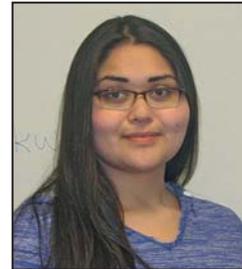
The new Language Department location offers a spacious classroom.

words will be written underneath the images in English and Onyota'a:ka: with a phonetic spelling for each.

The calendars will provide an easier introduction for Members and their children to attempt reading and saying new words. "BOCES gives us great ideas on how to reach and work with children," Blau says. "We all attended workshops on how to work with toddlers and the younger kids."

Using video to record and archive presentations made by fluent speakers is also a high priority. The department has access to three fluent speakers including Ray George, Olive Elm and James Antone from the Oneida Nation of the Thames. It plans to record them

reading in Onyota'a:ka: and English while displaying pictures from the books they are translating.



**"It's [Onyota'a:ka:] part of our cultural identity as a Native people. We need to keep it going for the next generation."**

- Chelsea Jocko

"It will be more visual and will be archived for years to come," says Blau.

These critical steps addressing teaching methods and communication will ensure the Onyota'a:ka: language can continue to be passed down. The department looks forward to expanding its teaching resources so they can reach more people, including the kids participating in the Nation's education programs. Chelsea Jocko believes it's a

worthwhile endeavor: "It's part of our cultural identity as a Native people. We need to keep it going for the next generation."

**THE ONEIDA**  
ONYOTA A KA

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<p><b>EDITORIAL STAFF:</b> Ray Halbritter, Publisher and CEO Joel Barkin, Vice President of Communications Jim Heins, Senior Manager, Editorial Services Kelly O'Connor, Senior Writer Pat Catalano, Health Promotion Specialist, Government Programs &amp; Services Page, Contributing Writer</p>	<p><b>TOLL-FREE MEMBER PHONE LINE</b> <b>1.800.685.6115</b> Nation Council Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 10:30 a.m., Nation Council House, Oneida Territory via Route 46 South, Oneida, NY For further information contact: The Oneida Indian Nation, P.O. Box 1, Vernon, NY 13476, or visit us on the web: <a href="http://www.OneidaIndianNation.com">www.OneidaIndianNation.com</a></p>

**DOING BUSINESS ON NATION LAND**

The Oneida Nation has developed a website for use by any business who does business on Nation lands and collects Oneida Indian Nation Sales Tax to remit the taxes to the Nation online. If you have a business on Nation land or are thinking about starting one up, contact the Nation's Department of Taxation at 315-366-9393 for assistance. They can help answer any questions and provide training on the website's use.

# Elders Dinner

*continued from page 1*



Edith Oakley and her daughter Sierra Oakley (Wolf Clan).



Nation Representative Ray Halbritter (Wolf Clan) and Nation Council Member Brian Patterson (Bear Clan).



Sheri Beglen (Wolf Clan) and Debra Montroy (Turtle Clan).



Nelson Jones Jr. and Darlene Jones (both Turtle Clan)

always delicious,” she says after complimenting the Turning Stone chefs. “And it’s nice that we always have entertainment each year, too.”

The entertainment this year was provided by the Beadle Brothers, a popular live band that performs regularly at Turning Stone’s Tin Rooster. The band’s traditional country sound instantly coaxed Elders onto the dance floor. While many danced, others took the time after the dinner to catch up with family and friends.

Maija McLaughlin (Turtle Clan) was happy she made it to this year’s event. “Since we live in Syracuse, it’s just nice being able come out here to visit with family and enjoy their company.”

Others in attendance, like Jeff Gabriel, have been coming to Nation events for years. “I’ve been [to the Elders Dinner] many times,” he says with pride. “My dad is Oneida and my kids grew up coming to these events so we try to make it to most of them. We were at the Three Sisters dinner a few weeks ago, too.”

Linda Williams (Turtle Clan), a regular participant in the Elders Program, believes the dinner is a great way to bring people together. “It’s nice to see everyone come together,” she says. “And the food is always great. I love coming every year.”

The Oneida Indian Nation has taken extraordinary steps to expand the services it offers Elders, including several dinners like this each year. It was a wonderful, sunny day outside, but the jovial atmosphere inside the Oneida Room could not be matched. Elders left the dinner all smiles supplied with enough leftovers for a late-night snack.



Birdy Burdick (Turtle Clan) enjoys a dance.



Carolien Touse, Karen Pierce and Luanne Pierce (all Turtle Clan).



Above: Jenny Ernenwein (Turtle Clan), ShirI Oatman (Turtle Clan) and guest.



Right: Bernadette Lewis (Mohawk)

Below: Kris Powless (Turtle Clan) and guest.



More than 200 Oneida Nation Members, Elders and guests enjoyed the annual Elders Dinner.



The team at Turning Stone Resort Casino catered a delicious meal.

# Three Sisters Dinner Delivers Healthy Food and Fun

More than 200 Nation Members and their guests filled the banquet hall of the Shenendoah Clubhouse at Turning Stone Resort Casino for the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Three Sisters Dinner on Thursday, March 9.

The dinner traditionally marks the beginning of spring and highlights the importance of a healthy lifestyle and diabetes awareness. While there was a chill in the air outside, guests were warm and enthusiastic inside.

The festivities kicked off with an honorary prayer recited in the Oneida language by Clairese Patterson (Wolf Clan). "The prayer thanks everybody that they

are here and safe," said Clairese. "It's important to recognize the Three Sisters because they are our sustainers of life."

The Three Sisters – corn, beans and squash – provide essential nutrients that are a solid foundation to healthy living and eating. Beans are a good source of calcium, iron, sodium, potassium, and protein. Squash is low in fat and high in dietary fiber. Corn provides vitamin C, calcium, iron, and potassium, as well as carbohydrates for energy.

The central mission of the Three Sisters Dinner is to educate Members about healthy eating through the

sustainers of life. The event is also sponsored by the Oneida Nation Diabetes Program to raise awareness of the disease and its prevalence in American Indians.

Nation Member Valerie Scott (Turtle Clan) organized this year's event. "We wanted to try a different format so we set up different stations to get everybody a chance to mingle and move around."



Valerie Scott (Turtle Clan)

Attendees visited booths set up by the Nation's Health Services and recreation departments. Health Services nurses offered blood pressure checks and screenings in addition to literature on

diabetes prevention and care. Cole Perkins and Anita Williams (Turtle Clan) managed the Recreation booth, which detailed upcoming events at the Rec Center and several new exercise programs.

Mollie Tracy, the Nation's new Nutritionist and Diabetes Program Coordinator, was also on hand to answer health-related questions. "The event is a great opportunity to get out information," she said. "We have fitness program information, kid-friendly healthy snacks and prizes to give away."

The Nation plans several events in conjunction with Health Services,



Children enjoy a healthy dance during the annual Three Sisters Dinner

an integral part of the Oneida Indian Nation's mission to help Members receive the best in physical and mental health care.

Linda Williams (Turtle Clan) enjoys attending the Three Sisters Dinner every year. "I love seeing people I haven't seen in a while," she said pointing out people around the room. "They also gave us Three Sisters seeds to plant ourselves. I can't wait to start my garden."

Melissa McCann (Turtle Clan) is a huge veggie fan as well, which is

one of the reasons she keeps coming back to the dinner. "It's a lot of fun and the recipes are always interesting. This is probably our 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> time [attending]."

The night came to a close with a few social dances led by Wes Halsey (Wolf Clan) and Chris Thomas.

The spirited dances have become tradition following the dinner and all generations participated, which sent everyone home smiling ear to ear.

What a great night of healthy food and fun!



Melissa McCann and son Dakota (Turtle Clan)



Standing: Carl Jacobs and Lisa Latocha (both Wolf Clan). Sitting: Tara Parsons, holding Sawyer Boylan, Kevin Boylan (Wolf Clan), Cavan Jacobs (Wolf Clan), Starr Boylan, holding Liam Boylan, Sawyers' twin.



Claudia Cook, Nelson Jones, III, Darlene Jones and Nelson Jones, Jr. (all Turtle Clan).



Kinglsey Dean Lyons III (Turtle Clan) and Darren Rinaldi Jr. (Turtle Clan)



Shirl Oatman (Turtle Clan), right, and her guest.



The annual Three Sisters Dinner is a great time for generations to come together. Above: Brenda Bush (Turtle Clan) holding twins Liam and Sawyer Boylan.

Below: Jessica Farmer (Onondaga), right, chats with guests about the Shak:wi Cultural Center's Three Sisters garden project.



Lucia Thomas (Turtle Clan) and Tom Gonnella.



Tammy Tarbell (Turtle Clan) picks up a door prize as Tanner Bluewolf (Wolf Clan) checks out the gifts.



Left to right: Rylee Dutchick, Christy Bear (Wolf Clan), Brenda Bear (Wolf Clan), Susan Morrow (Wolf Clan), Kayden Bear (Wolf Clan) Pamela Wilt, Sam Wilt holding Sammy Wilt, Doris Wilkins-Wilt (Wolf Clan) and her daughter MaeLynn Wilkins.



# The Shako:wi TRADITION



Three Sisters drawing by Elwood Webster, Oneida (Wolf Clan)

## The Legend of the Three Sisters

Storytelling is an important component of the Oneida's culture. These oral traditions and legends have been passed from generation to generation, teaching important life lessons.

A majority of these stories took place in the familiar setting of the woods, featuring woodland creatures. Other tales told stories of little people, flying heads and the thunders. More than entertainment, these stories teach children the values of their culture, such as honesty and kindness.

The legend presented here is that of what are known as the sustainers of life, the Three Sisters – Corn, Beans and Squash.

One day a young man was sent to the forest by his parents to hunt and bring home meat for both his family and the village. While on his journey to the forest, he came upon three young girls. They had captured his attention because of their great beauty. The youngest girl

was dressed in bean leaves and was called Osahé:ta' (beans). The second girl was dressed all in yellow and shone bright like sunshine, and her name was Onu'úseli' (squash). The third girl was tall and slim with long beautiful hair that waved in the wind. She too, wore green leaves and she was called O:ná'ste' (corn).

Because of his fascination with the three beautiful girls, the young man returned home empty handed at sunset. His parents were very unhappy and they scolded him. However, the next day he was returning to the forest when he met the bean sister and decided to take her home to his family. She was welcomed by the family and asked to stay in the longhouse. On the next day's journey, the young man met the squash sister. He fell in love with her and decided to take her home to his family.

Now, the corn sister was left all alone. She was overcome by loneliness, and every day she cried and cried for her other two sisters.

When the young man had seen her sadness, he was overcome with grief and decided to take her to be reunited with her sisters.

The young man's family took great care of the three sisters and gave them food and shelter for the long winter. The three sisters were very grateful for this kindness and gave the people the gift of corn, beans, and squash. They also showed them how to dry and preserve these vegetables so they would have food all winter long and showed them how to save the seeds to plant for the next year.

It is said that the three sisters will never be alone again as we are always to plant them together. They not only help each other, they also help us. It is also said that we should thank the Creator every day for everything that Mother Earth has given to us.



## Around Shako:wi



### Socials - All Welcome!

Socials: Fri., May 5, 6 - 8:30 p.m. (social dance and dinner) and Wed., May 17, 6 - 8 p.m. (social dance and pizza) in the Oneida Nation Cookhouse.

Social dances are coordinated by Jessica Farmer. Info: (315) 829-8801 or 1 (800) 685-6115.

### Artisans Wanted

Shako:wi is looking for artisans to teach various crafts to our community. Do you possess a special cultural skill or talent that you would like to pass on to future generations? We are always willing to give people an opportunity to showcase their craft through instruction. Modest compensation available. Info: (315) 829-8801.

### Battery Drop-Off

Batteries contain harmful acid, please do not throw batteries in your trash! You may drop your batteries off anytime at Shako:wi Mon. – Fri., 9 am – 5 pm. (Household batteries only, no car batteries please)

### Corn Requests

Would you like to learn to make traditional Indian corn dishes, but don't know where to get the corn? Nation Members may request up to 2 quarts of corn per 30-day period from the Cultural Center. Recipes may also be found at Shako:wi, along with instructional videos to make traditional foods.

### Notices From Indian Country

Would you like to receive notice of events happening all over Indian Country? Notices include: guest speakers at college/universities, cultural gatherings, scholarship announcements, conferences and others. If you would like to receive email messages about events, email Kandice Watson at kwatson@oneidation.org or call (315) 829-8801 to be added to the mailing list.

### Shako:wi Cultural Center Three Sisters Gardening

◆ 20 x 20 areas available next to Shako:wi beginning May 20 ◆

◆ Gardeners will be responsible for their own weeding and maintenance ◆

For more information contact Jessica Farmer at 315-829-8801



## Recreation Department Activities

For additional information about any of the following Recreation programs, stop by or call the Recreation Dept. at (315) 829-8484 or 1-800-685-6115. Registration priority for all Recreation Dept. programs is given to Oneida Indian Nation Members, followed by Children of Enrolled Oneidas, Oneida Indian Nation Health Services patients and when indicated, employees and the public. All grounds and buildings of the Recreation facility are alcohol, smoke and drug free, as are all on-site and off-site events for participants of all ages. Participants of Recreation programs are required to sign a waiver prior to participation; parent/guardian signature is also required for ages 17 and younger.

### Walking for Wellness

Walking For Wellness is an incentive-based program that rewards participants with SavOn gas cards for accumulating steps over a four month period.

To earn SavOn gas card rewards, stop by the Rec. Center from May 1 through Sept. 4 during regular business hours and sign out a pedometer. Walk on the treadmill in the Fitness Room or inside/outside the gym. After walking, return the pedometer to a Recreation employee, who will record the number of steps. Rewards are based on the total number of steps walked by Sept. 4, 2017:

- 100,000 steps - \$5 card
- 200,000 steps - \$10 card
- 300,000 steps - \$15 card
- 500,000 steps - \$25 card
- 1,000,000 steps - \$50 card

The program is open to ages 18 and older. Oneida Nation Members may bring 1 guest; the guest must be age 18 and older and be accompanied by the Nation Member at each walk. Sneakers are required in the gym and in the Fitness Room.

### Adult Softball League

Dust off the glove, lace up the cleats and start practicing your swing – the softball league is about to begin. Games will be played at the Nation ball field on Wednesdays from June 7 through Aug. 23 at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The league is coed and is open to the public ages 18 and older. Teams pay a \$20 registration fee and a \$25 umpire fee, due before each game.

The deadline for teams to sign up with their \$20 registration fee is May 31. Contact Ben Kimball, Recreation attendant.

### Youth Programs Ending for the School Year

The After School Program will be ending for the 2016-17 school year on Friday, June 16. YAP (Youth Ambassadors Program) and the Jr. YAP program will end in May.

All youth programming will resume in the fall 2017.

**ADMINISTRATION ♦ EDUCATION  
HEALTH SERVICES ♦ RECREATION  
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

*GP&S programs are for Oneida Members, Children of Enrolled Oneidas and Health Services clients only, unless otherwise noted.*



## Aging Well Elders Confernece Planned

On May 25-26, Turning Stone Resort will host the 17th annual "Aging Well: Think Positive, Live Positive" conference for American Indians and their caregivers at the Conference Center.

The workshops will offer a diverse range of topics for participants, from learning how to clear the clutter from our minds and homes, to using positive thinking to overcome health issues.

Keynote speakers include Dr. Darryl Tonemah, who will present on how to actively rewire and rewire our brains for empowerment and better health; Ken Parker will discuss using native plants and gardening to promote positive thinking and Dr. Benson Kelly will tout the health benefits of thinking positive.

The conference will also feature a diabetes walk and talk, Elders panel, healthy cooking demonstration and social dancing with the Kontiwennehawi: Akwesasne Women Singers.

For additional conference information, contact Kathy Willard, Elders program coordinator, at (315) 829-8155.

## Health Services Offering CPR-BLS Class for Parents

A CPR/Basic Life Support (BLS) class is being held at Oneida Indian Nation Health Services on Monday, June 5 from 4-7 p.m. The class is open to parents of children who are clients at Health Services.

Registration is \$5 and is limited to 10 participants. The class will be taught by Theresa Casler, LPN, Certified CPR/BLS trainer.

CPR is a form of basic life support that is applied during a life-threatening emergency, such as cardiac arrest, near-drowning accidents, suffocation or any situation where a person is not breathing. When CPR is done correctly it can save your child's life; it can restore breathing and circulation until emergency personnel arrive.

To register, contact Tara Smith at (315) 829-8209 or Clara Galster at (315) 829-8733 or 1-800-663-4324 by May 31.

## Summer Jam

The six-week Summer Jam program will begin Monday, July 10 at the Recreation Center for students entering grades 3-7 in the fall.

Complete registration details will be mailed and also available at [www.facebook.com/OneidaIndianNationNY](http://www.facebook.com/OneidaIndianNationNY) and [www.oneidaindianation.com](http://www.oneidaindianation.com), or contact Donna Howe, youth programs coordinator.

## Vaccines Available to Health Services Patients

### Prevnar 13 Pneumococcal Vaccine

The Prevnar 13 vaccine can protect adults from pneumococcal disease, which can cause ear infections and more serious infections of the lungs, blood and covering of the brain and spinal cord. It is recommended for ages 65 and up, in addition to previous pneumonia immunization. Certain restrictions apply, so be sure to discuss with your medical provider.

### Zostavax® Shingles Vaccine

The shingles vaccine is recommended for all adults age 60 and older. One in every three people age 60 and older will get shingles, which is an often painful skin rash that can last for months or years. The Zostavax® vaccine will reduce your risk of shingles by about half. Patients can receive the shingles vaccine even if they have had it in the past, to help prevent future reoccurrences.

### Flu Vaccine

The flu vaccine is recommended for all persons age 6 months and older. Those who are at the greatest risk of complications from the flu are young children, pregnant women, elders, people with chronic medical conditions and those who live with or care for someone who is high risk for complications.

The flu can cause serious complications for those with certain health conditions such as diabetes, asthma, and heart and lung disease.

For more information about any of the vaccines or to schedule an appointment, call (315) 829-8700 or 1-800-663-4324.

## Health Services Medical Call Center

Health Services has implemented Medical Call Center, a new service that will give registered patients the option of talking to a registered nurse about medical concerns when Health Services is closed.

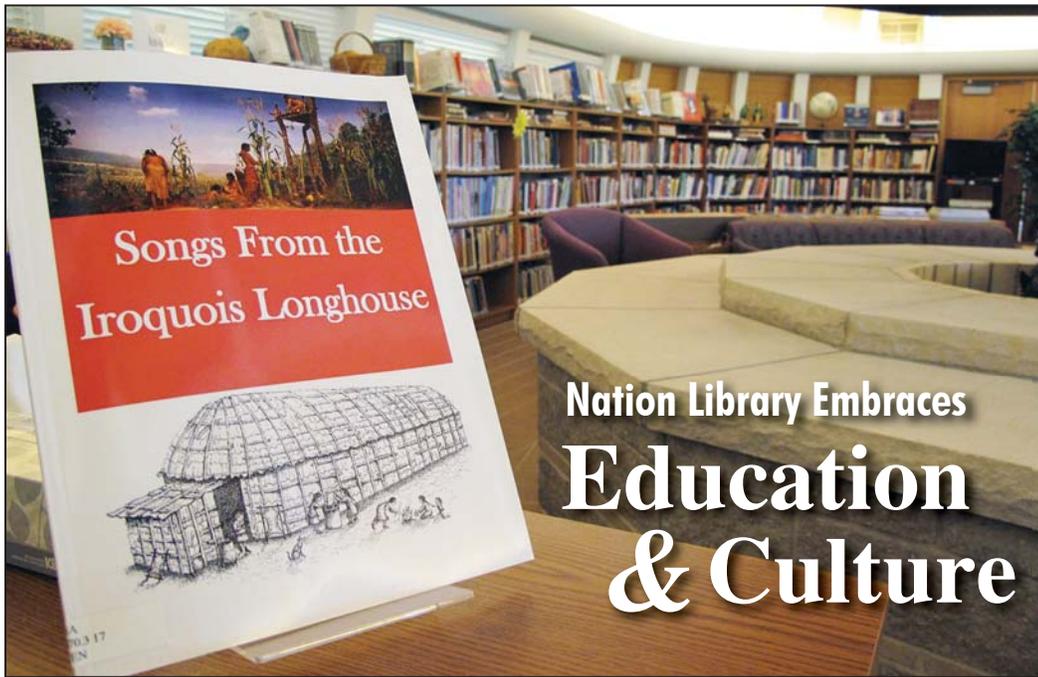
Medical and dental patients can call Health Services anytime the office is closed to talk to a registered nurse, who will "triage" the call and suggest options for care. When a call is triaged it means a registered nurse will talk to the patient and assesses their symptoms or health concerns and offer advice for follow up.

Examples of the types of calls that the nurse is authorized to triage:

1. Recommending the patient goes to the emergency room or urgent care.
2. Advising the patient to follow up with Health Services on the next business day to make an appointment.
3. Suggest over-the-counter medications until the patient can be seen at Health Services or if the situation requires, an emergency room or urgent care visit.

The Medical Call Center is not to be used for medical emergencies, prescription refills or to make or cancel appointments.

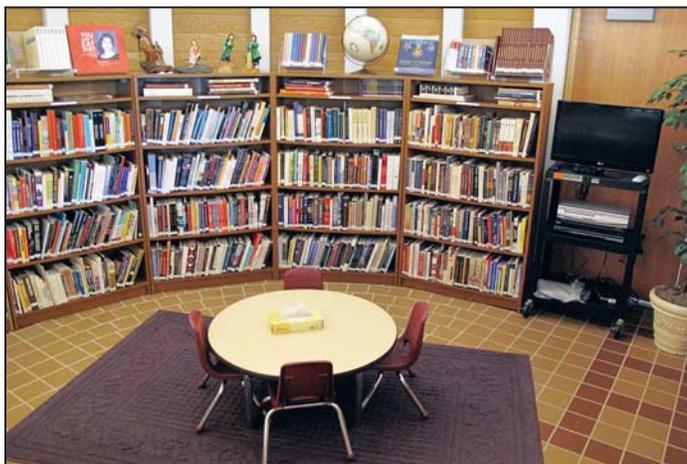
For more information, contact Lisa Winn, admissions supervisor, at (315) 829-8700 or 1-800-663-4324.



## Nation Library Embraces Education & Culture

**L**ibraries are an important part of a healthy, vibrant community. Preserving culture, whether it be art, music, film or literature, is a powerful societal bond. The library as a community center also has several benefits for those that utilize it. In addition to providing content, libraries in the digital age enable patrons to make their own content and share it with the rest of the world.

The Oneida Indian Nation Library offers its patrons a number of relevant materials to educate, communicate and distribute information directly to the community it serves while also strengthening the Nation's cultural heritage. Incorporating American Indian culture in the library empowers Nation Members and employees to take advantage of everything the independent library has to offer. Even its design, which is styled after a traditional longhouse, invokes the culture of the Haudenosaunee.



The Nation Library includes a special section designed for children.

Kathy Sochia, the Library Administrator, works to keep her collection up-to-date with materials of interest to the Oneida Nation community: "I try to bring cultural elements inside so the community becomes invested in the library," she says pointing out the Native artifacts around the room. "And the bulk of our non-fiction are Native books so there's a lot you might not find at other municipal libraries."

Sochia is in charge of cataloguing, ordering, shelving and checking in and out over 10,000 items that are available in the Nation Library. She works hard to develop personal relationships with patrons to determine what they like

to read or watch in order to keep the library stocked with what they want.

"We're a lot more intimate than a municipal library," Sochia says. "I try to get to know everybody that comes in on a regular basis."

That provides a unique opportunity to really understand the needs of the community. Among the culturally



The Nation Library offers a research/work station for patrons.

relevant materials available are books on lacrosse, beading and other American Indian arts and crafts. The library is also developing a reference section full of publications that are no longer in

print and are difficult to find. Most of these items provide cultural perspectives or language references significant to the revitalization of the Oneida Language program.

Sochia states that in addition to patrons using specific resources that relate to American Indians, many crafters in the Oneida community check out books on historical items they may be working on, such as regalia, as a reference point for how these items were made, how they were utilized and what raw materials were used to create them.

"Period items need to have accurate historical depictions to be replicated correctly," she says. "Many of the books here are richly illustrated and detailed with that information."

Having moved from Dream Catcher Plaza and the former Early

Learning Center on Territory Road, the Nation Library has found a permanent home in the atrium of the Ray Elm Children and Elders Center. The library now works closely with the current ELC to aid teachers with any materials they may need in addition to providing Nation Members and employees access to its services.

"The library is one of the children's favorite places to visit," Tricia Napolis, Manager of the ELC, says. "Kathy pulls and delivers books weekly to our preschool and pre-k classrooms based on the weekly themes of study."

The center's older toddlers, preschool and pre-k children visit the library weekly to listen to stories read by their teachers. Sochia regularly brings in guest speakers and authors to supplement what the children are learning in the classroom. Several children also visit the library with their parents and take out books to read at home.

"We are lucky to have the library here in the C&E and to have Kathy as the library administrator," Napolis says. "She really goes out of her way to bring books into the classrooms."

The Oneida Nation takes every opportunity to preserve its culture for future generations. This is one of the most important functions of any library. Sochia appreciates that mission and continues to provide the most relevant content for the Oneida Nation community: "It's really important to get to know who you're serving and get to know them personally as well as you can."

The Oneida Nation Library's services are available to Nation Members, Children of Enrolled Members, Health Services clients and Nation employees. It is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Free Wi-Fi is available and materials can also be reserved through the library's online database, OPAC. For more information call (315) 829-8200 or visit [www.oneidaindiannation.com/education](http://www.oneidaindiannation.com/education).



A large collection of DVDs are available at the Library.