

THE ONEIDA



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❖ ONEIDA INDIAN NATION NEWS ❖

THE ONEIDA ❖ ISSUE 3 VOLUME 21 ❖ SEPTEMBER 2019

Sundance Institute Brings Short-Film Series and Workshop to Oneida

Storytelling has always been a critical element of Indigenous culture. In keeping with the tradition, the Oneida Indian Nation has teamed with the Sundance Institute—a leader in championing minority voices in film—to bring Native stories to the forefront in Central New York.

In early August, the Nation welcomed Sundance’s Indigenous Program for a two-day program of film screenings and a Native filmmaking workshop led by award-winning filmmaker Erica Tremblay (Seneca-Cayuga). The events provide an opportunity to extend the reach of Native stories from across the country and highlight the need for more Native films in the future.



Jolene Patterson and Nation Representative Ray Halbritter at the Sundance screening.

The short-film series, which featured five films produced by students in Sundance’s Native Film Lab, screened in the Seneca Room at Turning Stone Resort Casino on August 8.

Speaking to a packed room, Nation Representative Ray Halbritter welcomed the audience and spoke about the importance of collaborative events that champion American Indians. He reminded those in attendance of the Nation’s own history and its often suppressed or ignored role in the founding of the country.

“We are not alone in not having our story told,” Ray said. “This is the case for many Indian nations and Native people across the country, which makes programs like this so important.”

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Dr. Tonya Corneliuss (right) with her daughter Arianna at the screening.

Nation Hosts New York State-Native Relations Committee

On August 5, delegates from the New York State-Native American Relations Committee visited Oneida Indian Nation homelands for a productive day of meetings and dialogue. The visit follows a commitment made by the Senate Committee to visit tribal nations throughout New York, and is in line with the Nation’s dedication to strengthening relations with regional partners and stakeholders.

The committee members, which included NYS Senators Joseph Addabbo Jr., Daphne Jordan, Timothy Kennedy, Betty Little, Rachel May, Robert Ort and Gustavo Rivera, were joined by Senator Joseph Griffo for a tour of Nation property, beginning at the Council House.

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Sen. Daphne Jordan is presented with a friendship feather.





Nation Hosts Committee

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There, they were greeted by Nation Representative Ray Halbritter, who provided a brief history of the Nation and outlined its functions as a modern government. The senators learned about the Nation's many services, such as its healthcare, law enforcement and education programs. He also spoke about the importance of meetings like these, as a form of open dialogue and valuable relationship building.

Before leaving the Council House, the lawmakers were treated to a traditional welcome song by Oneida children, who presented each guest with a friendship feather. From there, they toured other Nation property and stopped at the Oneida Indian Nation Courthouse, where they met with Judge Robert Hurlbutt and Nation Chief of Police Gary Henderson.

In the afternoon, joined by Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente and Madison County Board of Supervisors Chairman John Becker, the delegation attended a lunch at Turning Stone. Ray spoke again, this time to discuss issues related to Central New York's economic development and the Nation's economic importance to the region. ❖



Children welcomed the group to Oneida homelands with songs in the Oneida language and a presentation of friendship feathers.

Pictured (from left): Sen. Rachel May, Sen. Joseph Addabbo Jr., Sen. Joe Griffo, Sen. Gustavo Rivera, Sen. Tim Kennedy, Nation Representative Ray Halbritter and Sen. Daphne Jordan.



Sheri Beglen (Wolf Clan) led the children in song.

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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: www.OneidaIndianNation.com

DOING BUSINESS ON NATION LAND

The Oneida Indian 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.



Youth Work/Learn Participant Reflects on Summer Job Placement at Turning Stone's Golf Department

Elsie Cook (Wolf Clan) has been a participant in the Oneida Indian Nation's Youth Work/Learn (YWL) summer program for the last few years as a member of the Crew – the group for YWL youth aged 13-15, who take part in a number of cultural projects around the region. This summer, though, she moved into the job-placement division reserved for those aged 16-19, to work at Turning Stone Resort Casino's golf department.

The move into a mentorship placement at a Nation job site offers the opportunity for young people to obtain real-world experience in the workforce. Elsie said she enjoyed her summer learning from and working with a great group of new coworkers.

"The biggest difference is the level of responsibility," she said. "I'm working 40 hours a week, which has been a big transition. But I've enjoyed it."

With the new job came new responsibilities. Elsie's role in the golf department involved bringing players onto the course, placing players' clubs on carts before their round, cleaning clubs when the players returned and washing

carts at the end of the day. When the weather was not cooperating she helped out at the golf dome.

Elsie doesn't golf, but she said she really enjoyed working outside whenever possible. That's also what she enjoyed most about the Crew.

"The Crew was great. I love being outside, so being here made the transition easier," she said. "Sometimes I miss my friends, but I really like being able to work longer. Everyone here has been really nice to work with."

Tracie McLain, the Youth Work/Learn supervisor, was proud to see Elsie make the move to the golf department and see her confidence grow in her new role.

"Elsie was a little nervous to go to golf on her own this year," Tracie said. "She became much more comfortable interacting with guests the longer she was there, and she got glowing reviews from her supervisor. I'm so proud of her."

Turning Stone's Director of Golf and



Elsie Cook took a job with Turning Stone's golf department through the Oneida Indian Nation's Youth Work/Learn program.

Recreation Miles Blundell also spoke highly of Elsie's contribution to his team.

"Elsie was a great addition to the golf department this summer," he said. "She gained experience working in various areas of the operation and helped us create memorable experiences for guests. Hopefully she'll return next season."

For the upcoming school year, Elsie is moving up north to the Akwesasne area to live with her dad. She previously attended Oneida High School.

Other participants in the YWL job mentorship program this summer included Kadin Martin, Brandi Ross, Alaina Bean, Trevir Relyea and John Wise. Kadin moved to Turning Stone Car Care this year after spending last summer at Mariner's Landing Marina in Sylvan

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Members of the Crew took part in various activities over the summer, including painting and landscaping at Nation properties and local educational trips.





Sundance

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Ray also congratulated Nation Member (and aspiring filmmaker) Jolene Patterson (Wolf Clan), a 2019 recipient of the Institute's Full Circle Fellowship.

The screening featured *Mino Bimaadiziwin*, written and directed by Shane McSauby (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians); *I Am Thy Warrior*, written and directed by Razelle Benally (Navajo/Oglala Lakota); *The Moon and the Night*, written and directed by Erin Lau (Native Hawaiian); *Mud*, written and directed by Shaandiin Tome (Diné-Navajo), who appeared at the Nation's screening event in October; and a rough cut of *Little Chief*, written and directed by Erica Tremblay.

After the films were shown, the crowd had the opportunity to engage with Erica and ask questions about her work and her approach to filmmaking. Many Nation Members were in attendance and joined in the conversation, including Bear Clan Councilmember Brian Patterson, who raved about the films and reflected on some that reminded him of his own story. The discussion focused on the balance between traumatic realism and cultural identity on the screen, and Hollywood's reliance on stereotypical Native tropes.

Storyteller Perry Ground (Onondaga) echoed Brian's sentiment and discussed



Participants of the all-day filmmaking workshop pose with Erica Tremblay and staff from the Sundance Native American and Indigenous Program.



Clairese and Jolene Patterson talk with Jules Obomsawin (Wolf Clan) at the Sundance screening at Turning Stone.

the importance of storytelling in Native culture.

Dr. Tonya Cornelius (Turtle Clan) and her daughter Arianna also attended the screening, as well as the workshop the following day. She was impressed with the collection of stories told and the partnership between the Nation and the Sundance Indigenous program.

"My daughter and I are really interested in film," she said. "It was great to go to a program like this and have Sundance present Native stories."

Friday's workshop was an all-day event with Erica Tremblay at the Oneida Heritage Center in Sherrill. Erica discussed how she produced and directed *Little Chief*, in addition to the technical aspects of filmmaking. The mini "crash course" was tailored to the participant's questions, which made for a worthwhile experience for all who attended.

Jolene attended the workshop as well. During a break, she said that she's looking forward to advancing her script so she can get it on the screen one day.

"I keep in constant contact with Sundance," Jolene said. "I've also bounced the script off others when I was



Alex Tarbell (Onondaga) and Regina Jones (Turtle Clan) at the Sundance screening.

networking in LA. It's been a process."

Her script involves multiple stories within one larger story, which has made it more of a challenge to get down on paper. It has a unique perspective that focuses on an Elder sharing stories about Native heroines.

Jolene is also planning to take on a couple of internships in the fall to learn more about film production.

"Hopefully I can get it done early next year so I can apply to Sundance's Native Film Lab," she said. "Then I can shoot it next year and hopefully show it at Sundance." ❖



Catching Up With ...

Kathryn and Kristen Halbritter

Sisters Follow Their Undergraduate Studies To Pursue Advanced Degrees in Medicine



Sisters Kristen and Kathryn at Andrews University in Michigan.

After both graduating magna cum laude in 2017 from Michigan's Andrews University, twin sisters Kristen and Kathryn Halbritter (Wolf Clan) will continue to pursue their dreams of practicing medicine.

Kristen Halbritter Marciniak was accepted to Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine on April 16, while Kathryn was accepted to Loma Linda University School of Medicine on June 24. Both are looking forward to their new adventures and graduating together again as part of the class of 2023.

Loma Linda, located a few miles south of San Bernardino, was Kathryn's top choice.

"It was the hardest decision I've ever had to make," she said. "I was accepted to the University of North Dakota, but then I received an admissions decision from Loma Linda. It took lots of prayer, but I know I'm on the right path."

The intense admissions process took nearly a year from application to decision, and Kathryn has now begun her first semester. The first two years of school are similar to the undergraduate experience, she said, but with far more volume density. The final two years are focused on clinical rotations.

"I hope to come back home to serve our people," Kathryn said. Previously, she

had worked at the Oneida Indian Nation's Health Services as a medical scribe for Dr. Ratnakumar Seelan Newton. "My time at Health Services was invaluable and reinforced my decision to apply to medical school. I wouldn't trade it for anything. The whole team was encouraging and supportive through the whole process."

Meanwhile, Kristen has just moved to Iowa to start veterinary school. Her program is also four years.

"I will graduate with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine," she said excitedly. "I've always wanted to be a vet and it's always been my goal."

Kristen's husband, David, will also be attending Iowa State to pursue a Master's of Business Administration. They hope to move somewhere they've never been before, such as the Pacific Northwest, when they finish their studies.

"It's a huge honor and I am extremely blessed to get the support that I will be getting through the scholarship program," Kristen said, referring to the Oneida Indian Nation Education Department's financial aid program. "I'm super excited to begin the last part of my education to become what I've always dreamed of becoming."

Kathryn added that she hopes the next generation of Oneidas considers professional practice degrees.

"I hope this accomplishment will inspire and encourage other Oneida youth

"I hope this accomplishment will inspire and encourage other Oneida youth to pursue a medicine or professional degree. Whatever you set your mind to, if you're determined and driven to get there, can be done!"

- Kathryn Halbritter

to pursue a medicine or professional degree," she said. "Whatever you set your mind to, if you're determined and driven to get there, can be done!"

The Nation's Scholarship Program has helped many Members on their career journeys. From certificate programs to advanced degrees, the Nation is committed to providing Members with financial peace of mind to focus on their studies. ❖

Got Good News?

If you know an Oneida Member who is excelling in service to their community, education or career, and you think they should be highlighted in our upcoming Nation Member newsletters, drop us a line! Contact Derek Montroy (Turtle Clan), external affairs editorial associate, at 315-366-9327 or dmontroy@oneida-nation.org. ❖

Oneida Indian Nation



The weather couldn't have been better for the 25th annual Nation Member picnic, held on July 14. Members and their guests enjoyed several summertime activities, including swimming at the Peaceful Pines pool, a water balloon toss, a petting zoo, giant inflatable games, and a huge spread for lunch, hot off the grill.

Everyone soaked in the sun and visited with friends and family. Many kids participated in the hula hoop contest, while some of the adults played a few rounds of bingo under the tent. Attendees also received commemorative 25th anniversary t-shirts and were given custom notebooks inscribed with the 25th anniversary logo. Members of the Oneida Indian Nation Council handed out the notebooks and engaged with Members. Haudenosaunee dancers also displayed their skills in the afternoon to an enthusiastic audience. ❖



Member Picnic 2019





Nation Awards New Golf Clubs to First Tee Participants on Summer Jam Family Day

The final day of the Oneida Indian Nation's Summer Jam welcomed the program's 30 participants and their families for an afternoon of activities, lunch and the opportunity to look back on the summer's highlights. Several Nation police officers and staff from the recreation and language departments were also in attendance.

Family Day, as the program's last day is known, also offered a chance for the families to take in the presentation of new custom-fit golf clubs to participants in the Nation's First Tee program. The popular summer-long program works to improve participants' golf skills and to instill them with several core values including honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect and perseverance. Nation Representative Ray Halbritter awarded the clubs to several first-timers, as well as to a few who outgrew their previous sets.

"I've played golf for many years, but we could never afford clubs or golf balls when I was your age," Ray said. "We have these great gifts and goodie bags so you can continue practicing. Thank you to all the families that came out as well. We built this rec center for our kids to enjoy, and we are thrilled they are taking advantage of it."



Participants in the Oneida Indian Nation First Tee program received golf clubs and gift bags during Summer Jam Family Day.

Turning Stone's Director of Golf and Recreation Miles Blundell and The First Tee of Syracuse Executive Director Peter Webber were also on hand to celebrate the seventh year of the program at the Oneida Indian Nation.

"This has been a great program over the last seven years," Miles said. "We get 30 participants each summer and the kids can receive a new set of fitted clubs as they grow. It's a great way to keep them engaged with the sport."

First Tee is built into the Summer Jam program, which runs for six weeks and invites Oneida Members, Oneida children and Health Services clients to participate in cultural, educational and physical activities.

Donna Howe, the youth programs coordinator, handed out awards. Tailored to each participant's personality, likes or

Summer Jam Family Day activities included a friendly game of dodge ball.



Nation Representative Ray Halbritter and Turning Stone Golf Pro Jeff Kleinman present Kowah̄ta:wí` Hill (Turtle Clan) with a set of golf clubs.

contributions to the program, the awards provide the kids with an appreciation for what they bring to the group.

During the final week of Summer Jam, participants also enjoyed a trip to Roseland Water Park near Rochester. It was a perfect day to be outside and have some fun to close out another successful summer. ❖



Elders Enjoy Bar-B-Que Luau

It was a packed house for the Oneida Indian Nation Police and Nation Elders Program Bar-B-Que Luau Party at the Ray Elm Children and Elders Center on August 7. Nation Elders and guests were treated to ribs, chicken, baked beans, fruit, salads and sides served up by officers from the Nation Police Department and Government Programs and Services staff. Prize drawings, music and dancing were also part of the fun.

The Elders Bar-B-Que is a yearly favorite, with many Elders attending to connect with friends and family, and the police officers who serve the community. Community involvement is a priority for the Nation police department, and its officers take great joy in participating in events like this – one of many provided for Nation Elders to celebrate the revered generation and to promote community pride. ❖





SAVE A LIFE

Quality Health Services

Providing top medical, dental and behavioral health care for all generations is the number one priority for Oneida Indian Nation Health Services, which serves nearly 3,500 clients. Health Services specializes in areas of medical care specifically needed in the American Indian population, including pre-diabetic and diabetic care. The program also provides preventative healthcare services. Appointments are encouraged.

The Oneida Indian Nation Health Services is located at 2057 Dream Catcher Plaza in Oneida. The telephone number for all medical, dental and behavioral health services is (315) 829-8700 or 1-800-663-4324.

Hours: Monday 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., Tues. – Fri. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. by appointment. ❖

After-Hours Medical Call Center

All Health Services patients can call the Health Center after hours to talk to our medical call center. Your call will be triaged and patients will be appropriately directed based upon their concern. All calls are forwarded to the patient's providers for follow up if required.

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, patient access manager, at (315) 829-8715 or 1-800-663-4324. ❖

Learn how to recognize & prevent an **OVERDOSE!**

Narcan[®] Training at Health Services

Training to learn the signs of an opioid overdose and how to administer Narcan[®] nasal spray will be held at Oneida Indian Nation Health Services on Wednesday, Oct. 2 at 1:30 p.m. and Monday, Oct. 7 at 5:30 p.m.

Adults only; ages 16-17 need parent/guardian permission to attend.

The instructor is Kara Kaplan, LMHC, manager of Behavioral Health Services. Narcan[®] kits will be given to participants who have not attended prior training.

Pre-registration is required. Contact Tara Smith at (315) 829-8209 or 1-800-663-4324 to sign up. ❖

Health Services Policy Reminders

Health Services would like to remind their patients/clients about the following policies.

Paperwork and Forms

Paperwork that is needed for school, such as exam forms, medication release or immunization records, requires 7-10 business days to be processed.

When asking Health Services to fax paperwork or forms to a school, the correct fax number must be provided.

Any records needed for personal use, such as immunization records or lab results, will require a Release of Information to be completed by the patient/client prior to release of records.

Children's Physicals

Annual physicals for children ages 2-18 are scheduled 1 year and one day (366 days) apart. Only the child's parent is authorized to bring them to the physical appointment. The only exception is if someone other than the parent is the child's legal guardian (grandparent, foster parent or court-appointed guardian with proper paperwork).

For more information about the policies, contact Lisa Winn, patient access manager, at (315) 829-8715 or 1-800-663-4324.

Recreation & Youth Development Department Programs

Sunday Football at the Rec Center

Watch your favorite pro football team every Sunday from 1-6 p.m. at the Rec Center, starting Oct. 6 all the way to the big game on Feb. 2, 2020. During half-time, flag football will be played, either outside or in the gym. Participants are welcome to bring a dish to pass.



After-School Program (ASP)

The ASP begins on Monday, Sept. 9 and continues through June 12, 2020, at the Rec Center. Students attend Monday through Friday from 3-5 p.m. The ASP is open to Oneida Indian Nation Members, children of enrolled Oneidas and Oneida Indian Nation Health Services clients in grades 3-12. Registration is required and is limited to 30 participants.

The ASP offers quiet homework time, homework assistance from NYS Common Core Curriculum-trained staff, computer lab access, snacks, recreational games, sports-skills development, culturally relevant games and activities, outdoor play (weather permitting) and swimming (after Memorial Day).

Fright Night Dinner and a Movie

Every Friday in October, scary movies will be shown at the Rec Center from 6-9 p.m. Fright Night is open to all ages; children younger than 13 must be accompanied by their parent or guardian.

Some food will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring a dish to pass. Registration is requested before each week's movie.

Fall Scholarship Funding Reminders

Students wanting to apply for fall 2019 scholarship funding must submit the following documents:

- An Enrollment Verification Form from your school confirming you are registered for the semester
- Your Fall 2019 class schedule
- A completed Education Assistance Request Form
- A copy of your student bill
- Proof that you applied to Federal Financial Aid- FAFSA (confirmation e-mail)
- Proof that you applied to the BIE Higher Education Grant (copy of letter mailed to you)—all undergraduate students
- Proof that you applied to New York State Indian Aid—only applies to undergraduate students attending school in New York State
- A copy of your lease/mortgage, marriage certificate, birth certificates of dependents—if applicable

If a student missed the deadlines for New York State Indian Aid and the BIE Higher Education Grant, they can still apply for Nation funding; however, there will be deductions from their overall scholarship amount.

For more information, contact Lindsey Langdon, scholarship coordinator, at (315)829-8150.

Eligibility: Oneida Indian Nation Members, Children of Enrolled Oneidas, Oneida Indian Nation Health Services clients and, where noted, employees or the general 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. All program participants must sign a waiver; participants 17 and younger must also have their parent/guardian sign the waiver. Proper athletic clothing and footwear must be worn in the gym and fitness room. For more information about Recreation Dept. programs, call (315) 829-8484 or 1-800-685-6115.



Oneida Indian Nation
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More information about the Oneida Indian Nation programs and services can be found at OneidaIndianNation.com

Remember to like and follow the Oneida Indian Nation on Facebook and Twitter.

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 @OneidaNatnNews

SAVE THE DATES ...

Wednesday, Oct. 2

Narcan® Training

1:30 p.m. @ Health Services

Info: 315-829-8209 or 1-800-663-4324

Monday, Oct. 7

Narcan® Training

5:30 p.m. @ Health Services

Info: 315-829-8209 or 1-800-663-4324

Saturday, Oct. 26

Halloween Party

Rec Center

Info: 315-829-8484 or 1-800-685-6115

Youth Work/Learn

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Beach. Brandi and Alaina returned to the Early Learning Center at the Ray Elm Children and Elders Center. Trevir worked at the Maple Leaf Market in Sherrill, and John worked at the Snug Harbor Marina.

A number of young people participated in the Crew program as well. The 12-member team included Elsie's siblings Elaina and Greyson Cook (Wolf Clan), Lisa Powless (Wolf Clan), Lydia Aregano (Turtle Clan), McKenna Cousineau (Turtle Clan), Diane and Stephanie Morris, Mya Morris, Naomi Pawlikowski, Jorgia Belewich, Geovanna Perez (Turtle Clan) and Madison Ray (Turtle Clan).

This summer, the Crew spent time with kids enrolled at the Nation's Early

Learning Center for fun activities, including a cultural presentation from Ron Patterson (Wolf Clan) and Karen Pierce (Turtle Clan) at Nichols Pond, a



Trevir Relyea

historic site that was home to a series of Oneida villages more than 400 years ago. The Crew also met with cadets from the Fort Drum Army base, near Watertown, who were visiting the Oneida Indian Nation to learn more about its history and cultural property protection initiatives.

Later in the summer, the Crew visited Fort Drum, which sits on ancestral Oneida lands. They toured the area with Dr. Laurie Rush, Fort Drum's cultural resources manager, and ended at the Native American Calendar site, which remains strictly off limits to training. The alignment of the stones with the constellations was once used to track the seasons and harvest patterns.

The group also visited Fort Stanwix and walked the grounds of the Oriskany Battlefield, where the Oneidas fought with the Americans to protect the fort in one of the bloodiest battles of the Revolutionary War. One of the goals of the Crew program is to reinforce the importance of Oneida culture and provide the young participants with a sense of connection to their ancestors, who were instrumental in the founding of the country.

The Youth Work/Learn program continues to provide American Indian youth with a good work ethic and experience in the real world, along with several cultural enrichment opportunities. The program's perennial success is a major factor in producing well-rounded future Native leaders. ❖