

Incarnation Camp • Bushy Hill • Conference • Nature's Playground

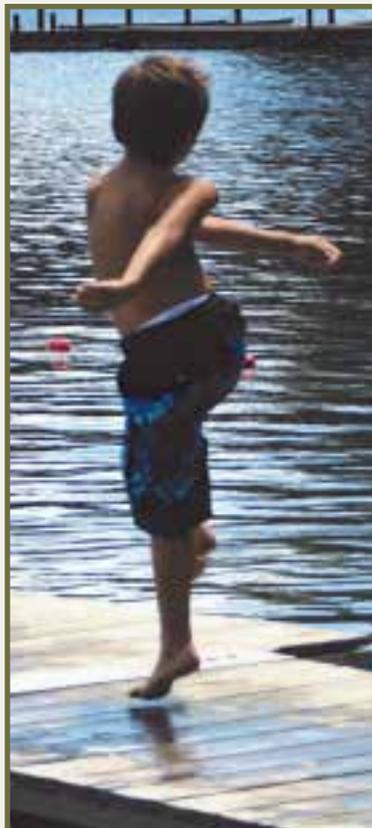
TIDINGS

FALL 2007

News From Incarnation Center

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Whitaker Hollo, Dancing his way down the docks of Bushy Hill Lake

122 SEASONS & STILL GOING STRONG

Incarnation Center has offered summer camp opportunities to the community for 122 seasons this year! Home to Pequot/Sherwood, Pioneer Village, Bushy Hill, Abo and Nature's Playground Camps, Incarnation Center is proud to have hosted over 1,500 children this summer and awarded more than \$55,000 in scholarships to families requesting assistance.

"Incarnation Center has a Camp for everyone", notes Executive Director Peter Larom. "Whether you like to sail, build primitive shelters, play sports or hike in the woods, Incarnation Center has it! The different camps have really elevated the organization's ability to reach a diverse group of youngsters. We will continue to grow and make our programs the best experience a child could have all summer."

Whether you were here this past summer or twenty summers ago, the spirit of camp lives on in each of us and is what makes this place so amazing year after year. Here's to you, for passing that spirit on for over a century!

CAMP ENROLLMENT 2007

Pequot/Sherwood Residential Camp	541
Pequot/Sherwood Day Camp	315
Pioneer Village Teen Camp	98
Bushy Hill Day Camp	470
Abo Camps	113
Nature's Playground	37

THE LAUNCH OF OUR ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The Annual Fund appeals to alumni, parents and supporters once per year to aid in the funding of general operations of the organization. With a strong Annual Fund Drive, Incarnation Center will be able to broaden its outreach and enhance the quality of its many programs, described in this *Tidings*.

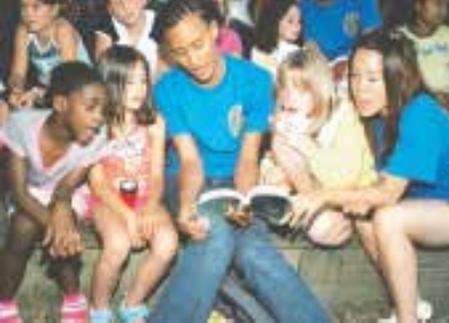
Incarnation Center touches the lives of more than 15,000 people each year through its youth camps, nature programs, conference center and childcare center, reaching a span that starts with our local community and stretches across oceans and around the world.

Our Center has had many names: **Incarnation Camp, ECCC, Pioneer Village, Pequot/Sherwood, Bushy Hill** and most recently, **Nature's Playground**, our childcare facility.

Please give generously to the Annual Fund and help us to continue our educational and recreational programming for all to enjoy on our 700 beautifully wooded acres. **Our programs depend on your support!**



Cliff Jumping at Pequot Camp



YALE STUDENTS BRING MANAGEMENT PLAN TO INCARNATION PROPERTY

A TEAM OF SIX GRADUATE STUDENTS WITH THE YALE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY WILL EVALUATE INCARNATION CENTER'S PROPERTY THIS FALL, DEVELOPING A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR OUR 700 ACRE INCARNATION TERRAIN. THE TEAM WILL CONSIDER BIOPHYSICAL FACTORS SUCH AS VEGETATION, SOILS, WILDLIFE AND HABITAT ASSESSMENTS, AND FOREST HEALTH; SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HISTORY AND SITUATION; THE POTENTIAL FOR EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL USES AND DEVELOPMENT; AND THE NEED AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION. THE REPORT, TO BE COMPLETED BY THIS DECEMBER, WILL HELP TO SHAPE INCARNATION CENTER'S NEW STRATEGIC PLAN AND MASTER PLAN FOR CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS. THESE DOCUMENTS WILL SERVE AS VALUABLE RESOURCES FOR THE NEW AND ONGOING DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF THE ORGANIZATION.

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN HELP TO UNDERWRITE THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROJECT, PLEASE CALL MICHELLE DOHENY AT 860-767-0848 EXT. 104.



Yale School of Forestry Field Group

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS FOR YOUNGSTERS

Not everyone can afford the luxury of sending their children to private lessons for curriculum in the arts and languages; it is both costly and time consuming for a parent. Nature's Play-ground hopes to supplement what most parents cannot afford by offering new enrichment programs, giving opportunities that would not otherwise be available to nearly 100 local children each day.

"Our program is here to help the parents and to inspire the kids." notes Nature's Playground Director Betty Johnson, "We still have another four thousand dollars to raise and hope to have all of the funding needed to fully implement the programs by January"



Caitlyn Bogan, age 3 & Galen Wilcox, volunteer

It is with the generous giving of individuals and foundations that we are able to offer this ex-tended programming to the children of Nature's Playground. A special thanks to long time volunteer, Galen Wilcox, for his hard work and dedication to the center and to the CVS Foundation for their special grant toward our programs.

Nature's Playground Enrichment Programs

Preschool

yoga, dance, music, computer, drumming, & Spanish.

Afterschool

ceramics, art, pottery, woodworking, jewelry making & journalism

INCARNATION CAMP BENEFIT

The time has come to raise funds for the Andy Katsanis Scholarship Fund for Incarnation Camp. If you are interested in becoming a Patron or Benefactor of the event or have additional questions, please call us at 860-767-0848 ext. 104. All inquiries regarding auction items and donations should be directed to Ellen Doss Levy at nyclevys@verizon.net.



Congratulations go out to Andy Katsanis and his family on the arrival of his first grandchild.

Have an announcement or want to write an article? Please call us and we'll publish your good news!

Bushy Hill Nature Center Annual Winter Celebration

DECEMBER 15, 2007
BUSHY HILL NATURE CENTER

~ Join us for good food, music and friends ~
~ If you wish, bring a holiday dish ~

INVITATION TO
COME SOON!





New Landscaping and Orchard to Celebrate Life



New cascading staircase to the water front, crafted and designed by Master Carpenter Jeff Kosky (pictured above) with the help of several staff and volunteers.

If you happened to visit us this past summer you may have noticed the beautiful landscaping made possible through the hard work of Incarnation staff members and volunteer, Claire O’Kell. The landscaping projects began in 2004 with alumni Will Randall giving the start to our now flourishing orchard. The following year, Will’s good work was augmented by Alex Marks, who began a more extensive landscaping effort, and generously gave funds to support planting. Today, their efforts don’t go unnoticed as the life they planted thrives throughout our camp and continues to inspire the efforts to beautify our land.



Our sincerest thanks to volunteer Claire O’Kell

The orchard is a special addition, where fruit trees have been planted in memory and in honor of several friends of the Center. Plum, Pear, Cherry and Apple trees now stretch across the field adjacent to Katsanis Hall. Dedications of trees are still available (for a gift of \$80), and make a beautiful holiday gift for someone special. We look forward to sharing the new orchard with conference guests, campers and the local community for years to come.



Fruit Trees have been planted for the following:

*Edward S. Bischoff
Pauline Kane Larom
Irene King*

*Jane Grimes
Rowan Pilon
Incarnation Staff
Noah Woodley-Aitchison*

*Andy Katsanis
Cameron Pilon
Jaimie Mullins*

CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR INCARNATION: NEW WATER SYSTEM

By this December Incarnation will have tripled its water storage capacity and improved the quality of the already pure water by adding a treatment system that will remove the “iron and manganese” particles that sometimes have given a reddish quality to the water here at our Center. Currently we have a 30 yr. old 5,000 gallon storage tank, which, at 2007 usage levels, provides enough water for less than a day of op-ration.

Incarnation is blessed with 4 good wells to complement the upgrades of our pumping mechanisms, water treatment system, and storage capacity. A new pump house will be opposite the Colony site and next to the currently existing pump house. Down the road the Center will need to upgrade the distribution system.

We are grateful to All Angels Farm, Church of the Incarnation, and Kendall Chen for enabling gifts and other supporters for their generosity to help make this project possible. More funds are sought for the cost of the pump house itself and the water testing equipment which will help the Center insure the quality of the water in the years to come. The total cost still needed is about \$25,000, but we are starting the project to be completed for the spring and summer season.

COLORS TO COME

Submitted by Erik Becker

Fall is a time of breathtaking beauty in the north east. Yellows, reds, oranges, pinks, and purples abound as our deciduous trees prepare for winter.



Native Red Oak

Among the most spectacular are the maples (both the classic sugar maple and the swamp or red maple) shining with deep oranges, bright yellows, and reds. The oaks are among the last to change from their summer green. Red and scarlet oaks turn the color of their names, before finishing a soft brown.

The leaves of white oak, our Connecticut state tree, turn a gentle pinkish purple and blanket the ground with a thick softness of color. Each tree provides a different shade of color and a new chance to look at the world and see its beauty.

Ambitious Future Hopes for Incarnation Camp

As enrollment in summer camp grows, so too grow the hopes of Nancy Nygard Pilon, Director of Incarnation Camp, and the camp leadership for improvements. Each year we find new ways to enhance Incarnation Camp in order to keep up with the advancement of camps across the country. The addition of the wet willy water slide and the new dodge ball court over the past two seasons were huge hits, and discussions are already in progress for further improvements to thrill campers in the upcoming seasons. But improvements take money (and a great maintenance crew, which we have).

First and foremost are improvements to the Sherwood beachfront, including cladding and beautifying the concrete wall and introducing a **restroom and changing facility**.

After that, we envision a **new and improved art center** with separate studios to incorporate the addition of woodworking and ceramics, as well as traditional arts and crafts. The new location at *Lakeside* (and just above our water slide), will have sweeping views of the lake to inspire young artists and accommodate a much expanded arts program. Once the new center is attained, the existing *Art Barn* will be transformed into a **theater** for those rainy days and special occasions at the camp.



Staff Members, Ross McFarlane and Zack Allen, 2007 Camp Olympics



Bushy Hill Lake

On the sports side, there is a growing enthusiasm for **roller hockey** that we hope to respond to with an outdoor rink south of Katsanis. The intention is to be able to flood the facility during the winter for ice-hockey as well.

Some camps are finding that outdoor seating for the lunch meal is popular with kids and staff alike. Taking their cue, we are looking to add **30 picnic tables** to be situated under the trees or in the sunny meadow near Gibney Dining Hall.

Already in motion, Incarnation Camp hopes to have the **Incarnation radio station** up and running before our 123 season begins, thanks to the support of alumni, Glen Govier. Campers and staff will be a part of the broadcasting throughout the sessions with music & morning shows and to provide as a safety measure in camp wide communication.

Finally, Incarnation intends to add **alpine climbing towers** to the already popular high and low ropes course. Our own maintenance crew, lead by builder Jeff Kosky, should be able to make this happen over the off season for camp, once funding is secured. We look to alumni and friends to help us with these projects and enhance our already incredible camp. Can we enlist your support for these valuable goals for our camp?

Incarnation Camp ~ New For Summer 2008 ~ Funds Needed!

Roller Hockey
\$45,000

Beach Front Changing Rooms
\$7,500

Theater
\$10,000

Camper Radio Station
\$10,000

New and Improved Art Center
\$40,000

Outdoor Seating at Mealtimes
\$13,500 (30 tables @ \$450 ea.)

Two Alpine Climbing Towers
\$15,000 ea.

For more information on contributing to or underwriting the cost of the following special projects, please call Camp Director, Nancy Nygard Pilon at 860-767-0848