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TIDINGS

News from Incarnation

SPRING SEASON EDITION

2010

CELEBRATING OUR 125th SUMMER



125 years is a great milestone for Incarnation, America's oldest co-ed camp. All the staff feel privileged to be part of our hospitality ministry at this time in IC history. From our "fresh air" respite of the 1880s, through our care for wounded soldiers during both wars, through the boom camp years beginning in the sixties under Andy Katsanis, Incarnation has had a remarkable ministry of both life—giving hospitality and the excitement of outdoor recreation.

In our 125th year please help us build on the achievements of the past and create excitement for the future with your donation.

Three projects in particular will need the help of all who love the camp and conference center:

First, please help us to create a new outdoor chapel, similar to the beloved one we have, but larger, to accommodate more campers and include a performance space. Board member, celebrated architect, and camp alum Duo Dickinson is assisting with a design. Help us by being a pillar of the new chapel with a donation so that by the Feast of the Incarnation we can dedicate this new gift for our camp.

Second, we have the need to both restore the glory of our Activity Center and increase its benefit by creating a new "multi-sport" facility

to serve all of our programs. The cost is expected to be \$60,000. You will be hearing more about this ambitious project as we develop our plans.

Finally, we hope to finish our upgrading of all 7 units: bunks, mattresses, platforms, and landscaping. You can help us give rebirth to these marvelous summer units by sending a donation in the enclosed envelope.

At this writing we already have 1,050 campers for our 125th summer. Please help us to make all our facilities welcoming for the new campers of tomorrow.

Executive Director, Peter Larom
Assoc. Exec. Dir, Nancy Nygard Pilon

Treasure the Past, Build the Future Camp Benefit

On Saturday, April 10th, guests to our Treasure the Past, Build the Future Camp Benefit enjoyed a wonderful night in NYC at the lovely home of Robert and Judy Rubin. Vacations were auctioned, boats were donated, and lots of money was raised for camp!

Many thanks to our host committee: Tom Secor, Lili Rosenberg Siegelson, and Phil Rubin!



Notes from the Board - Gavin Leckie



When we were meeting the camp counselors at last year's Board Retreat, Peter asked me to comment on what the camp means to me as a parent of four campers. I can think of lots of great things to say about it but what really defines it for me is its special ability to do so much with so little. Of course, when I say little I don't mean to discount the beautiful location of the camp but nobody could

describe the facilities as fancy and if we look for the latest in equipment and programs it isn't to be found. But despite that, in fact probably because of that, the campers have fun, free of helicopter parents, iPods, and computer games. They get to interact with kids of all backgrounds (inner city to the seriously wealthy) without those backgrounds becoming any kind of obstacle to develop-

ing lifelong friendships. And they also get to interact with a fantastic group of counselors drawn from all over the world – this international element is a truly striking feature of the camp. All this adds up to make a unique, self-reliant community of individuals who have learned that having "stuff" is not necessary to enjoying life and one another.



Camp will be sending 2 tents to Puerto Rico for the CA's to set up. People at the mission site will be able to use them year-round!

Planned Giving

To mark our 125th year we are launching our new Planned Giving Program to help lay the financial foundation for the camp's next 125 years. Our goal is to reach out to all those people who feel a bond with the camp and want to see it continue bringing all the joys of the authentic summer camp experience in a magnificent and setting.

We want to ensure that we can keep our wooded acres undefiled, a welcoming space for our families, our organizations and our churches to enjoy the treasures of Incarnation.

The Planned Giving brochure that you will be receiving references several different ways of giving (some with tax advantages) to create a legacy for the

future. Will you consider joining our 125th Year Fund to help us build that legacy for Incarnation?

We will begin to record names of those who have remembered Incarnation in their estate planning, and will be presenting these names in Tidings as the years go by. Thank you for keeping Incarnation in the forefront of your life planning.

What's New? Camps Pequot & Sherwood-Karen Fairbairn

You know camp is around the corner when the green leaves appear, the docks are extended out onto the lake and the sounds of summertime once again fill the nighttime air!

We are excited to begin the summer with the return of the traditional first 4 week session and the Pequot/Sherwood canoe trips. Through generous support of alumni, friends

and parishes we were also able to add some new boats to the fleet, introduce an acoustic music program and replace some old bunk beds with much needed newer, safer ones – just to name a few!

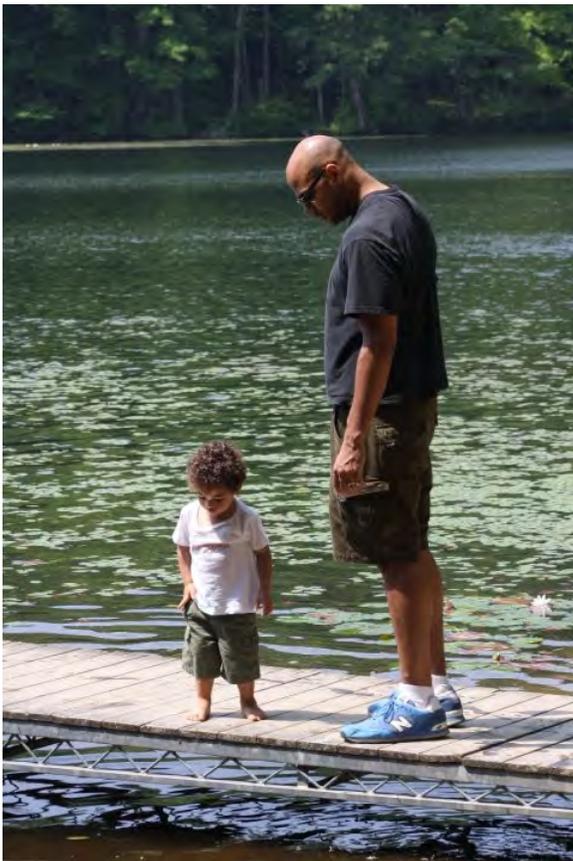
One thing we are extremely thrilled about is our counselor assistant mission trip to Puerto Rico at the end of the season. This has been a goal of ours to offer this life

changing experience for our teens. Nancy and Peter will accompany the 24 teens as they work on a variety of projects at the Espiritu Santo Conference Center in Aibonito, PR.

Although the economy is still in flux we are incredibly blessed with fantastic camper registration and financial support from our extensive camp family. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your continued support.

Alumni Weekend

June 4 – June 6 in Ivoryton



Conference Center News-Peter Nygard



Spring has sprung here at Incarnation Center. After a very snowy and rainy winter we are overjoyed with the beautiful spring weather. Continuing our extensive upgrade of our buildings is paying off with incredibly positive comments. The upgrades in The Lodge are now complete including new bathrooms, new carpeting, and 2 attic spaces for some much needed storage space. A new waterfront is being constructed for increased Conference use near the dam.

I would like to take the time to mention a few of the over 200

groups that we host every year. The St. Thomas Boys Choir from NYC lets us know that the summer has started every year. They have been arriving at the end of May for over 20 years. Trinity on the Green from New Haven not only sends both of their choirs in August, we also are lucky to host their vestry in February. I believe I was still a camper when Vinnie Cologne started coming here with the Light of Christ men from Hamden, CT. Village Retreat always rings in the New Year at Incarnation as well as visiting 2

other times every year. New Beginnings hosts people from all over CT. We are blessed with business from Yale and Fairfield Universities. Our newest segment of business comes from quilting groups. We presently host 4 different events each year with more on the way.

Thank you to everyone over the last year who has helped us continue our mission here at Incarnation Center. Please pass on the Incarnation word to anyone you think might benefit from our hospitality. Thanks again and God Bless.

2nd Annual Bushy Hill Gala

With 700 pristine acres, Incarnation, especially through the Bushy Hill Program, is having an increasingly important voice in the appreciation and preservation of the environment. Now in the 2nd year, the Bushy Hill Gala, on May 27th highlighted the importance of two groups that have worked hand in hand with Incarnation in celebrating the natural environment: The Yale School of Forestry and Nature's Classroom.

Yale produced a 200 page management plan for our land which is now featured on our website. Distinguished forestry professor Mark Ashton accepted the award on behalf of Yale.

Nature's Classroom has been a partner in outdoor education with Incarnation for over 30 years. Founding Director John Santos remarked about the 'religious' dimension of celebrating the outdoors, and through Santos and Alumni Marcus De Florimonte's words that night it came to light that the long

time head of Incarnation Andrew Katsanis, had the guiding hand in the founding of both Bushy Hill and Nature's Classroom. Proceeds from the dinner resulted in providing 10 scholarships for Bushy Hill Summer Day Camp.



One of Our Own

Victoria Stewart

Camp Alumni

8-16 yrs old (1936-1944)

Camp was a lot different back in her day, but Victoria Stewart has a special place in her heart for Incarnation that has lasted a lifetime! Starting as a camper at 8 years old, she was already a 3rd generation camper. Her grandmother stayed at Incarnation back in the 1920s, and her Uncle's also attended camp. She spent her

summers here, through both World Wars! It has always been a strong determination of hers to support IC whenever possible. She would like to credit her life long partner Alfred H. Roswig for leaving a very generous donation from his estate to Incarnation. We are very lucky and grateful to have such wonderful alumni that share their stories with us, and continue to support Incarnation!



Margaret McCabe Ackerson (Victoria's Grandmother) at Incarnation's "Mother's Home" ca. 1919

