

TIDINGS

News from the Incarnation Center

SPRING 2012



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Nancy Nygard Pilon
Executive Director



NEW OUTDOOR CHAPEL IN THE WORKS

Construction has begun on our new Lakeside Chapel. The old chapel was disassembled this winter and the foundation for the new Chapel was poured in February. Work continues to progress nicely. The new Chapel will have more room to accommodate our growing programs. We will have the consecration of the new Chapel in June during the Alumni Weekend.



(Top) In February, the Lakeside Chapel was disassembled. (Below L-R) The Chapel in the 1930's and the Chapel overcrowded last year at camp.

Our "Raise the Roof" campaign began back in 2010 when we asked our supporters to help fund a new outdoor Chapel. We are still in need of \$30,000 to reach our goal. Please consider making a contribution to the "Raise the Roof" fund. To donate, contact our Development Office, or write in "Chapel" on the enclosed remittance envelope. We are still in need of funding for finishing touches such as landscaping, lighting, and seating.



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WINTER CAMP A GREAT SUCCESS

Over President's Day Weekend 100 kids came up to Ivoryton to enjoy Winter Camp! Staff and campers spent the unseasonably warm weekend putting a spin on traditional summer activities.

Activities included the popular woodworking, cupcake wars, arts

& crafts, group games and much more. Last year the lake was completely frozen over for Winter Camp! No ice skating or sledding this year, but overall it was a fun and successful Winter Camp weekend.



Kids work in the new woodworking studio at Winter Camp.





Kelly "Noodle" Way
 Bushy Hill Director
Colleen Seymour
 Farm Manager



BUSHY HILL SLAM DUNK MAPLE SUGARING SEASON

This past winter was a great one for us, as we were able to enjoy being outside with school groups without much snow or cold weather. We had a slam dunk Maple Sugar season. The Sugar House was as busy as ever from February 18-March 17, producing quality maple syrup. We had the most number of visitors on record, with people visiting from all over the shoreline, including areas as far away as Meridan and Manchester, CT. The good word was spread far and wide to check out our Open Sugar House Saturdays thanks to the local media! CT Fox News did a feature "Day

Tripper" story on the Sugar Shack and the New Haven Register also ran a great feature article.

In other news, our afterschool mentoring program is growing. Our summer camps are shaping up well. New and returning staff members are lined up and registrations are coming in steadily. This summer we also have a new program for 13 year olds that aren't quite ready for the ABO camp experience. This program will focus on team building activities, high ropes, and a service project. We are really looking forward to this summer!



Maple Sugaring in the Sugar House.



(Top) Thelma and Louise, (Bottom) Poster design for the event

FARM AID - AN OUTDOOR BENEFIT CONCERT

Grab the kids and put on your dancing shoes as Bushy Hill is hosting its first ever Farm Aid, a benefit concert for the farm at Bushy Hill!

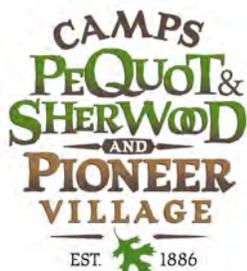
On May 12 (rain date May 13) from 11am-5pm on the Activity Center field, we will have performances from 6 local bands and musicians. There will also be a Primitive Studies Expo

where kids and families can learn about flint napping, hide tanning, primitive fire by friction, basket weaving and much more! There will also be some great food vendors, including a donut truck, and many local artists selling their crafts. Admission is \$5 per person, children under 12 are free! We hope to see you

there! All proceeds will go towards operating the farm, which is in need of some repairs and new equipment.



Phoenix the goat



Peter Larom
 Camp Director
Shay Coe
 Assoc. Camp Director

PEQUOT, SHERWOOD & PV

We are happy to report that registration for camp is filling up fast! We have the highest percentages on record of returning staff and campers.

This summer we are looking forward to adding stand up paddle boarding. We are also expecting a donation of an 8 person rowing shell! This will provide campers with new and unique ways of exploring the lake.

More new and exciting things happening this summer:

A water blob aqua launcher, more frontier winds canoe trips, woodworking and ceramics programs will be expanded, we will have rock climbing for Pequot & Sherwood, and drums will be added to the music curriculum!

All the staff here are ready and excited for summer 2012!



Assoc. Camp Director Shay testing out a new stand up paddle board.

CONFERENCE CENTER

BUSY AS EVER AND NEW UPGRADES TO BUILDINGS

At last the bathrooms in Bell and Brooks Cottages have been remodeled. The renovations took almost 2 months, but were well worth the wait. It is hard to remember how the old bathrooms looked after seeing the new designs. We hope you will enjoy the upgrade.

People always ask “What is your busy season?” I’m lucky to say that we are busy year round these days. I bring this up to remind all of our guests to book as early as possible to make sure you get the date and building you are looking for.

I’m very pleased to report that our new Conference Assistant Ryan Tunnacliffe has gotten off to a great start, connecting with conference guests and working hard. Ryan originally came to the Center from England to work for Pequot Sherwood Day Camp. Having him stay for the winter has been great for the Department. On your next visit be sure to say hello to him.

Finally the Conference Center will be unveiling our new website. We will be adding updated information regarding our center.



Conference Asst. Ryan Tunnacliffe and Conference Director Pete Nygard

The website address is www.incarnationcenter.org. Stay tuned for the updated website to launch within the next couple months.



Peter Nygard

Conference Director

Ryan Tunnacliffe

Asst. Conference Director

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

We are pleased to welcome camp alum Liz Ingram Walsh as our Development Coordinator. Liz will be working with Ainslie to coordinate all our gifting opportunities and event planning. We are working on making giving to Incarnation easier than ever by changing up our existing websites.

We are continuing to work on

the development of the Alumni Association, which launched last year at the Alumni Weekend. Make sure to join and then join our Incarnation Alumni Group on LinkedIn for all your networking opportunities. Planning is also in full gear for the Alumni Weekend 2012 (June 8-10).

As always we are pursuing

funding for various projects throughout the Center. Our biggest priority is to meet our goal for funding the new outdoor chapel. Remember to check if your company offers any matching opportunities. And don’t forget, donations don’t have to be just money. Please contact us at (860) 767-0848 or lwalsh@incarnationcenter.org.



www.incarnationcamp.org/alumni

Ainslie Seeber

Development Associate

Liz Ingram Walsh

Development Coordinator

NATURES PLAYGROUND

Today, millions of children return to an empty home after school. When the school bell rings, the anxiety for parents often just begins. In response to this Incarnation created after-school programs to keep children engaged, entertained and in activities that help them learn.

With overwhelming local support Nature’s Playground after-school program has become the “go-to” program for the children and families of

Essex and Deep River. I have an amazing team with me this school year including Ann Cervený (The current Winds UD), Liam Cain (The current Frontier UD) and Hollie Cottrell who has become a local favorite amongst local Day Camp families.

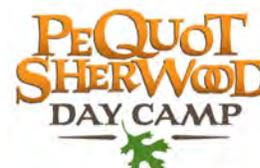


Nature’s Playground Afterschool Group



Brooklyn Smee

NP & Day Camp Director





Women of Sherwood: (Top L-R) Connie Nye, Joan Harrison Provencher, Karen McDonald, Patty Lofaso Lavallee, Kate Maloney, Lois Williams; (Bottom L-R) Nancy Suchman, Liz Ingram Walsh, Tasia Kimball, Kathy Bingley DeCoster



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Sunset at Bushy Hill lake.

Winter Weekend Reunion – By the Numbers

By Kathy Bingley DeCoster

15 – 0 - 1964 – 1977 – 1 - 1993 - 17 – 2500.

These seemingly random numbers gained special meaning for a group of camp alumni who enjoyed a winter reunion in Ivoryton on a beautiful weekend in early February. The goal was fun and fundraising, but it became so much more as we created our own camp time line, ate some GORP, revealed (too many) secrets, sang long forgotten songs, ate more GORP, hiked around Bushy Hill Lake, “made new friends and kept the old,” ate the rest of the GORP, and, best of all, strengthened our ties to this special place that calls us back again and again.

Here are the numbers revealed:

15 – Number of women who traveled to camp for the weekend. We came by plane, train and automobile, some from as far away as Deep River and other exotic locales in Connecticut and the rest from Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wisconsin.

0 – Number of men who attended, or who were invited.

1964 – Start of this groups Incarnation Camp timeline. In 1964, just one participant was at camp, as an eight year old starting out life as a Turtle.

1977 – Intersection of this groups Incarnation Camp Venn diagram, the year when 12 of the 15 were at camp at the same time – as unit director and waterfront director, in campcraft and laundry, as counselors and campers on both sides of the lake. Seven of us were staff and five were campers. As our timeline took shape and it became clear we had critical mass in ‘77, the memories flowed like bug juice from a metal pitcher. For some, it was just another wonderful summer at camp; for a few others, it was the bittersweet last summer spent at Bushy Hill Lake after years and years, or it was the year they moved across the lake to PV for the start of even greater adventures. And for still others, it was their first summer at camp and the start of their own slice of camp history. Needless to say, all the emotions that go into life at Incarnation Camp were captured through our look back at 1977.

1 – Case of champagne consumed.

1993 – End of this groups timeline. The last entry on our 29-year timeline simply says: “Viv in gatehouse.”

17 – Consecutive summers spent at camp by one member of our group – surely a near record for anyone not named Katsanis.

2500 – Dollars raised during the weekend to support the Raise the Roof campaign for the new chapel.

INCARNATION EVENTS

DECEMBER 4, 2011 - Incarnation **Camp Alumni** gathered at the Galway Hooker in NYC to ring in the holiday season.

FEBRUARY 2012 - Ground was broken on our new **Lakeside Chapel**.

APRIL 12, 2012 - The Bishop of New York and his wife hosted a celebration at their home at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in NYC to cheer 126 years of excellence at Incarnation, to honor and roast The **Rev. Canon Peter Larom's** 8 years of leadership as Executive Director and to applaud the generosity of the **All Angels Farm Board**. All proceeds from the evening went to fund the Chapel.

MAY 12, 2012 - Bushy Hill Nature Center will host its first **Farm Aid**, a benefit concert for the farm. Come out to enjoy a day of live music and activities. See what's happening at the farm and learn more about how you can support this great program.

JUNE 8-10, 2012 - **Alumni Reunion Weekend** - Bring the whole family, reconnect with old friends (and make new ones too!) and remember why we love this place so much and “gave a dam” 30 years ago! Keep an eye out for more information and feel free to contact us if you would like to help make this weekend a continued success.

OCTOBER 2012 - Camp alum and *NY Times* columnist **David Brooks** has graciously agreed to do another evening for us to discuss the upcoming Presidential election. More details coming soon!