



ONEIDA CULTURAL HERITAGE DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement:

“It is the mission of the Oneida Cultural Heritage Department to ‘preserve, protect, maintain, and interpret the Oneida traditions, artifacts, language, customs and history in a manner that shall promote the dignity and respect of the Oneida people and culture’.”

The Cultural Heritage Department was formed in late fall of 1994 to address the Oneida National Priority #8: “The revitalization of our Oneida culture and heritage by developing cultural resources and assuring their accessibility to tribal public and others.” It is the umbrella organization for the Oneida Nation Museum, Oneida History Program, Oneida Community Libraries, Cultural Wellness and Healing, and the Oneida Language Revitalization Program.

Since 1979, the Oneida Nation Museum was the only repository for cultural materials and museum exhibits. However, the rapid economic growth within our tribal structure has allowed our community to identify and realize many programs that for years have been in a “thinking” stage. Several areas that have been identified are now a reality.

THE CULTURAL ADVISORS

The Cultural Advisors conduct Language/Culture education classes and, Home Schooling and for various locations within the tribe, for tribal members, and for the surrounding communities, teachers and schools. Also they work with the Human Resources Department, providing Cultural Orientation sessions for new employees. Oneida enrolled members, non-tribal, adults and children alike. Thus in return presentations bring awareness, acceptance, and harmony with our neighbors.

Oneida History Program

Loretta Metoxen, the Tribal Historian, in addition to Veteran Affairs, Treaties, Battles, and our ancestors involvement in all the Wars has done research of all historic Oneida events, including Genealogy, besides working with state and local officials on projects of cultural significance to all entities in the state of Wisconsin.

Two such projects in the recent past have been the American Heritage Rivers Initiative, a response to President Clinton’s State of the Union Address and the Sesquicentennial project with Brown and Outagamie Counties.

The staff of the various programs within the department has been working on an annual plan to include a year round calendar of events for the community. These events include but are not limited to the brown bag lunch series and the historical and cultural lecture series to other tribal departments, local schools and outside organizations. The Cultural Heritage Department has also been working with Oneida Nation Arts Program to provide cultural workshops on Black Ash Basketry and Iroquois Pottery.

CULTURAL CENTER PLANNING

One very specific goal for the Cultural Heritage Department is to develop plans for a Cultural Center to be designed and built within the community. The planning process has been ongoing since 1995 and has included community surveys and visits to other cultural centers, museums, and galleries. Planned in

1998 include sponsoring community meetings for the purpose of gathering information and to identify an architect who will help design the facility.

Oneida Cultural Heritage Department
3703 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313
920.496.5395
(Fax) 920.494.4362
Area Manager: Anita Barber

Office Hours: M-F 8am - 4:30pm

The Cultural Heritage Department has also been working cooperatively with other departments within the organization, in particular, the Conservation Department on special garden projects and plant identification, and the Tribal School on language projects on development of teaching materials.



ONEIDA NATION MUSEUM

The exhibits showcase the unique artistic talents of the Oneida people in a wide variety of areas. The Oneida people were world famous for their lace making and silver smithing skills as well as the raising style of beadwork.

The hands-on display provides the experience of feeling textures of baskets, corn husk dolls, horn and bark rattles, water drums and other Iroquois made items.

Tours of the Oneida Nation Museum are encouraged for all tribal members and tribal staff. The museum is currently in the process of including a tour of the museum as a part of the new employee orientation. Tours are given to most group sizes and ages. They include the hands-on presentation, age appropriate videos, a tour of an authentic Oneida long house, nature trails and/or

games. An outreach program is also available for groups who are unable to come to the museum.

Special requests can be made for tours which can include crafts, storytelling or videos. A two-week advance notice is required to schedule a tour.

The Museum Gift Shop, which is open during regular Museum hours, was recently analyzed and a business plan developed. The results include expansion of Oneida items available for sale. They also carry corn husk dolls, beadwork, t-shirts, children's items, books, and many other Iroquois-made items. All tribal members and employees receive a 10% discount.

The museum now has an exhibit which was designed by the staff at the Children's Museum located at Port Plaza Mall in Green Bay. A longhouse has recently been added to the exhibit.

One of the main events held at the museum is the annual Oneida Cultural Festival which is usually held in early July. The Cultural Fair is a family event with craft booths, games, demonstrations, and food stands.

The Photo Archives at the museum consists of a collection of over 300 images which depict many aspects of Oneida life. The collection includes portraits, photographs, and historic images of activities in the community and reservation life in Oneida. The span of the collection ranges from early/mid 1800's to contemporary prints. Images are available for research or publication purposes.

Photo Services offer the community the opportunity to purchase or use images which have been approved by the Oneida Communications Department, the Photo Archivist, and the Museum Director. If an image is not on file, it is possible, with preapproval, to have objects photographed.

To schedule an appointment or for more information on photo reproduction, cost, ordering, or special consideration, contact the Photo Archivist at Oneida Nation Museum.

The Oneida Nation Museum is located seven miles west of Green Bay, next to the Redstone Elderly Complex. Admission is free to all tribal members.

**Oneida Nation Museum
W846 Country Trunk EE**

Oneida, WI 54115

920.869.2768

(Fax) 920.869.2959

Director: Rita Lara

Business Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm

Open to Public:

Tuesday-Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm



ONEIDA COMMUNITY LIBRARY

In 1968, volunteers for the Oneida community, with help from VISTA workers, initiated efforts which would establish the Oneida Community Library. The first library was housed in the old Episcopal Mission School (now the Parish Hall). Later, the library moved into the newly built Oneida Civic Center, and in 1970, moved to the Oscar Archiquette building, where it remains today.

Through the years, the library has given the community educational support and the written word. It has provided programs and services for preschoolers, students and adults in a variety of forms. Classes have been offered in traditional art, moccasin making, traditional dress, beadwork, basket making, and dream catchers. The library has also offered several successful workshops seminars and educational programs.

A specialty of the library is its collection of information on Native Americans, which comes in many different

forms: audio and video tapes, books, microfilm, Native arts, storytellers, Oneida language and Native speakers on various topics.

The library provides a Summer Reading Program, tutoring, ongoing literacy classes, work site for JTPA workers and community service participants, and VITA (Volunteers Income Tax Assistance). Additionally provided are meeting space and book talks.

In addition to books, the library also provides for checkout of VCR players, videos, various types of projectors, portable typewriters, tape players, educational toys, camcorders, CD's and inter-loan requests. We provide a place for children and students to come who wish to study, visit, and just be.

The staff at the Oneida Library has been working on automation of their library system and hope to complete the project by the early 1998. Expansion of the main library was finalized in fall of 1997.

If the Oneida Nation is to be measured by the educational, cultural and recreational services it provides to the community, it should get an excellent rating for its community library.

Oneida Library

201 Elm Street

Oneida, WI 54165

920.869.2210

(Fax) 920.869.1299

Director: Lou Williams

Main Library Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00am – 8:00pm

Fridays 9:00am – 5:00pm

Saturday 8:00am – Noon

The Library has recently opened a branch. The goals of the branch library are to provide library services to the general public, provide cultural programming, automate with the Outagamie/Waupaca Library System, and upgrade staff education within the field of

Library Science. Internet access is available at both sites. E-mail address: onelib@netnet.net

Oneida Branch Library
W1273 Redtail Drive
Oneida, WI 54165
920.833.7226

Branch Library Hours:
Monday/Wednesday 10:00am – 6:00pm
Tuesday/Thursday 11:00am – 7:00pm
Saturdays 8:00am – Noon



ON^AYOTE^A-KA REPATRIATION PROGRAM

The primary focus of this program involved working with NAGPRA (the Native American Graves Protection Repatriation Act), the National Historic Preservation Act, and the American Indian Freedom of Religion Act.

The Repatriation Component reviews information regarding collections held in museums, historical societies, universities, and federal agencies that are required to comply with NAGPRA. Objects that can be claimed and returned to our community must fit the definition of sacred objects, objects of cultural patrimony, associated/unassociated funerary objects, and human remains.

Staff of the repatriation program have worked on a case since October of 1994, involving an Oneida Tribal Belt being held at the Field Museum in Chicago. The wampum belt along with seven treaties between the Oneidas and the State of New York were brought to Wisconsin in the 1820's by Chief Elijah Skenandoa. Those treaties are now held at the Newberry Library in Chicago.

Two years of research resulted in a presentation before the National review Committee of the National Park Service. The claim was disputed by the Oneidas of New York, and as of April 2007, has not yet been resolved.

Other claims have been filed with the Milwaukee Public Museum and the Robert Hull Fleming Museum in Vermont.

The Historic Preservation Component addresses protection and preservation of cultural resources on the reservation. These include archaeological sites, cultural and historic sites, and burial sites.

It is the goal of this program to monitor all development activities on the reservation that fit the definition of either a tribal or federal undertaking. All development is subject to a cultural properties survey which includes an archaeological archives and literature search, a field survey, oral history documentation, identification of the existence of burial sites in the proposed area, and archaeological site monitoring.

An Oral History Component is currently being developed to do interviews with elders in the community to record historical information, identify sites of cultural significance, and collect personal biographical information.

A major project within this area has been the re-indexing of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) papers. Interviews conducted in 1939 produced hundreds of stories on places, people, social conditions, religion, farming, living conditions, and government, to name a few.

First recorded in the Oneida language, some of these stories have been translated into English. During the 1970's Maria Hinton and Amos Christjohn reproduced these stories in the Kalihwisaks along with the Oneida version.

The Archives Component is the centralization of resource materials for public and community use. Materials collected over the last several years have been catalogued in a library format for research purposes.

Examples of materials available include the Archiquette Diary, the Powless Diary, the Whipple Resort, allotment records

and maps, the WPA papers, and oral history interviews.

The THPO Program
3703 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313
920.496.5386
Corina Williams

ONEIDA LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

The Language Program is the newest and fastest growing in the Cultural Heritage Department. The program was conceptually developed in early 1994 with little activity until the summer of 1996 when a six week semi-immersion language workshop was held with 30 participants including elders, trainees, language/culture teachers and staff from the Oneida Nation Schools, and community members.

From the summer workshops, a ten-year language immersion plan was developed which will produce fluent speakers with Oneida language teaching skills.

The Language Program now has seven Language Trainees and eleven elder Speaker/Translators who are working diligently to teach the Oneida language to anyone willing to take the time to learn. A special yaw[^]ko to our elders, who became our teachers and who continue to teach us the Oneida language every day.

On Tuesday and Thursday beginner level language classes are available at the Language House for community members. Please join us in this exciting program to keep our language.

The Language Revitalization Program is located in a log home on the former DeCaster II property and is accessible by entering the fifth driveway on the left off Highway FF (Hillcrest Drive) north Highway 54 (Mason Street).

Language House

3757 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313
920.490.2472

ONEIDA TRIBAL HISTORY

History Component

There are several components in the history area that are not yet formal programs but are of significant importance to the Cultural Heritage Department.

Cultural Wellness Facilitators

WPA Project

In 1997 A second collection of WPA stories was discovered containing 167 notebooks, many written in the Oneida language. This is a major source of historical information. These documents are in the process of being typed and indexed, a long and tedious process.

Genealogy Component

The genealogist has compiled a substantial list of individuals onto a data base which in addition to Oneida descendants includes Stockbridge and Brothertown Indians.

Information for this list came from the census records, annuity rolls, allotment rolls, and Episcopal and Methodist church records, some dating back as far as 1823.

INFORMATION BROCHURES

- The Oneida Cultural Heritage Department
- **Oneida Tribal Logo**
- Edge of the Woods

- **Oneida Nation Cultural Symbols**
- Iroquois Clan System
- **Iroquois Traditional Ceremonies**
- Saving our Oneida Language
- **10 Lessons in Conversational Oneida**
- THPO
- **Wampum: Our Historical Record**
- Tribal Belt
- **U.S. Continues Annuity Payments to The Oneida**
- Forces that impacted Oneida's Move to Wisconsin
- **"The Law of the Land"**
- Oneida New York Land Claims (timeline)
- **"History of the Territory of Wisconsin"**
By Moses M. Strong, A.M.
- Subdivide and conquer: The Dawes Allotment Act
- **Continuous Government of Oneidas in Wisconsin**
- "The Oneida Indian of Wisconsin"
Milwaukee Publish Museum
- **"The Iroquois in the Civil War" by Lawrence M. Hauptman**
- World War I
- **Duck Creek: A Way of Life**
- Oneida Healers; Hospitals, Doctors, and Nurses
- **Josiah A. Powless, A doctor and an Officer**
- The Salt Pork Avenue Project
- **Dolls! Dolls! Dolls! Dolls!**
- Black Ash Baskets: An Iroquois Tradition
- **Iroquois Pottery**