

DRUMS

Oneida Elder Services
Lee McLester II Building
P.O. Box 365, 2907 S Overland
Rd.

Oneida, WI 54155
Phone: 920-869-2448
1-800-867-1551

Drums contact: Helen Doxtator
Email: hdoxtato@oneidanation.org



ACROSS

Senior Center-Meal Site
134 Riverdale Dr.
Oneida, WI 54155
Phone: 920-869-1551
Fax: 920-869-1526

Onástase? Wahní·tale?

Green Corn moon

August 2013

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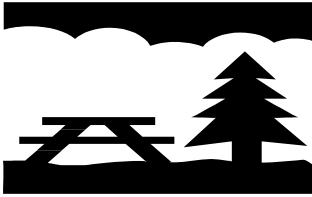



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MENU**AUGUST****2013****ONEIDA SENIOR CENTER, 134 RIVERDALE DR, ONEIDA, WI., 54155 PHONE : 1(920)869-1551**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Beef Tips Noodles Mixed Vegetables Mixed Berries	2 Fish Red Potatoes Cole Slaw Jell-O
5 Macaroni & Tomatoes Hot Dogs Mixed Vegetables Buns Peaches	6 Boiled Dinner Fresh Bread Juice Pudding	7 BBQ Ribs Scalloped Potatoes California Blend Blueberries	8 Meat Loaf Rice Pilaf Carrots Pineapple Tidbits	9 Beef Philly Sandwiches Oven Potatoes Peppers & Onions Fresh Fruit
12 Chili Cucumber Salad Fresh Fruit Jell-O	13 Goulash Fresh Vegetables Juice Sherbet	14 Chicken Breast Brown Rice Mixed Vegetables Peaches	15 Hot Beef Wild Rice Mixed Vegetables Mandarin Oranges	16 Fish Oven Potatoes Cole Slaw Rye Bread Pudding
19 Chicken Salad Croissants Lettuce, Tomatoes, Cucumbers Watermelon	20 Swedish Meatballs Noodles Green Beans Cookies	21 Hamburgers Macaroni Salad Beans Buns Jell-O	22 Turkey & Gravy Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Pears	23 4 NATION PICNIC
26 Potato Soup Fresh Bread Juice Applesauce	27 Spaghetti Meat Sauce Salad Garlic Bread Ice Cream	28 Tuna Salad Croissants Fresh Vegetables Juice Fresh Fruit	29 BIRTHDAY DAY PORK ROAST POTATOES & GRAVY MIXED VEGETABLES CAKE	30 Fish Fries Cole Slaw Juice Yogurt
All meals are served with coffee, milk , tea or water	Menu is subject to change.	BIRTH STONE: PERIDOT FLOWER: GLADIOLUS	HOURS: 8:00A.M.-4:30P.M. Lunch Is Served Monday-Friday 12:00P.M.-1: 00P.M.	

AUGUST 2013 ACTIVITIES

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>*Is this your Birthday Month? <u>You must sign up in the Birthday Book at the Senior Center. Must be present to receive your gift card</u></p>	<p>* Please sign up for trips at the * All Trips leave from * Activities subject to change.</p>		<p>1 Cherry Picking Sturgeon Bay Lunch Out (on your own) 10:00 <i>No Transportation for lunch this day</i></p>	<p>2 Banks, Shopping Lunch Out (On your own) 10:00 – 3:00</p>
<p>5 Scruples Game Elder Services 9:30 Exercise Elder Services 11:00 Wii Bowling Elder Service 1:00</p>	<p>6 Farmer's Market & Bread Store Depere 9:30</p>	<p>7 Oneida Language Elder Services 9:30 Exercise Elder Services 11:00 Bingo Senior Center 1:00</p>	<p>8 Concert in the Park "Modern Country/Pop" Jackson Square Park 10:30 – 2:30 Bring a bag lunch <i>No Transportation for lunch this day</i></p>	<p>9 Banks, Shopping Lunch Out (On your own) 10:00 – 3:00</p>
<p>12 Ice It Game Elder Services 9:30 Exercise Elder Service 11:00 Genealogy Cultural Heritage 1:30</p>	<p>13 Crafts 9:30 – 11:30 Elder Services</p>	<p>14 What's yours like Game? Elder Services 9:30 Exercise Elder Services 11:00 Bingo Senior Center 1:00</p>	<p>15 Price is Right Elder Services 9:30 Movie Elder Services 1:00</p>	<p>16 Banks, Shopping Lunch Out (On your own) 10:00 – 3:00</p>
<p>19 Qwirkle Game Elder Services 9:30 Exercise Elder Services 11:00 Wii Bowling Elder Services 1:00</p>	<p>20 Crafts 9:30 – 11:30 Elder Services</p>	<p>21 Oneida Language Elder Services 9:30 Exercise Elder Services 11:00 Bingo Senior Center 1:00</p>	<p>22 Banks, Shopping Lunch Out (On your own) 10:00 – 3:00</p>	<p> 4 Nations Picnic, Ho-Chunk</p>
<p>26 Yahtzee Game Elder Services 9:30 Exercise Elder Services 11:00 Oneida Fitness Center 1:15</p>	<p>27 Timber Rattler Game Appleton 12:00 Must be pre-registered to go. <i>No Transportation for lunch this day</i></p>	<p>28 UNO Game Elder Services 9:30 Exercise Elder Services 11:00 Bingo with ONCOA Senior Center 1:00</p>	<p>29 St Vincent DePaul Green Bay 10:00 Birthday Lunch 12:00 Farmer's Market Oneida 1:00</p>	<p>30 Banks, Shopping Lunch Out (On your own) 10:00 – 3:00</p>

If you have any questions Please call Michelle at 869 – 2448*

Yaw•ko

In the Oneida language, **Yaw•ko** means *Thank You!* During these hard economic times, the generosity of our community members means so much, which is why Oneida Elder Services would like to send a very special thank you to the following individual(s):

George Greendeer Arlie Doxtater

Received a call from an elder regarding, she is moving off reservation boundaries and will not be receiving services. She wanted to say thank you to everyone that has helped her, especially Beatrice Skenandore in her words, "She is a blessing and great worker, and I will miss having her help".

YAW^KO

ONCOA & Elder Services extends a big Yaw^ko to all who attended and assisted at the 1st Annual Oneida Elder Expo. We are pleased to announce that 179 attendees signed in and had the opportunity to visit with 20 vendors who talked about services to our Elders. One of our main goals was to get information out in the community about the many services offered to Oneida people.

From the surveys completed, it looks like this event was appreciated and will happen again next year in a larger space. Another goal was to raise money for the Roberta Kinzhuma Scholarship. We are thrilled with the results of the silent auction (\$1081) and the 50/50 Raffle (\$145). The Roberta Kinzhuma Scholarship is awarded annually to a single mother enrolled in postsecondary education.

We will be publishing more information on the Elder Expo in the next DRUMS issue: Results of the surveys, winners of raffles, winners of silent auction.

ONCOA Meetings:

Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Elder Services Conference Room

2907 S Overland Rd

Oneida, WI 54155



Nutrition

a	o	o	k	a	u	t	i	p	p	s	e	i	r	r	e	h	c	a	f
a	p	i	e	n	d	g	e	a	s	e	n	i	r	w	m	c	h	a	s
d	l	p	g	u	a	a	n	t	k	r	s	t	a	v	e	e	i	j	a
g	o	l	l	t	r	b	i	h	i	g	t	l	l	r	l	h	c	t	i
n	o	l	o	e	e	b	e	e	w	s	n	t	e	i	a	a	k	r	l
i	a	h	s	a	u	q	s	r	i	u	o	n	g	r	e	n	e	a	o
o	t	t	b	d	n	e	p	l	t	e	s	a	g	l	m	j	n	d	n
r	n	n	m	o	o	r	h	s	u	m	n	e	p	f	t	h	t	r	r
a	d	a	e	p	o	s	d	g	b	d	a	g	l	s	a	d	o	t	e
n	w	g	e	a	l	r	f	r	a	h	e	r	a	e	o	c	a	i	b
g	f	a	o	e	o	i	i	a	n	n	b	e	n	n	p	l	n	o	e
e	s	r	m	s	b	c	s	p	a	d	o	i	t	o	p	r	e	n	l
e	a	o	i	m	w	e	h	e	n	t	c	l	p	m	a	n	g	o	p
d	n	s	a	e	c	o	i	s	a	e	b	c	e	l	o	e	u	e	p
f	u	f	l	e	d	p	n	t	u	b	i	a	t	m	p	p	e	s	a
e	s	v	d	a	p	o	i	l	o	c	c	o	r	b	r	t	t	i	e
e	r	e	c	a	m	o	c	n	a	c	h	s	l	l	r	e	l	m	n
b	l	o	d	l	s	c	i	p	l	i	n	e	h	r	e	a	t	e	i
d	v	d	a	l	i	o	s	r	e	p	p	e	p	b	a	i	n	a	p
a	f	s	n	r	n	s	g	e	y	m	t	r	u	g	o	y	l	o	w

Apple	Kiwi	Onion	Banana	Orange
Watermelon	Peas	Popcorn	Lemon	Salmon
Avocado	Chicken	Rice	Pineapple	Beets
Broccoli	Mushroom	Yogurt	Mango	Eggplant
Beef	Oatmeal	Tuna	Walnuts	Beans
Pear	Peppers	Squash	Cherries	Grapes

This is a list of Services that Elder Services Provides:

If you would like a copy of our brochure please contact Kristine Hughes at 869-2448. Oneida Elder Services - 2907 S. Overland Rd. Oneida WI 54155

Elder Abuse

Native American Family Caregiver Program

Benefit Specialist

Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions: FGP & SC

Outreach

Respite Care

Homemakers

Loan Closet

In-Home Emergency Response

Home Chore

Home Repair

Congregate Meals

Home Delivered Meals

Elder Services Transportation

Activities

Volunteer Services

24 Hour Answering Services

Senior Employment Program

Events

Drums Across Oneida Newsletter



Oneida Elder Services Native American Family Caregiver Information

Oneida Elder Services would like to introduce the “Native American Family Caregiver Voucher/Stipend Program”. It is designed to give established primary caregivers the opportunity to have a break from their caregiving responsibilities for up to 4 hours a month. It also provides an hourly stipend/wage to the relief caregiver. You may qualify for this program if you are a caregiver, recipient, or grandparent who is legally caring for their grandchild(ren), Native American, age 55+ and live within the reservation boundaries.



Please contact Barbara Silva/Native American Family Caregiver at (920) 869-2448 for details.

****Services are dependent on available funds****



Please join us for our Alzheimer's & Native American Family Caregiver Support Group at:

Elder Services Complex – Pod A
2907 S Overland Rd, Oneida WI 54155
4th Wednesday of the Month
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

For more information, contact Barbara Silva/Native American Family Caregiver at (920)869-2448.

Nutrition Information

Contact: Loretta Mencheski – 920-869-1551

Effective Immediately: to receive a bingo pass you must sign-up before the 10th of each month.

Questions: Loretta Mencheski-Meal Site Supervisor.



Volunteers Wanted: The meal site is looking for volunteers, age 55 or older; services needed are assistance in the kitchen and delivering Meals to homebound elders. If you would like to volunteer, call Loretta (920) 869-1551, or you can stop by the meal site at 134 Riverdale Dr. Oneida, 54155.

Attention All Participants of the Senior Center Meal Site:

Policies & Procedures Specific to the Older Americans Act – Funded Nutrition Program

Effective October 1, 2008 the meal site will maintain a reservation system for participants who eat at the meal site. Participants who eat at the meal site are asked to call in the day before to reserve or to cancel their meal for the next day, week, or month before 4:00 p.m. Contact Loretta Mencheski – 920-869-1551

No participant will be denied a meal

Upcoming Nutrition Advisory Council Meetings

- When: 3rd Friday of the Month
 - Time: 1:00 P.M.
 - Where: Oneida Senior Center Meal Site
-

Attention All Participants of the Senior Center Meal Site:

Effective June 17, 2013 the meal cost for ages under 55 will increase to \$8.00. We are asking all participants who plan on eating at the meal site to call in the day before to reserve their meal for the following day, week, or month. We also ask if you have reserved your meal and you cannot make it please call and cancel your reservation.

To Reserve or Cancel your meals please call (920) -869-1551



**FOSTER GRANDPARENT
& SENIOR COMPANION
BAKE SALE**

When: Sunday, August 11, 2013
Where: Oneida IMAC Bingo Hall
Time: 9:00am - 5:00pm

Donations of baked goods are welcomed and can be delivered to:

**Oneida Elder Services
2907 S. Overland Rd.
Oneida, WI 54155**

on Friday, August 09, 2013 between the hours of 8:00am - 4:30pm or the IMAC Bingo Hall day of event.

Foster Grandparent Program is a group of elders who volunteer their wisdom and time to the youth at our schools, libraries, and day-cares.

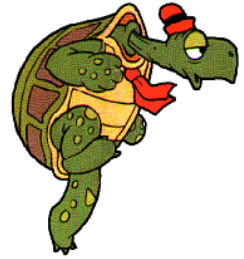
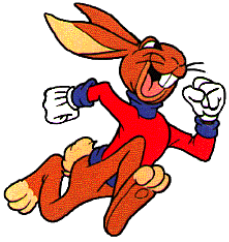
Senior Companion Program is a group of elders who volunteer their company and time to the homebound elders.

Thank you,

*Foster Grandparent & Senior Companion
Programs*

(Any questions contact Angela Ortiz at 869-2448)

**ONEIDA ELDER SERVICES &
National Center for Senior Transportation
ELDER MOBILITY GRANT**



**FREE Oneida Transit and
Green Bay Metro bus passes
February 1, 2013 through
August 31, 2013
Employed, 55 years and older**

For more information contact:

**Curtis J. Ninham – Transportation
Assistant**

Oneida Elder Services

Provides **free** transportation to all Elder Services Activities

See the **Activity Calendar** in **Drums Across Oneida** and
plan your day, including lunch (Mon – Thurs) at the Meal Site

Bingo at 1:00 pm every Wed. during the summer months

Door to Door Service!!

For more information please contact:

Michelle Cottrell, Activity Specialist

or

Joyce Ann Hoes, Transportation Supervisor

(920)869-2448

RIDE the BUS!!



Free 911 Emergency Phones

Federal law requires that cell phones must be able to call 911 at all times. As long as an old cell phone is digital and functional, it can be used as an emergency phone, so whether you have a telephone number or not, whether you have signed up for service or not, your cell phone can connect to 911.

Elder Services has received many donations of used cell phones and chargers to distribute as needed at no charge to the individual requesting the phone. If you or anyone you know would like a free inactivated cell phone (to be used for 911 emergency calls ONLY), please come to Elder Services located at 2907 S Overland Rd. Oneida, WI 54155 Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Some reasons for calling 911 include:

- Anaphylaxis*
- Bloody diarrhea with weakness*
- Chest pain*
- Coma*
- Confusion*
- Dizziness*
- Drug overdose*
- Heart attack*
- Heat stroke*
- Shortness of breath*
- Sudden slurred speech*
- Stroke*
- Sudden blindness*
- Uncontrolled nosebleed*
- Vomiting blood*
- Weakness*
- Serious Burns*
- Bleeding that will not stop*
- Bleeding with weakness (shock)*
- Broken bones visible through an open wound*
- Broken leg*

If you have any questions,
contact Kristine Hughes at (920) 869-2448

Effective immediately, Elder Services will be requiring a *Release of All Claims* form be signed and returned to our office before any service requests are completed. These forms are available at our office and will be given out when your assessment is completed. Please keep in mind this form does require a Notary signature; here is a list of area Notary Public locations:

Skenandoah Complex 490-7000

909 Packerland Rd Green Bay, WI

Norbert Hill Center 869-2214

N7210 Seminary Rd Oneida, WI

Social Services 490-3700

2640 West Point Rd Green Bay, WI

Enrollments 869-1690

201 Elm St Oneida, WI

Land Management 869-1690

470 Airport Rd Oneida, WI

Elder Services 869-2448

2901 S Overland Rd Oneida, WI

For information and assistance contact Kristine Hughes at (920) 869-2448

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROVISION OF SERVICES AND
RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

I _____ hereby acknowledge that I agree to accept certain good(s) and/or service(s) from the Oneida Elder Services Department.

In consideration of my receipt of any good(s) and/or service(s) from the Oneida Elder Services Department, I fully and forever release and discharge the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, the Oneida Elder Services Department and any of their employees, agents, or officers from any and all claims for whatever nature for injuries, losses, or damages arising out of my receipt of the--good(s) and/or service(s) I receive.

I understand and agree that I am prevented from commencing any claim or action in any court of competent jurisdiction or administrative hearing body against the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, the Oneida Elder Services Department and any of their employees, agents, or officers of whatever nature for injuries, losses, or damages arising out of my any good(s) and/or service(s) from the Oneida Elder Services Department.

I further agree to indemnify the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, the Oneida Elder Services Department and any of their employees, agents, or officers from any and all claims, of whatever nature for injuries, losses, or damages arising out of my receipt of any good(s) and/or service(s) from the Oneida Elder Services Department, including claims related to the negligence, gross negligence, or intentional acts of the contractor who provides me service(s).

Signed, dated and notarized.

Signature

Date

Subscribe and sworn to before me:

This ____ day of _____ year _____

Notary Public Signature

County, Wisconsin

My Commission _____

GLNAEA

Great Lakes Native American Elders Association

Sponsored by Oneida
September 5 & 6, 2013

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center Green Bay
2040 Airport Drive, Green Bay Wisconsin 54313



Agenda:

Thursday, September 5, 2013

- Elder Abuse Task Force Meeting 6pm

Friday, September 6, 2013

- Continental Breakfast 9:00 am
- Reports (Standing Reports and Treasurer's Report)
- Chair Woman's Report/Birthday Announcements
- Guest Speaker
- Raffles, Door prizes, Vendors and Networking

Any questions please call Oneida Senior Center at (920)869-1551. Thank you. Please remember to bring your GLNAEA membership card.



GREAT LAKES INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL, INC.

P.O. Box 9, Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin 54538

Phone: 715-588-3324 Fax: 715-588-7900

TTY: 715-588-1774 Email: glite@glite.org

Florence Petri
2907 S. Overland Rd.
Oneida, WI 54155

Re: Approval Letter- 2012 Aging Unit Self Assessment

Dear Florence –

I am writing in regard to the 2012 aging unit plan self-assessment you submitted to the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. Thank you for the information you provided. Self-assessments are collected and reviewed to assure aging units are in compliance with the Wisconsin Elders Act and also for if they were successful in realizing plan objectives.

Compliance with the Wisconsin Elders Act

Your agency has been found to be in compliance with the Wisconsin Elders Act as an aging unit with a full-time aging unit director and a commission on aging following the appropriate term limits and composition.

Goal Area Accomplishments:

- Providing 24 hr Emergency Response system for your elders
- Emergency Preparedness Resources Phone Tree
- All staff trained on First Aid & CPR
- Coordination with Oneida Transit to enhance the transportation options in your community
- Implemented new funding
- Serve a healthy meal five days a week in a congregate and home delivered setting
- Two successful grant applications were awarded to fund assistance to the transportation and elder abuse aspects in your division

We commend you, the board, the staff and your partners for developing and providing innovative services to the older adults in the Oneida area.

Sincerely,

Sarah Quale

Tribal Older Americans Act Consultant



Tribal Technical Assistance Center

>>> Florence Petri 7/9/2013 3:17 PM >>>

No one person could do this job alone. The credit goes out to all the staff out there working in the homes for the elders, the supervisors who work on a daily basis coordinating services, administrative staff processing all the paperwork and the collaboration and good working relationship we have with ONCOA.

HOUSEHOLD *Clean Sweep*



Large Item & Appliance Pickup at Your Home
Thurs.-Fri., August 8 & 9, 2013

Schedule an appointment with Amy Spears
to have your appliances and large waste
items picked up from your home.
920-869-4549 or aspears@oneidanation.org

Appointments must be made by August 1, 2013.

ATTENTION

oneida elders

HOUSEHOLD *Clean Sweep*



Sat., August 10, 2013
9 am-2 pm

Old Transit Building
1138 Ranch Road (near DPW Building)
920-869-4549 or aspears@oneidanation.org for more information

**IT'S TIME TO CLEAR OUT ALL YOUR OLD,
BROKEN AND UNUSED ITEMS!**

TIRES – 6 rimless tires per household

WHITE GOODS – large appliances such as:

- stoves
- washing machines
- refrigerators
- dryers, etc.

ELECTRONIC WASTE –

- computers
- TVs
- laptops
- cell phones
- digital cameras
- computer peripherals

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE –

- batteries
- lawn chemicals
- paints
- varnishes
- stains
- vehicle fluids
- compact fluorescent bulbs
- mercury thermometers
- household cleaners
- other difficult to dispose of household hazardous wastes

CONSTRUCTION & DEMO WASTE –

- wood
- concrete
- shingles
- siding
- flooring
- ceiling tiles

OTHER ITEMS –

- overflow, oversize garbage and recyclables



Goodwill donations, accepted items:

- clothing
- books
- shoes
- wares
- household items



Visit us on Facebook for more information and reminders.

Greater Green Bay
Habitat for Humanity
ReStore

ReStore will be on-site accepting –

- fixtures
- doors
- windows
- tools
- sinks
- trim
- cabinets
- paint
- hardware





What is Sustain Oneida?

By: The Oneida Trust and Enrollment Committee

The population of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin will probably decline within the next 10 years. The Tribe currently faces a diminishing population with the enrollment criteria of $\frac{1}{4}$ Oneida blood. According to the 2012 Enrollment records only 57% of new enrollees were $\frac{1}{4}$ blood. As of 2013, 38% are $\frac{1}{4}$ blood. It is estimated that the last "Oneida" will be born approximately three generations from today. If we continue on the same course, we enroll ourselves out of Tribal members. Or we can take action now by starting to explore our options.

The Sustain Oneida initiative was launched in 2012 to help the Oneida determine our future citizenship and belonging to onáyote·akλ. The initiative includes and Enrollment committee members and Tribal staff. According to the Comprehensive Communication Plan created by Sustain Oneida, the two main objectives are to:

- 1) Increase awareness and provide opportunities and events for Oneida Citizens to participate in a conversation about membership criteria and its effect on our long-term survival and,
- 2) Increase the General Tribal Council and the Tribal organization's awareness of enrollment issues and population trends. These conversations will promote the survival of onáyote·akλ into the future.

It is clear that continuing our current enrollment requirements means supporting self-termination. So what can we do instead? The Sustain Oneida group has planned some activities and events to get this discussion going in the Oneida community. One event is the Sustain Oneida Summit in Fall 2013. The focus will be on Oneida identity, values, language and culture. All Oneidas are invited to participate: people of every age, background, religion and way of life. We urge everyone to offer their ideas and to listen respectfully to the ideas of others. The goal of these discussions is to inform Oneida citizens about Tribal enrollment issues and explore potential solutions for citizenship and belonging.

At the heart of this issue are two questions: 'What does it mean to belong to a Tribe?' and 'What responsibilities does that belonging involve?' Before the Sustain Oneida Summit, a number of community meetings will be held to discuss big questions such as,

‘What does it mean to be Oneida?’ ‘What should enrollment criteria look like?’ and ‘How should we define Oneida citizenship?’

We recognize that this is one of the most complex and challenging issues the Tribe will face. We will need to share all of our ideas, energy, and our commitment to our Tribe. To move forward, many options must be considered, and patience and understanding is essential. The Oneida community should talk about this as long as is needed to reach a final decision that benefits the Tribe as a whole. Although these conversations will be challenging, we must have them to ensure the future existence of onáyote’akλ.

Article #2: What Is Blood Quantum and What Does It Mean for the Future of Oneida?

By: The Oneida Trust and Enrollment Committee

This article will explore the history of using blood quantum to categorize American Indian tribal identity. The measuring of blood and the concept of ‘Indianness’ is a complex and difficult subject. What is blood quantum and where did it come from? In the United States, “blood quantum” is the degree to which an individual can prove a certain amount of Indian blood. This amount is used to determine the individual’s tribal belonging and legal rights. Blood quantum is a measure of the amount of Indian blood, comments or questions please email: sustainoneida@oneidanation.org expressed as a fraction such as one-half or one-fourth.

What many people don’t know is that blood quantum laws have been in effect for about three hundred years. In 1705, when the slave trade was at its height, state governments began “cataloguing” people of color into three categories: “Negros, Mulattos and Indians.” Each category of person had different rights. Racial categories were further defined during the Civil War where “...every person having one-fourth or more Indian blood shall be deemed Indian.” The U.S government began taking census rolls in the 1800s and 1900s. These census rolls define the genealogical ancestry on which blood quantum is based. When tribes began to create their own enrollment rules, many based them on the Dawes Act of 1887 - also known as the General Allotment Act - and used blood quantum as a requirement. The purpose of this act was to assimilate Indians into white American society by breaking up tribal lands into individually owned plots of land or “allotments.”

Over time, competition for governmental resources placed greater importance on Indian blood as a way to qualify for aid. In 1906, in order to control who received aid, the U.S. Interior Department began to issue Certificate of Indian Blood (CDIB) cards. In this way, American Indians are unique – no other group of human beings is required to carry a racial membership card. This mathematical racism continues into the 21st century and has become a deeply ingrained tool used by tribal governments. Over 70 percent of existing tribal constitutions contain citizenship requirements involving blood.

The use of blood quantum as a genetic cut-off point for Indian people is viewed by many as an instrument of assimilation and extermination. The reasons are as follows: first, blood quantum can never be increased; only decreased. Even if a full-blooded Oneida marries a $\frac{1}{2}$ blood Oneida, their children will only be $\frac{3}{4}$. And if their children have children, they will only be a further divided fraction of "Indian enough." As Lakota elder Gilbert Walking Bull has said, when Native nations adopt blood quantum, we can "never restore the rock, we can only pile stones upon one another." Second, blood quantum is also radically different from traditional Native values of family and inclusion. In the past, cultural practices such as adoption and intermarriage allowed greater flexibility in determining the boundaries of the social group. Not so today. By using blood quantum, concerns over eligibility determined benefits and services make this traditional flexibility impossible. In this way, some argue that the use of blood quantum may be more harmful to Native cultural survival than any other federal Indian policy.

Today, tribes across the United States face a difficult problem: the blood dilution over generations has decreased the number of Indians who meet the minimum blood requirement. Why is this happening? One reason, according to the 2010 US Census, is that Indians marry more non-Indians than any other ethnic group. Indians are the group most likely to identify as more than one race. There are many historical reasons for this pattern that are too complex to dig into here. We know that Indians and white Americans have been intermarrying for centuries and there have been many political and economic reasons for doing so. For example, at the end of the 19th century, the federal government, in the hopes of assimilating Indian culture into "mainstream U.S. society," promoted Indian/white intermarriage. This trend continues into the 21st century; census data shows us that Indians are just as likely to be married to white Americans as they are to other Indians.

So the question today is this: do tribes continue to use blood quantum as an enrollment requirement or do they change their constitutions and create an alternative set of requirements to define tribal citizenship? Belonging and citizenship are much more than a mathematical fraction. And culture is not a biologically defined characteristic. Today, the Oneida have the opportunity to have a conversation about the many possibilities for future Oneida generations if we change our criteria for citizenship. Alternative requirements for Oneida citizenship can be generated by having Oneidas of all ages, from children to elders, participate in creating ideas on the possibilities.

For more information about Sustain Oneida please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/OneidaTrust/>
<https://www.oneida-nsn.gov/TrustEnrollmentCommittee.aspx>
or call: Dottie Krull - 920-869-4372 - Education & Training Admin.

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**Please look in on
the elders in your
area, they may
need help, or
just a good
visit from you.**