

The Gatehouse Gazette

News from Camp Olmsted & Olmsted Center
Fall 2011

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Janet Lillian Ernst



December 28, 1933 - September 21, 2011

We are saddened to learn of the passing Ms. Janet Ernst, a long-time member of the Five Points Mission Board. As a member of the Park Avenue United Methodist Church, Janet organized rummage sales with the proceeds over the last ten years amounting to more than \$70,000 being contributed to Five Points. Janet served as a New York City public school teacher for several years and the camp program at Olmsted was very special to her. She will be missed.



Christmas Candlelight Dinner December 10 at Kirkwood

All are invited to Olmsted Center's annual Christmas Candlelight Dinner at the Gladys & William Kirkwood House on Saturday, December 10. The evening will begin with hors d'oeuvres at 5:00 PM. A delicious buffet dinner with turkey and all the trimmings will follow at 6:00 PM and will include a wonderful array of dessert choices.



This festive evening will get you in the holiday spirit with a Christmas carol sing-along and the telling of the Christmas Story. The cost is \$30 per person. Space is limited to 35 people. Overnight accommodations are available upon request for an additional charge. Please call for reservations (845) 534-7900 Ext. 11.

Book Your Next Retreat By November 30

If you are planning a retreat, now is the time to book at Olmsted Center! If you call to book your new retreat and confirm with a 25% deposit before November 30, 2011 you will save 10% (special discount for Gatehouse readers)! Call us at (845) 534-7900 Ext. 11 to check available dates. If you would like to find out more about retreats at Olmsted Center call, or visit our website www.fivepoints.org.

Summer Camp 2011 Successful

The best recap of this summer's camp program may be the pictures of happy campers and comments from parents on the Olmsted Center Facebook page. If you have not yet visited the page or are unfamiliar with Facebook, you can easily reach the page by going to our recently updated website www.campolmsted.org and clicking on the Facebook icon at the bottom of the page.



This summer's staff, led by returning director, Mastura Medina, worked together to provide a fun and memorable summer for Olmsted campers. Activities included camp-wide field games, hiking to the Hudson River, swimming, camper and staff talent shows, spa night, ice-cream socials, Hollywood Dress-up Night, campfires, and much more.



A special thanks to Luis Medina, who captured and uploaded pictures to Facebook. Parents were able, usually within 24 hours, to see pictures of their children participating in the day's activities at camp. For Olmsted parents this was a new way to view their child's camp experience.

American Camp Association Accreditation 2012 - 2015



Every three years Camp Olmsted is visited by representatives of the American Camp Association (ACA) for a thorough examination of our policies and procedures for meeting the management and operational guidelines set forth by ACA.

The purpose of the program is to educate camp professionals in important areas of camp operation so that camps can then provide a safe, efficient and effective camp program. The accreditation program also provides a helpful tool for parents to find a camp that best fits the needs of their child.



This past summer on July 19, two visitors from ACA toured the camp. While at Olmsted, they observed the camp program and reviewed Olmsted's policies. They were impressed with the staff, our well-run activities and meal service, as well as the thoroughness of our policy manuals and record keeping. We are expecting an ACA renewal of our accreditation this October.

News from the Cabinet

Bishop Jeremiah J. Park has appointed the Rev. Betsy Ott, most recently pastor of Park Avenue UMC, and the Rev. St. Clair Samuel, from Butler Memorial UMC, as superintendents of the New York Connecticut and Metropolitan Districts, respectively. We offer our welcome and best wishes to both.

Facilities Updates Underway

Several projects were completed over the summer thanks to our 3-person maintenance team that included Tony Recine and Steve Pinckney, and was headed up by caretaker, Tom Lindemann. The largest project was replacing the back entrance deck and stairs for the swimming pool, which involved removing the rotted decking and stairs down to the foundation.



Other projects included painting the new Lindsley Hall kitchen addition, staining two decks and several benches, installing new porch posts on Hosier and Asbury cabins, installing new screens on all cabin windows, and building a new medicine cabinet for the infirmary.

Liberty Baptist Visit Cut Short by Irene

We were happy to welcome members of Liberty Baptist Church, Fishkill, NY for a visit on Labor Day weekend. The church had scheduled a Sunday – Tuesday retreat, but a week earlier “tropical storm” Irene arrived, and members spent a week of post disaster cleanup at their church. By Labor Day they found time to enjoy a brief respite at Olmsted. We look forward to their return here for retreat or work events.

Olmsted Offers Opportunities for Advancement in Scouting

In recent years, we have been able to offer scouts from local troops the opportunity to carry out work projects required for their advancement to Eagle Scout. In September Justin Hastey of Boy Scout Troop 118 completed his project to renovate our Low Ropes Course. He clearly defined each element’s area by clearing debris and creating signs for the elements. For further information about doing Eagle projects call Carla at (845) 534-7900 Ext. 11.

New Board Members

In the past year Five Points Mission has welcomed three new members to its Board of Managers. R. Dyke Benjamin, an investment manager who previously served on the Five Points Mission Board; James W. Perkins, Esq., an attorney and former President of the City Society Board of Directors; and the Rev. Scott Summerville, pastor of Asbury-Crestwood UMC in Yonkers, NY. All three bring an enthusiasm and passion for the work of Five Points Mission and we are glad to have them on our team.

Scholarships

Of this summer’s 250 day and overnight campers, about half were first time Olmsted campers, many of whom were referred by former campers.



Many of our campers are only able to attend by way of scholarships provided. We are grateful for scholarships made possible this year by Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, SCOPE, Crawford United Methodist Church (Bronx), Cornwall Presbyterian Church, St. John’s Episcopal Church (Cornwall), and Newburgh teachers, Adair Santoro and Mary Donahue.

Our annual scholarship fundraiser held at Christ Church United Methodist in Manhattanj on April 28 raised \$8000 for camper scholarships. This event honored Trudy Grove and James Harbison for their years of service to Five Points Mission.



To provide a camper scholarship, send contributions to Five Points Mission, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1922, NY, NY 10115.



FIVE POINTS MISSION – MANAGERS AND STAFF

MANAGERS

Mr. Spencer Disher, President
Ms. Trudy Grove, Treasurer
Mr. Wendell Harris (Ex-officio)
Mr. Damon Moore
The Rev. Scott Summerville

James Harbison, Esq., Vice President
Mr. Donald Kirby, Secretary
Mr. R. Dyke Benjamin
James Perkins, Esq.

OLMSTED STAFF

Mrs. Carla Maisonet, Retreat Center Director
Mr. Tom Lindemann, Caretaker

UNITED METHODIST CITY SOCIETY STAFF

The Rev. Dr. William Shillady, Executive Director
Ms. April Callender, Associate Executive Director
Ms. Aisha Campbell, Director of Children's Program