



Windward

SHORELINES

MILLIE CEFARATTI

Mildred "Millie" Cerafatti, 87, passed away on Feb. 23. A member of the Owasco Yacht Club, she taught for many years in the elementary schools system in Auburn, retiring from Owasco Elementary. An accomplished artist and musician, she later visited many lands as a travel consultant.

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DAVID B. HYDE

David B. Hyde, 75, passed away in January. A graduate of RIT in civil engineering, his recent employment was with Prudent Engineering in Syracuse. A member of the Owasco Yacht Club, he volunteered at Auburn Community Hospital and was a caregiver at Matthew House.

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RICH KNAUL HONORED

The Town of Owasco recognized Rich Knaul recently for 30 years of service to the town. Knaul has served on the town board as a planning board member and chair, as water and sewer administrator and as chair of the original comprehensive plan. He is also treasurer and longtime member of Owasco Yacht Club.

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GAIL DEMI'S ART ABOUND

The design work of Auburn artist and Owasco Yacht Club member Gail Demi graces many homes and businesses. Among her clients are Auburn Public Theater, the Skaneateles Country Club, and Turning Stone Resort Casino. Her current projects include a mural of Owasco Lake inside Auburn restaurant Osteria Salina, which joins an earlier wall design she created of the Brooklyn Bridge.

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Letter from the Commodore

Beth Butera

I would like to welcome everyone to another great season at OYC. I am very excited to be given the opportunity to serve as your Commodore as we gear up for the 125th year of the Club. I have been a member since 2006 and have served as the assistant Treasurer for about five years. I have worked in the Auburn area since graduating from college other than a short hiatus when we lived in Michigan. I am currently working at Welch Allyn, a Hill-Rom Company, in Skaneateles.

There have been many members busy in the off season preparing the Club for your enjoyment. There were some off site social events that allowed many members to keep in touch throughout the dreadful winter months. The board has been working diligently on new ideas to keep all members engaged and enjoying the full impact of an OYC membership. CC's Tavern is ready and eager to serve you so that you, your friends, and your guests enjoy coming to OYC. The Social Director has planned a busy calendar of social events for the year – parties, happy hours, bands, and more. This is a real team effort! If you have not had the opportunity to lend your time and skills at the Club contact a board member and we will be glad to pair you up with someone who can show you what needs to be done.

SPREAD THE WORD. You might be tired of repeatedly seeing this message about maintaining current members and attracting new members. I'm sure you realize that members are the lifeblood of OYC, especially new members that are a

transfusion to replace members who have resigned. April-June is the peak "joining season" for OYC when people start thinking about swimming, boating and other summer activities. This year OYC is offering a 12.5% discount to NEW members on their first year dues in honor of our 125th year anniversary, which is next year!! Please spread awareness of OYC and these opportunities to your friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Share with them personally or on social media your stories about how much you have enjoyed OYC – sailing, socializing, dining, swimming, boating, and kayaking. You and other members are OYC's best advertisement! Suggest to your friends that they check OYC's website (www.owascoyachtclub.com) for information about OYC and membership. I welcome you back to OYC for another great year of enjoying beautiful Owasco Lake with family and friends. Your comments, questions, suggestions, and concerns are always appreciated.

We are a volunteer club, with dwindling resources and increasing needs; the boards efforts are paramount to our success. Please take the effort to read what they have written, listen to what they have said, ask them questions, show an interest and offer your thanks! Their enthusiasm is infectious.... you too may decide to join the ranks.

Make OYC your place on the lake!!!! Grab your picnic basket, coolers, and enjoy it!!!!



Tracy Stewart

What's Cooking: News from OYC's Kitchen

Wow! Being the newest OYC Board Member has been so many different things all at once!! Exciting, scary, hard work and fun, just to name a few. I must say – ALL of the Board Members have been very helpful as I've ramped up into the Kitchen Director position. Thanks to Beth and Marcus, not only for getting me into this, but for all of their help as I figure out the scope and details of this position. Thanks to Louise and Adele for their advice and assistance, and for providing "historical" OYC background information. Thanks to JJ and Don Devine for pitching in painting the Club. It helped keep Gail and me going 'til the end'

I am pleased that CC's Tavern has come back to run the kitchen again this season. John Hurd is building on last summer's experience to enhance the kitchen for our members. Adele, Marcus and Beth have created an exciting Social Schedule this year. John has been working with us to introduce new offerings coordinated with these events. This summer a 5-dollar "Build-A-Burger" will be featured during the new Thursday Deck Happy Hours, just to name one of the new offerings. Be certain to check out the Calendar on the website and look for OYC emails for menus, prices, and specials.

Don't forget to make your RESERVATIONS FOR ALL SPECIAL EVENTS!!

They are an important part of keeping the kitchen running smoothly for all members. Check out the Club bulletin board and website for details on how to make a reservation.

2016 at the OYC is already off to a great start!

If you have a kitchen idea, or a complaint, or a concern, or a criticism, or a

Louise Wilson

Letter from the Secretary

As Club Secretary it's my job to get information and updates to our members. Nearly our entire membership has an email address and that seems to be the fastest way to get information out on a timely basis. We know how many emails everyone gets and we don't want to inundate your mailbox, but we do want to make sure you don't miss out on details of upcoming events, dinner menus, announcements etc. as they come up. Please send us an update at owascoyachtclub@gmail.com if you change your address. We have heard people say they never get any notices, only to find that we were never given a current address. To be honest, we're all human and sometimes our typing fingers have a mind of their own

and typos can occur and your update gets lost in cyber space. If you don't receive emails from us, please let us know so we can figure out why. Those who don't use email will have to rely on notices on the bulletin board – or ask your friends what's going on, I'm sure they'll be happy to tell you! We are also looking into better ways to send email blasts and hope to be starting a new process in the very near future.

I also try my hardest to keep the OYC website as up-to-date as possible. The mobile views aren't what I would like them to be, so I hope to make the site more user friendly for Smartphones. Please bear with me as it will take some time to make the updates needed.

Many of our members like to tease me about always taking pictures. Most people like to see themselves, but if you really have a problem with it, just let me know. Also know that when I post

NEW LOOK FOR CLUBHOUSE

I hope everyone likes the new color scheme I chose for the interior of the OYC. It was time for a fresh look; one that highlighted the blue peaks and the classic sailboat motif, which was created by past commodore Bill Whiting. In my work with art, painting, faux finishing and working with high-end interior designers over the past 20 years, I have learned a lot.

I keep up with current trends, while being aware of different styles and tastes, as well as keeping space usage and practicality in mind. My idea was to create a sort of "Cape Cod" feel, light and airy, while keeping focus on our beautiful view of Owasco Lake. I chose a soft grey-blue for trim work to tie in the blue of the high peaks and main doorways.

I will be painting the trusses the same dark brown as the exterior doors and the windows to bring in the current design trend towards industrial design. They are a fabulous design element and will add a striking accent to our "retro" space!

I also wanted to bring attention to the historical photos that are in our collection. I utilized pre-existing hooks; I hope to drill new holes and hang the pieces in a more organized fashion in the near future.

--Gail Demi

to the website, if the photo is unflattering I will delete it. Photos from events are posted under the Links tab on the website at www.owascoyachtclub.com then click on the Gallery of the year you want to look at. While you're on the Links tab, check out some of the informational websites and videos listed there.

Last but not least, for the past several years I have been putting together a photo book of our members for reference purposes that is left in the clubhouse. Even after about five years of providing it, there are still members who don't have their photos included, or are in great need of an update. Feel free to put your own photo into the book or if you see a crazy lady running around with a camera, it's probably me and I'm always happy to shoot you!

Welcome New Members!

Michael & Robin DeBenedetto

The King Family

John & Linda LeFever

The Scuderi Family

The Tardif Family

Dawn Wilson

Time is running out...the Club is still offering a free ¼ zip sweatshirt to any club member in good standing who sponsors a friend or family member for membership. This offer expires June 30, 2016.

Additionally, in celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the OYC in 2017, a 12.5% discount will be deducted from the membership fees for all new members. The discount does not apply to the food chit or mooring fees and runs through 12/31/2016. Please contact me at oycmembership@gmail.com if you have any questions. -- *Marcus Wilson, Membership Director*

On the Waterfront:

Once again the waterfront is taking shape. The boat hoists and floating dock went in early May with a crew of dedicated volunteers. The launch ramp also began to be put in on the same morning and finished just recently. The kayak racks and club catamarans were put into position the following weekend during clean up. The sails, rudders, centerboards, paddles, and club kayaks were taken out of clubhouse and placed by shore. Many thanks to all who helped out that weekend in my absence.

A few changes have been made to the Sunfish cradles in hopes of making it easier to get them on and off. Being an avid Sunfish sailor myself, hopefully I have solved this problem. Feedback would be great either thru email or catch me at the club.

I have also given thought to the kayak labeling and may use a different system than in the past. Still working on this and will update everyone if and when I get it right. I have also given thought to the height of the three high racks in front of the club. Listening to your concerns we may get rid of the top rack and only go two high. I will have a better idea after I see how many kayaks we have to accommodate this summer. You will also notice the racks are a little differently placed in front of the deck. Mark Querns and I discussed the idea of putting in some steps along the walkway to avoid walking along the angled slope.

For those of you that will be taking out any of the club kayaks, Sunfishes, paddle boat, catamarans, or canoes remember to sign them out using the book in the clubhouse. Also let the lifeguards know. Please refer to the rules on using these on the website. Always take a lifejacket for you and others. These can be found hanging under the deck or spare ones in a blue duffel bag also there. Reminder: Rowboats are for members that have moored boats out in front of the club so please do not take these out.

The new Personal Watercraft Policy was instituted for this year and can be found on the website. Please adhere to these rules and we may revisit the policy during the offseason to make appropriate changes given any feedback we get this year.

--*Ken Rescott, Waterfront Director*

All Systems Go: Ready, Set, Swim!

By the time you read this, the swim dock, steps, weed mats, and swim markers should be in. Signs Posted and lifeguards hired. Plus the Health Department has stopped by to give us the stamp of approval to open for the season.

We have a great group of lifeguards this season. Most of them I have known since they started on the YMCA Stingray swim team when they were little. They have grown into responsible individuals that can be show by their diligence in acquiring and maintaining their lifeguard certifications.

Tyler Mason is our head guard, and other returning guards are Jon Hartnett, Celina Rescott, Hanna Foster, Jake Whiting and Reggie Buell. New this season are Julia Rescott and Lindsey Roe.

Let's hope we get lots of bright sunshine-filled days to enjoy our lake this season.

--*Theresa Mason, Swimming Director*

Wanted: Sail Race Participants!

This is a shout-out to all past, current, and future sailors; including the dozens of lesson participants over the years. There has been a drastic fall off of sailors for the Sunday morning and Wednesday evening racing. Unless we get more participation, racing at OYC is in jeopardy.

If you like the idea of sailing but have no experience, the lessons are a great way to start. Adult sessions can be arranged if not already planned. You can also volunteer to crew on race day. Speak up; we will get you on a boat.

If you don't have a sailboat, there are 2 easy options. OYC has a Laser and Sunfish for member use. All we need are 2 boats to form a class. There is also a handicap system we've used for years to score boats based upon time so any boat can participate. Yes, you can finish last and win the race, it has been done many times. We even have enough marks to setup a short and a long course to accommodate the sunfish, etc.

A common response is "I'm not really into "racing." That's a normal response. Many of us have been doing this for a long time and it may seem intimidating. Our brand of racing is far from what you would describe as competitive. The only yelling you will hear is the pre-race countdown. Anything you are not familiar with -- the course, the start sequence -- will be fully explained either on the shore or on the water.

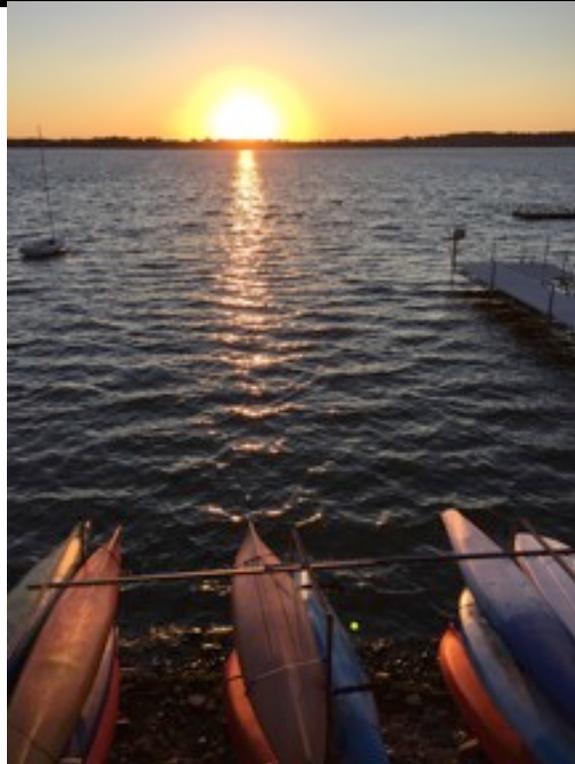
I've always described the Wednesday evening races as "fun" races. It just seems more fun to watch the sunset on the water (or hopefully retrieving the marks). Races are generally shorter and the winds generally light. It would be time to check out one of the Sunfish.

Bob Sloan and Gary Robertson are doing lessons again this year; details forthcoming. Also, watch the bulletin board for a sail day. We'll have some boats set up to give rides and demo the Hobie 14s and Sunfish.

-- *Jim Kusche, Sailing Director*

THANK YOU TO ALL!

Welcome to Summer!! This past off season we have been able to put some work into revitalizing our Clubhouse. I owe many thanks to many volunteers who spent some long days with me. From driving the lift to painting the rails, every little job helped. I think all will be happy not only with the new ceiling, but with the fans being cleaned! I am very grateful to Tracy Stewart and Gail Demi for asking if they could run with the painting. I would not be ready for opening day if it wasn't for all the long hours and dedication of the volunteers.



Social Season in Full Swing!

The season has begun and the two events that we have had, as of this writing, have met with GRAND success. Our "Soft OPENING", Memorial Day Weekend Fire Pit Party and Hot Dog Roast, was well attended. Almost 60 people came through the most beautiful thunder and lightning storm. A storm is always so amazing coming across the Lake. A sight to behold. Our Kitchen Director, Tracy Stewart, was the hostess. She kept everything going and me under budget (a feat in itself) with her prudent shopping. On June 6, Marcus Wilson hosted "The Commodore's Meet and Greet" with great flair and finesse. The food he made was amazing, as was his choice of wines.

We are testing a longer season for OYC, starting with a "soft opening" on Memorial Day Weekend and ending with events into October. We hope to close with a Halloween Party or October Fest, or maybe both! Don't worry, nothing will take the place of "Jim Bye's Annual Beer Blast". Anyone wanting to host an event let me know. I do need the help these days. I can work side by side with you, just can't "lug and tug". Annette Abdelaziz has volunteered to host a "Family Fun Day". She is looking for some helping hands. It will be well organized so you will be given an activity you can handle....it doesn't take much to help out but it is most welcome. I have worked with Annette before..she is delightfully creative and enthusiastic. A joy to work with, I might add. Give her a call..315-729-5828.

A longer season gives you more for your money...a real bonus! Attend events; that's how we tell if membership is interested. Looks like the early start might be here to stay.

I won't list all of our Social Events, as you can visit our website and find out what is happening. Check out Louise Wilson's pictures of our events on the web. With everything else Louise does as our Secretary, she also does our website. Give it a "look see" -- you will be quite proud of it and our Club.

We have no restrictions on guests this season. They must sign the book with every visit. The book is in the Club House on the new counter. Please encourage your guests to join OYC, as their pleasure is paid for with our membership dues. Guest policy is on the web and in the guest book.

Please any suggestions for bands, hosting, or events can be sent to me. COME and ENJOY OUR BEST KEPT SECRET on the LAKE.

--Adele Keegan, Social Director

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Text me at: 277-0035