

January 10, 2011

Sometimes it is just as important for us, as staff members to build a community, as it is for us to help our members build a community. We focus on who might be a good fit for a new member, who has the same interests, backgrounds or family situations. But every once in a while, it is nice for us, as staff members to take the time to remind ourselves why we work here. It is the charity, the helping of others, the pleasure in seeing success stories. For me, it is also a chance to sometimes take a breather from the everyday work requirements and take time out to reconnect with a member who has always been very important to me but I haven't gotten to spend time much with them anymore. A simple phone call will do in order to just say hello, I'm thinking of you, how are you and how is your life. It reinforces what we do on a daily basis but helps us to keep that special connection that we have with certain people. And for a couple of moments, your whole attitude can be restored as to the entire mission of the YMCA and why we are here doing what we do. For that, I am thankful every single day.

With the new year comes the sounds of lots of more basketballs in the gym, more children and families coming in ,and yes,...lots more wet boots and shoes. Please remember if possible to not only bring your membership cards in every time you visit with us but also to bring in shoes to work out in that have not just come off the street. It saves a lot of wear and tear on our floors and machines if you have clean dry shoes. Also, remember that starting with the first of the year, we will no longer be selling guest day passes due to the increase of usage by our members. This insures our members are guaranteed usage of all program areas and equipment.

It is impossible to believe that the 2nd annual **Amy and Mena's Pajama Party** at the Holiday inn is only a month away, on Friday, February 3rd beginning at 6pm. We have already had quite a few people register but we are hoping to get a lot more. This promises to be bigger and better than next year. We also have an agreement with the Holiday Inn for a reduced room rate for that night so make your reservation by calling the Holiday Inn and telling you are with Amy and Mena's pajama party. This week, Amy and I are working on door prizes as well as the shirts for this year's events. More information to follow next week. We are so excited for this event to take place!



Our **Boxing Fitness Classes** will become slightly fee based beginning this week. Members who want to participate in class must sign in at the front desk and pay a \$10 fee to take the class. You will be issued cards to be handed to the instructors to let them know you are registered for the class. This allows everyone the opportunity to take the class but does limit size so that all that are registered can take part in all the sessions. For the general public, the fee for the 7 week class is \$70.00

The Skaneateles YMCA is offering a **Sunday, Funday** for the month of January. There will be open swim from 12-5:30 and open skate from 2:15 to 4:15pm. The open skate includes free skate rentals and a helmet. Sunday, Funday is free to all Y members and \$3.00 per person for the general public. The Skaneateles YMCA also has a new fitness program that has begun that is Hula Hoop fitness. Take yourself back to the late 50s and get fit while hula hooping, your way to fun! I personally can't wait to get over to Skaneateles to try out this class!

Hard to believe but true...we are going to be taking registrations for **Little League** starting next week so dust off the birth certificate, get your money ready and get ready. Planning has already begun for the **28th Annual Owasco Flyer**. This event pulls cyclists from a large area and all proceeds benefit the camp Y-Owasco scholarship fund. The Owasco Flyer will be held on Sunday, June 24 this year with the race beginning at Emerson Park starting at 9am.

As always, check our website, auburnymca.org for updates on all of our schedules and program information, or feel free to stop down, take a tour and see all that we have to offer.