

The Torch

Friends of Camp Kenan Newsletter

A Letter From the New Camp Kenan Director

By Luke D. Kantor

Hello Friends!

I am excited and proud to introduce myself as the new YMCA Camp Kenan Director. Camp is a very special place to me, as I know it is to all of you, and I want nothing more than to see it succeed and flourish enriching future generations of our youth.



Above my desk at Niagara County Community College, at which I had worked as Faculty for the Student Life Office, I had always kept a

picture of the cross at the Old Chapel during sunset and loved nothing more than when one of my students or co-workers would ask me what the faded picture was of.

Looking back to when I was a camper, I can clearly remember daydreaming about how great it would be to run camp... all the new ideas I would add, how I would hire amazing staff and put my own twist on the programs we offer... and now, I have that opportunity. The past two months have been busy with planning many exciting new additions to camp that we will put into action this upcoming summer. It is interesting to hear when talking with past camp staff and directors that some of my "new" ideas aren't really new at all. An example of

this will be "The Script", a camp journal and yearbook that will be published weekly and at the end of each summer as a keepsake for the campers.

I look forward to working with the Friends of Camp Kenan to ensure that camp is a unique, life changing, and positive learning environment filled with tradition. If you would like to contact me, do not hesitate to send me an email: lkantor@lockportymca.com or call the camp cell phone at 716-622-8484.

In the spirit of Camp Kenan,

Luke D. Kantor
YMCA Camp Kenan Director

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A Fresh Look for www.friendsofcampkenan.org

By E. Millen & L. Flaherty

Have you seen our website lately? We have overhauled www.friendsofcampkenan.org with a new, fresh, and updated design.

And there's more. More? Of course, there's always more at Camp Kenan! During Goosestock 2011, we will be kicking off a campaign to update our membership directory. Can't make it to Goosestock? Look for ways to contribute in future newsletters.

We hope the new design is easy for Friends of Camp Kenan members and supporters to find all of the information they need. As always, learn about Friends of Camp Kenan, our contributions to Camp Kenan and our contact information. New to the site, you can donate to Friends of Camp Kenan, purchase Friends of Camp Kenan merchandise online using PayPal, find information on our newly created Camperships and information on our upcoming events. Available NOW, you will find two options to pre-register for the 15th Anniversary Goosestock!

In addition to the website, we have created an official non-profit page on Facebook. In the coming months, we invite all members of the "Friends of Camp Kenan-Former Staff members" group to "Like" our new page to receive all of our latest news, event invitations and more. You can find our new page by searching for "Friends of Camp Kenan Non-Profit Organization" or by visiting our website and clicking on the "Like" button. Thank you for helping us transition

to a more professional presence on Facebook.

Thank you to Lisa (Polovick) Flaherty, Cindy Roth and Kayleigh Fischer for the collaboration, time and effort put into giving the Friends of Camp Kenan website a fresh new look! Please visit the newly revised website today!



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Catch a glimpse of what Goosestock 2010 was all about by viewing the short film now featured on our "Events" page of our newly revised website!

Thinking About Goosestock 2011 Yet?

By Elizabeth (McGuire) Millen

In September 2011, will you find yourself driving down that long road we all travel down, turning that one last sharp right hand corner, driving along side Lake Ontario, and slowly turning down the Camp Kenan driveway? Is your stomach churning with excitement and anticipation? Can you hear what's happening in the Mess Hall???.....

*STOMP! CLAP!
STOMP! CLAP! CLAP!
STOMP! CLAP! STOMP! CLAP!
STOMP! CLAP! CLAP!*

Can you feel the hundreds of feet stomping??? Can you feel the tremors from the floors, the tables and the windows rumbling and shaking??? Can you hear the excitement and happiness of the voices reverberating with those mighty cheers?!

WELCOME BACK TO CAMP KENAN!

*Pre-Registration for the
15th Anniversary Goosestock
is now OPEN!*

New this year, Friends of Camp Kenan is asking that members pre-register and by doing so in advance you could save up to \$5.00 off per person. Don't delay; the deadline to pre-register is Thursday, September 1, 2011.

Again this year, the registration fee includes a specially designed Goosestock 2011 T-shirt commemorating the weekend, five complete well balanced healthy meals in the Mess Hall, and overnight accommodations. Not to mention activities, songs, stories, friends and memories. Whether you are coming for just one day or all three the fee will remain the same, with all proceeds going to Friends of Camp Kenan mission.

What a great deal!

Pre-Registration today through September 1, 2011:

Adults (12 & over) are \$20
Children (ages 4-11) are \$10
Children Under 4 are FREE

Onsite Registration September 9-11, 2011:

Adults (12 & over) are \$25
Children (ages 4-11) are \$12
Children Under 4 are FREE

Below are the two (*Count them! ONE! TWO!*) easy options to Pre-register for Goosestock 2011. Go to <http://www.friendsofcampkenan.org/goosestock2011.html> and there you will find:

Option #1: (*Recommended*) Online Pre-Registration Form. Complete the form online and securely pay the registration fee online using PayPal.

Options #2: Mail-In Pre-Registration Form. Download, print, and complete the form. Then, mail the completed form and check or money order to Friends of Camp Kenan. All checks should be made out to "Friends of Camp Kenan".

If you miss out on Pre-Registration, don't worry you will still be welcome to join us at Goosestock. Onsite registration will be available all weekend long during the event.

If for whatever reason, you feel that you cannot afford the registration fee, Friends of Camp does not want you or your family to miss out on the 15th Anniversary Goosestock, please contact us. Your information will be held in confidence.

So, what do we have in store for Goosestock 2011? To give you an idea of what you can expect, here is just a glimpse of some of the activities planned, aside from meals and program in the Mess Hall, free time and of course, rest period.

Friday, September 9, 2011:

Tours of Camp Kenan: *Take a tour of Camp Kenan to see what is new and what will never change with the new Director of Camp Kenan, Luke Kantor.*

Saturday, September 10, 2011:

Activity Periods: *Athletics, Crafts, Aquatics and Outdoor Ed filled with dizzy bat relays, tie-dyeing, rock painting, swimming, archery and the Kenan NBA game.*

Michael Tobin Memorial Chapel Dedication: *Come help us honor the memory of Michael Tobin during the dedication of the Old Chapel in the Woods. All are welcome to celebrate his life and a part of Camp Kenan that has been renewed.*

Special Friends of Camp Kenan Events: *Annual membership meeting, basket raffle and live auction to raise funds to give back to Camp Kenan and its campers.*

Closing Camp Fire: *Get ready to sing all your favorite songs, perform skits and listen to the Gray Goose tell his classic tales of Lion Hunts and more!*

Sunday, September 11, 2011:

Chapel and Brunch: *We will celebrate a special service in remembrance of the 10th Anniversary of 9.11.2001 and complete our weekend just as you remember it with Sunday Songs in the Mess Hall.*

***We'll SING you in, we'll SING you out
and then we'll raise a mighty shout
~WHOOPEE! Hail, hail, the gang's all
here! We welcome you to Kenan Camp!***

Think rain will ruin our weekend? No way! We have said it before and we'll say it again, rainy day activities are already being planned including lip-sync (what song could your family possibly perform too?), skits (what role will you play?), Dutch auction (you'll need countless items to win this one!) and more.....Remember to be prepared for ANYTHING!

Plans are underway to make this event more memorable than ever, but we certainly could use your help in doing so. This year when you register, we are asking that everyone choose a few ways you would be willing to pitch in and help.

For all Goosestock 2011 inquiries please email Lisa (Polovick) Flaherty: Lisa.Flaherty@friendsofcampkenan.org.

***We cannot wait to welcome you
back to Kenan Camp. We will be
MIGHTY glad you're there!***

Hold High The Torch.....

By Mike Stevens

For there are other feet that we must guide.

In looking through my things this week, I came upon a song book from the 2000 Christian Leadership Conference held at YMCA Camp Kenan. I was fortunate enough to be serving as Director going into my third of five summers at Camp Kenan. I thought the words were timely in reading the recent edition of "The Torch". There is a new generation of alumni that now must propel the Friends of Camp Kenan forward with same enthusiasm and passion of the founding group that I had the pleasure of working with.

I am blessed and thankful for the years spent at Camp Kenan as they truly shaped the person I am today and the professional course I remain on today still involved within the YMCA. There are few places left in this world, erected solely for the pure enjoyment and devel-

opment of children. No where else can so many life changing/life determining events occur. In my eyes, it is the role of this group to preserve this pristine setting and keep alive the spirit and the magical experiences that have captivated us all. Ensuring children today have the opportunity to come to camp regardless of background or financial means and enjoy the same experiences we did.

I am still very much involved with YMCA resident camping nationally. I have been afforded the opportunity to see many different resident camps. I can say, without bias that I have never seen a camp that has such a powerful inner spirit. I often wonder what it was so many years ago that created that spirit and ensured it endured. Certainly The Old Gray Goose was a driving force in the spirit spanning generations. I find myself to this day still signing lunch songs, dinner songs, chapel songs, Sunday songs and campfire songs. So many

songs, it took me all 5 years at Camp Kenan just to learn them all! In many ways the performances at camp were almost like a takeoff on a Grateful Dead show, you wanted to be at camp the third week of session 4 in 2000 because "Green Grow" was performed.

My wife and I celebrated the birth of our son this past year and I am very much looking forward to bringing him to "Goosestock" this year. I should say he will be quite surprised to see other people singing camp songs other than just his Dad. I send my best to everyone and again extend thanks to so many of you who have touched my life and in turn impacted so many lives at Camp Kenan.

In the Spirit of Camp Kenan,
Mike Stevens
Camp Kenan Director, 1998-2002

TOGG Tales

By Mike Fischer

I stuck my head in the little skunk's hole and the little skunk said, "Well bless my soul. Take it out. Take it out. Remove it!"



Back when Woodsman's Village lived in big canvas tents in the Great Woods, the end-of-year cleanup involved a lot of heavy lifting. After the tents and bunks were taken down and carried away there were three heavy wooden platforms to secure. These had to be tipped up and leaned against a tree for the winter. Goose, Russ Ellsworth, and I lined up along one side, lifted a platform up overhead in one motion, and then slowly walked forward to lean it against a tree. With effort, the second platform was lifted. The third and heaviest was still waiting.

We prepared ourselves. I used the "grunt loudly" method to help as we lifted the edge of the platform. At the top of the lift several things happened. A family of skunks that had probably been living under the platform all summer stirred from their nap. Goose and Russ both released the platform and jumped several steps back. Being involved with my grunting, I was not so quick to respond finding myself trapped with my arms locked holding the heavy platform over my head.

From a safe distance Goose said, "Don't move". This is probably the best two words of advice I have ever received. The alternative would have been to drop the platform down onto myself breaking some number of bones while at the same time squishing four skunks. The resulting pain, blood, and dead skunk smell that might still be with me today.

I did not move. The mother skunk and her three kits walked slowly past me without incident, proving that good timing is a key part of good advice.

Do you have a "TOGG Tale" that you would like to see appear in future issues of "The Torch"? Please email Elizbeth.Millen@friendsofcampkenan.org with yours today!

CAMP KENAN EVENTS TO REMEMBER:

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT»

Wed April 20, 2011
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

VOLUNTEER WORK DAY »

Sat May 22, 2011
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND »

Fri-Sun May 27-29, 2011

OPEN HOUSE »

Sun Jun 5, 2011
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND »

Fri-Sun Sep 2-4, 2011

GOOSESTOCK 2011 »

Fri-Sun Sep 9-11, 2011

**For more up-to-date information please visit the official Camp Kenan website: www.campkenan.com. Thank you!*

Letter From the President

By Mark Natemeier

Just a few days ago the Buffalo Sabres played their last regulation game of their 40th season in the NHL. To celebrate this occasion the new ownership had invited back every player that had played for the team. It didn't matter if they played one game or 300; every player was invited to be a part of the celebration.

I watched from my sofa as grown men put on their old hockey jerseys, they walked onto the ice to standing ovation with their cameras in hand as they took pictures of the fans cheering for them. Some of them broke down in tears as they met past teammates they hadn't seen for 30 years. Many hadn't been back to Buffalo since the last time they played a game. You could see it in their eyes, you could hear and feel it in their voices, as well as sense that this event was going to change their lives.

The look I saw on the Buffalo Sabers' alumni is the same look I saw all over the place at Goosestock (GS2010) last year. Many Camp Kenan alumni returned last year for the 1st time since they had worked at camp, for some it had been over 20 years. While Camp Kenan doesn't have a Terry Pegula (new Buffalo Sabres owner) to offer an all expense paid return for GS2011, Camp Kenan does offer all past

alumni a once a year chance to become part of camp for a weekend at the 15th Anniversary GOOSESTOCK. We invite all past alumni back, it doesn't matter if you worked for two years, ten years or just two weeks, EVERYONE IS WELCOME! It is time for you to come back to Camp Kenan and be a kid again.

What it cost you to come back to Camp Kenan will be paid back 100 times by the memories you share, the friends you will reconnect with, the stories you hear and tell, as well as that feeling you will get when you give back to Camp Kenan.

As President of Friends of Camp Kenan it is my duty to tell you that we need you! Friends of Camp Kenan *and* Camp Kenan itself need your help. I have heard from many of you on how special your time was at camp and how much it means to you. It is time that "We" (Camp Kenan alumni) as a group put our money where our mouth is and continue to give back. Camp Kenan faces the same challenges that most not for profit organizations do in today's economy; funding cut backs, decrease in customers/campers, an aging campus that needs both TLC and major renovations, in addition to an increase in competition.

You might say to yourself, "Self, because that is what I call myself, what can I do to help?" Here is how, Camp Kenan can use either or both of your time and financial assistance. By coming to Goosestock 2011 and donating you are giving back to the program of Camp Kenan with 100% of your donations being invested in the future of Camp. Just as importantly as the dollar donations camp also needs your time. We need volunteers to help us continue to plan and organize this memorable event. Camp Kenan also has several work days coming up which will include the final phase of the renovation of the Michael Tobin Memorial Chapel (see "Camp Kenan Events to Remember", page 3). Camp Kenan really could benefit from your brain and brawn. If you live close enough to help please let me know by emailing me directly at Mark.Natemeier@friendsofcampkenan.org.

I hope to see you there with me at Goosestock 2011 congregating in the Mess Hall with everyone sharing your stories too.

Local Businesses Support for Goosestock 2011

By Cindy Roth

Last year we hit the pavement and asked local businesses for help in hosting a Goosestock that included meals for attendees and auctions, whose proceed directly supported the mission of the Friends of Camp Kenan. It was a great success and we couldn't have done it without the generous support we received. Again this year we are reaching out and requesting donations for meals and auctions. New this year, we are offering an additional way companies can provide support, Sponsorship Packages.

If your business is interested or you know of any businesses that you think Friends of Camp Kenan should reach out to, please contact the Business Outreach Team Lead, Cindy Roth at Cindy.Roth@friendsofcampkenan.org.

SPONSOR LEVEL	PACKAGE COST	BENEFITS
Participating Sponsor	\$50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name displayed on event banners Name on Friends of Camp Kenan website
Supporting Sponsor	\$200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name displayed on event banners Name on Friends of Camp Kenan website Name printed on event T-shirt given to each attendee Two event T-shirts
Presenting Sponsor	\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name displayed on event banners Name and logo displayed on Friends of Camp Kenan website with hyperlink to donating company website Name and logo printed on event T-shirt given to each attendee Two event T-shirts Press Release announcing your organization as a Presenting sponsor <p>*Please note, logos are due to Friends of Camp Kenan no later than 8/1/11</p>

Friends of Camp Kenan

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www.friendsofcampkenan.org



Barker • New York

Camp Happiness

By Kayleigh Fischer

Camp Kenan is continually changing and trying to expand the programs that it offers. More programs? More people?! And of course, there is always MORE at Camp Kenan.....

has become more and more successful throughout the three years it has been up and running with this summer's Camp Happiness week looking to be the biggest one yet!

One of our newest offseason weeks is Camp Happiness which started three summers ago as a collaborative effort between the Lockport Elks Lodge, Camp Kenan, and Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara. Camp Happiness is a week long camp experience for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities that would not otherwise have the opportunity to go to camp. Participants of all ages are able to come and enjoy all of the programs that camp has to offer. The program

For the last three years the Lockport Elks Lodge, Camp Kenan, Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara, and generous Camp supporters like you have been combining their efforts to fund Camp Happiness. To achieve this year's potential rewards we will once again need to meet the financial challenge. For more information or if you would like to donate to Camp Happiness please visit <http://www.camphappiness.org/> or speak to Camp Kenan's Director Luke D. Kantor at 716-622-8484.

Friends of Camp Kenan Mission

To provide supplemental support for the continuation of Camp Kenan as a summer resident camp for young people.

To support the philosophy of Dr. William Rand Kenan in providing the initial foundation for Camp Kenan: "That all children may grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."

To provide for the continuing fellowship of Camp Kenan staff.

Reminders from The Torch, Issue 1: We are still collecting anything that you think would be useful to program. Things like crazy outfits, not so crazy outfits, toy guns and swords, paints, crayons, shower curtains, outdoor gear, most anything that you can think of that will benefit program at Camp Kenan.

All donated items may be mailed to or dropped off anytime to: Elizabeth Millen, 603 Willow Street, Lockport, NY 14094. Thank you!

Special Thanks: To the members of the Friends of Camp Kenan Board of Directors as well as to Mike Fischer, Mike Stevens and Luke Kantor who contributed articles. To Jim Grimes for editing all the GS2010 footage into a fabulous short film now featured on our website. To Kory Merritt for providing the artwork featured in the "TOGG Tales" article.

If you have an article idea, artwork, or photos that you might like to contribute to the next issue of "The Torch" please contact Elizabeth (McGuire) Millen by June 30, 2011 directly at Elizabeth.Millen@friendsofcampkenan.org. We'd love to hear what Camp Kenan has meant to you! "TOGG Tales" will be a reoccurring article, if you have one or two or twenty to share, please let us know!

All article ideas are welcome! The 3rd Edition of "The Torch" is due to come out in July 2011. Thank you!

E. Millen, Publisher & Co-Editor/L. Flaherty, Co-Editor



Please go to www.facebook.com and search for "Friends of Camp Kenan" to join our **NEW** and official Non-Profit Facebook page.