



2012 Friends of Camp Kenan Campership

By: Adam VanDeMark

“GOOOOOD MOOOORNING CAMP KENANI!”

How many times have you heard these words in the Camp Kenan mess hall? Many of us have wonderful memories of all of the places and activities that Camp Kenan has to offer. One goal of the Friends of Camp Kenan is to ensure that children who may otherwise not be able to experience the sights, sounds and feel of Camp Kenan are given the opportunities to build the friendships and gain the memories that we hold so dear. In 2011, we were able to send 10 (count them...) children to a week at Camp.

In 2012, we will again be selecting children (ages 7-14) to receive a campership through the "The Gil-

bert J Mosher Friends of Camp Kenan Campership Fund". If you know of someone who could benefit from a week at camp, please be sure to encourage their parent or guardian to apply or you can contact us with their information by e-mailing us at info@friendsofcampkenan.org and we will be glad to provide them with an application! Campers will be selected based on any number of reasons ranging from; financial hardships, recent life experiences or to those children who deserve to be recognized for their achievements.

If your child is selected, he or she will be able to attend a one-week session at YMCA Camp Kenan during one of three pre-



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determined weeks. All costs for that week will be covered by The Gilbert J Mosher Friends of Camp Kenan Campership Fund.

Keep your eyes open for these applications. They are available from our website www.friendsofcampkenan.org and there will be a link from our Facebook page, so be sure to "Like" us for upcoming events and information.

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Remembering the Chapel Dedication

By: Christopher Tobin

Thinking back to the chapel dedication there are a few things that stand out and I'm very thankful for. The first is that this experience has allowed me to say thank you to those friends and family that helped me get through the death of my brother.

The second is that I felt I was accepted as a member of the CK staff family. I was never on staff, but being able to work on this project with everybody and having other members say to me "you may not of worked here, but I consider you a member of this family". It really made me feel good and as though I belonged, so thank you all.

The last thing is that I would like to thank everybody involved in making that day possible. It was a great day and a great way to honor Mike and our family. A lot of work and effort was put into making Goosestock and the dedication a truly wonderful event.



Looking out at Lake Ontario from the Michael Tobin Memorial Chapel at Camp Kenan.



Experience Camp Kenan at GS2012

By: Rachelle Hathaway,
Goosestock 2012 Chairperson

I think it was my second year on staff, during training week that Bill Neidlinger spoke to us about the Spirit of Camp Kenan. While I don't remember everything he said, his message was simple: the Spirit of Camp Kenan is within each person who has experienced camp. No matter if we were campers, counselors, or a director, we continue to share our experiences with the world outside the gate. Eighteen years later, I can still remember sitting in the field by the old archery shelter, listening to Bill talk and finally understanding of where the attachment to camp comes from.

This past summer I had the wonderful opportunity of being part of the group of volunteers who reconstructed, what is now, the Michael Tobin Memorial Chapel. I spent several weeks working alongside Mother Nature and some other pretty amazing people. Sometimes we'd swap tales, getting to know one another better. Other times we'd work side by side in silence, our own thoughts/memories consuming our

attention. What I came to realize last summer was that the Spirit of Camp Kenan affects each of us differently; it draws us back to camp for different reasons. For some it was to honor the memory of a wonderful friend. For others it was to help create a special place for present and future campers. For me it was a chance to help when help was needed. It was this opportunity that re-ignited the Spirit of Camp Kenan inside of me.

Being a part of the 'behind the scenes' crew is not something most former staff members are able to do. I am fortunate to live close enough to camp that I can head out there when volunteers are needed. My family has had the opportunity to experience camp and share the Spirit with their friends. For many, experiencing Goosestock has helped awaken the Spirit and given their families a chance to understand the feeling. You can read, and even watch footage about what others have to say about the amazing times they have had at Goosestock but you can't explain or expect your families to understand the overpowering feeling that comes along with a flood of memories when hear a familiar song or chant.

The theme for Goosestock 2012 is the Olympiad, the most popular, and memorable week of the summer. We all remember how much work went into these weeks, but it was always worth it in the end. Memories of late night silk screening and tie-dyeing, to skit preparations and mess hall decorations, to the torch run in from the Lockport Y and the lighting of the Olympiad torch at camp- things nobody will ever forget. With 8 months between now and the next memory filled weekend, I urge you to plan your family vacation for September 7th-9th and come home to Lower Lake Road, in Barker, NY.

This year's Olympiad themed Goosestock is shaping into an even more exciting weekend then in the previous years! Stay tuned to Facebook and the Friends of Camp Kenan website for schedules and updates as we get closer to the date.



Enjoying OD at GS2011—this could be you in 2012!

Former Staff! We need your help for Goosestock 2012!

We are looking for nostalgic items to be donated for this year's Saturday night auction at Goosestock 2012!



Desired auctions items should be related to Camp Kenan that might also be found near and dear to others, and inspire people to bid high for our Campership program. For example, photography, paintings or other painted items, vintage Camp Kenan Staff shirts, TOGG memorabilia....the possibilities are endless!



Please contact Rachelle (Barends) Hathaway at Rachelle.Hathaway@friendsofcampkenan.org to make arrangements.

Friends of Camp Kenan Holiday Party Recap

By: Cindy Roth

On December 10 we held our 2nd Annual Holiday Party. Our Vice President, Adam VanDeMark, and his fiancée, Kelly, opened their home to us, and for that we are very grateful. Those that attended enjoyed telling stories and swapping lies. Jenn Shepard worked her magic and had the evening catered by Cafora's Pizza and Pasteria of New-

fane. There was enough food to feed a small army, and no one went home empty handed. The 2011 Friends of Camp Kenan ornament is still available for purchase through the Camp Store on our website (<http://www.friendsofcampkenan.org/campstore.html>). The profits will go toward the Gilbert J Mosher Friends of Camp Kenan Campership Fund.

TOGG Tales

By: Rachelle Hathaway

My first memory of The Old Gray Goose is from a weekend leadership camp my high school sent a group of students to in September 1992. I remembering sitting around a campfire listening to him take us "on a lion hunt".

The following summer was my first year on staff and when the chance to camp out, with Goose and some campers, in woodsman's village came up, I jumped on it. Goose guided the group in building a lean-to, gathering wood, building fires, and melting wax to make fire starters. As traditional woodsman, we slept outside on tarps to keep the dew from soaking into the sleeping bags. The next morning I awoke, off the tarp and my sleeping bag was soaked inside and out! Needless to say I was a little chilly. In fact it wasn't until late afternoon, when I was finally able to take off one of the five layers of clothing I had on in an attempt to bring my body temperature back somewhere near normal. As I set my jacket aside, I remember looking up and hearing Goose exclaim, "Woo whoo! I thought we were going to have to boil you to get you warm again!"

The following summer, 1994 started with the sudden passing of my father, just weeks before my high school graduation. It was also the summer Goose brought back a Woodsman Village style canoe

trip on the Erie canal. Thanks to a great friend who knew I needed to get out of the daily camp routine, I was given another opportunity to spend more time with Goose and 4 other campers. (This time I had a waterproof sleeping bag!) We spent the week sleeping in tents or under our canoes. We took turns searching for fire wood, building camp fires and cooking. While the food wasn't all that memorable, one of my favorite memories was watching Goose's reaction as he crunched the rice I had cooked for dinner. I can still hear him, in between crunches, say, "Maybe next time, let the water boil before you add the rice."

During the days, as we navigated the canal, Goose would tell stories. It seemed he was always guiding us in some way or another. The most memorable lesson for me that summer came after we had gone bridge jumping. As I wrapped my arms around my life vest and stepped off the bridge, curiosity got the better of me and I looked down at the water just as I entered. When I swam back up to shore and climbed out of the canal, Goose looked at me and chuckled, "I guess I should have told you not to look down". Lesson learned. I don't remember much from that summer, but I do remember how great it was to listen to tales that took my mind a million miles away anything sad.

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.



Camp Kenan Events to Remember:

POLAR BEAR RUN 5K »

Sunday, February 26, 2012

Location: Olcott Fire Hall

Time: 11am

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

Letter From the President: The President's Challenge!

By: Mark Natemeier, Board President



At the last two Goosestocks "WE" have accomplished so much. Attendance at the annual event has grown by leaps and bounds; donations have exceeded even the most optimistic outlook.

So, thank you for helping us bring new life to the Friends of Camp Kenan. One debate the Board has been having over the last few months is regarding a new donation drive. We want to know if we can make the organization more of a year round commitment. In the fall we have Goosestock and raise a good amount of money to give back to CK, but what about the spring or early summer?

One idea being tossed around is to come up with membership plan or a spring donation drive. The idea is that in March or April we would ask all former staff to join and become a member of the organization. The membership fee, a 100% tax deductible amount, would be a small

amount, maybe \$20 to \$50 for the year. We even discussed having members receive some benefits like a "Friends" window decal, or shirt, and allow members to vote and elect Board members. We have decided to table this idea and discuss this during our business meeting at GS12 so that we can hear from all of you.

The point of bringing this idea to the table is to raise money for CK in the spring that can be given right back that year. Personally, I was not ready to give up on the fundraising idea for this year just yet. In fact, I have been sitting here looking at a bill we have from our lawyer in Lockport for almost \$2,000. This bill represents one of our final costs in getting Friends of Camp Kenan set up as a 503c not-for-profit, which means we can more easily get donations from corporations and we can guarantee the tax deductible donation status.

Yes, we have money in our account to pay the bill; however, if we do that our contributions back to camp this year will not be very large. My challenge to all of you is to help me raise money this spring to pay off this bill and thus help us donate more back to CK this summer.

I will match up to the first \$750 that is donated to the "Presidents Challenge" to help cover our legal bills. You can donate any amount, and every dollar helps. Donations must be made by April 30th, 2012, and please write in your memo of your check "Presidents challenge donation" so that we can track the dollar amount. You may also donate online at <http://www.friendsofcampkenan.org/campstore.html>. I hope you take a few minutes and consider making a donation to help both the Friends of Camp Kenan and Camp Kenan itself.

Will you accept the challenge?



Seeking Volunteers for YMCA Races

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Y-10 race this past Saturday, February 11th in front of the YMCA in Lockport.

The YMCA is still looking for volunteers for the Polar Bear Run—a 5k run out of the Olcott Fire Hall. It will be held on Sunday, February 26, 2012 at 11am. There is a 1k fun run for kids beforehand. It is all followed by a pancake breakfast, and who doesn't love pancakes? This is a family friendly event, so feel free to bring the whole gang!

This run is entertaining because you chase a man dressed in a polar bear outfit. If you beat the bear, you get a shirt that says, "I beat the bear!" Otherwise, your shirt says, "I can't believe the bear beat me!"

You can register online to participate in these events by visiting the website or calling the YMCA for more information. The website address is: <http://score-this.com/2012races/run/2012Y10PB5Kapp.pdf>.

There is always room for volunteers for a variety of jobs. Please contact Luke Kantor by e-mail at lkantor@lockportymca.com or 434-8887.



Announcements, Announcements, Annouuuncements!

By: The Torch Staff

We are still interested in clothing and sports equipment donations as mentioned in our first issue of the Torch. We are still collecting anything that you think would be useful to program. Such as 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. Please do not drop off your donations at Camp Kenan or the Lockport YMCA (unless you have previously made arrangements with the Camp Director).



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Contact Us!

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GOOSESTOCK 2012: OLYMPIAD

September 7, 8, & 9, 2012



A FRIENDLY REMINDER TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY!

THE 2012 GOOSESTOCK THEME IS OLYMPIAD! COME ONE, COME ALL, AND EXPERIENCE ONE OF THE MOST BELOVED WEEKS IN ALL OF CAMP KENAN'S HISTORY IN JUST THREE FUN FILLED DAYS!



Special Thanks:

To the members of the Friends of Camp Kenan Board of Directors and Christopher Tobin who contributed articles. To Rachelle Hathaway and Mark Natemeier for providing the photos used throughout this issue of "The Torch".

If you have an article idea that you might like to contribute in the next issue of "The Torch" please contact Elizabeth (McGuire) Millen by April 1, 2012 directly at Elizabeth.Millen@friendsofcampkenan.org. We'd love to hear what Camp Kenan has meant to you! All article ideas are welcome! The 6th Edition of "The Torch" is due to come out in May 2012. Thank you!

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

Think green before you print.



Please consider the environment before printing this newsletter.