

MINIKANI ALUMNI COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER

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Thanks To: Perry LaRoque, Amy Owen, Brian Siegel, Steve Hasbrook and Mike Auda.

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State of the Alumni 2010

By Perry LaRoque

It's hard to believe that it's only been a year since we first met to discuss organizing the Minikani Alumni Community. Through the dedication of time, talent, and will from many dedicated Alumni and current Minikani Staff, I am proud to say that the state of the Minikani Alumni Community is the strongest that it has ever been. I take pride in sharing with you our numerous accomplishments in our inaugural year.

◆ **Alumni Weekend-** Thanks to the efforts of several alumni, we established the Annual Alumni Weekend. In the first year, over 100 people attended a fantastic weekend of reliving and reconnecting. People have already been signing up for this year's Alumni Weekend (August 21-22) and we hope it will become a popular tradition.

◆ **Interim Alumni Board-** After meeting last summer, ten dedicated alumni volunteered to be members of the first Alumni Board. With their help, we have established the organization as an official nonprofit (501c3), have developed a sustainable structure, improved

communication with camp and the Minikani Board, developed a mailing list and website, and have laid the foundation for generations to come.

◆ **Minikani Alumni Ball-** Thanks to the efforts of many volunteers, we held our first Alumni Ball, which entertained over 100 Alumni and raised over \$5000 through ticket sales and a silent auction. Because of these efforts, we are proudly sending SIX children to camp this summer.

◆ **Recruiting-** In the first year alone, we have already reconnected with close to 400 Alumni from young to old. We have lists of over 1000 former alumni and are working endlessly to reach out to each and every person who ever dedicated their time to Minikani.

◆ **Work Projects-** With the help of numerous Alumni and staff, we have completed three work project weekends with projects ranging from painting to building. We will officially be sponsoring annual Fall and Spring Work Projects and hope more alumni will take this opportunity to give back to Minikani.

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I'd like personally recognize several individuals that have made this inaugural year possible: Jason Horowitz, Amy Owen, Julia Goebel, Andy Gehl, Mike Auda, Kevin Wright, Mike Whitcomb, John Bolger, Jenny Risch, and Bruce Rasmussen. I'd also like to extend our gratitude to Jen Feltz, the Minikani Camp Director, for her support, vision, and dedication to our summer homeland. Most importantly, thanks to everyone who came out to an event or lent their support in some way. We look forward to many successful years to come.

In the Spirit of Minikani,

Perry LaRoque

"And though I leave her, I won't forget her..."



Camperships

Alumni Community

Thanks for all of your support! We have raised enough money to send 6 deserving children to camp this summer. All of these children demonstrate not only financial need, but also a social-emotional need to be at camp this summer. We are excited to say that we have awarded a \$655 scholarship, the equivalent to 95% of a week-long overnight stay at camp to all those that applied. We are excited to introduce them to you.

◆ Jermaine and Tremaine Rodgers
Nominated by: John Hyland (LT '98)
Fun fact: Jermaine and Tremaine

Check Out These Websites

www.minikanistafflodge.com

This is the main site for the Minikani Alumni Community Website. Once here, you can click to join the official mailing list. You can also keep up-to-date on all the current happenings of the Community. Other headings include Calendar, Alumni Board, Photos, Alumni Weekend, and Apparel.

www.minikani.org

This is the official web site of YMCA Camp Minikani, which has recently been updated. You can get information on dates for summer camp, check out Minikani's blog, and enjoy a collection of Alumni Photos.

turned down an extra cream-puff and ride at State Fair last summer, in order to save more money for their camp fund this year.

◆ Keiara and Kayla Brinston
Nominated by: Weslie Cymerman (LT '99)

What they are most excited for:
Riding a horse and swimming

◆ Mario (Mo) Hardwick
Nominated by: Calie Herbst (LT'99)
Favorite part of camp: This will be Mo's fourth summer at camp. He loves the counselors the best!

◆ Jacqui Parks
Nominated by: Kerry Burke and Jason Horowitz
Most looking forward to: Getting out of St. Paul and into Lake Amy Belle, riding a horse, and depending on her counselor.



A Note From Brian Siegel

Summer Camp Program Director

As summer camp sneaks up on us very quickly, the summer staff is busily working to get things ready for our kids. For registration, we have surpassed our monthly registration goals for each month in 2010. In fact, we are nearly full in all programs for the second half of the summer.

We are working on improving our skill areas so that we can create new skills and tailor them to specific age groups. This will keep activities new and fresh no matter how many years you have been coming to camp.

Finally, I would like to extend an invitation to everyone to come to camp at some point this summer. We would love to have you for campfires, evening activities or as co-counselors with our current staff. Everyone is welcome because we would not have our current camp without everyone's contributions in previous years.





Porcupine Picnic

Sunday, June 13, 2010

The Inaugural "Porcupine Picnic" will be held at Camp Minikani on Sunday, June 13th from 1-6 p.m. The fundraiser is open to everyone: Alumni, friends, neighbors, etc. All proceeds from this family event will go to the establishment of a grief camp for children who have experienced a loss. Activities include canoeing – row boating - water trampoline - arts & crafts - rock wall - high ropes - archery - bb guns and air rifles - nature walks - soccer - Frisbee golf . NOTE: All activities will be supervised by YMCA Camp Minikani Staff Members.

Here is a brief schedule: **Activities** will run from 1:00 -5:00. **Meal Time** with food and beverages for all will be from 3:00 – 5:00. A **Campfire** with singing and skits from 5:00 – 5:30. The cost is only \$15 per person (\$20 the day of), with children 4 and under free.

Please consider supporting this great cause and have a fun time at camp while you're doing it. Register for the Inaugural "Porcupine Picnic" online at <http://www.firstgiving.com/porcupinefoundation>



Minikani Summer Staff

Camp Minikani's staff members are carefully chosen for their genuine love of children, maturity and youth programming experience. Most of the Camp Minikani staff are former campers themselves, and have received three or more years of extensive hands-on training and evaluation through our nationally recognized Leadership Training programs.

To see more about each staff member, go to <http://www.minikani.org/Summer-Staff.php>. Click on their name, and you'll get a short biography, including how long they've been at camp. It's great to know that Minikani campers are in such good hands!

- Brian Siegel – Summer Camp Program Director; Kendall Coursin – Day Camp Director; Lisa Burton – Corral Skill Head; Casey Cox – Explorer Director; Ben Krejci – Adventure Challenge Director; Colin Harari – Explorer Director; Emily Dixon – LT Director; Kendall Dowset – Explorer Director; Charlie Blumberg – LT Director; J.C. Hauser – Waterfront Director; Laura Miller – Minicamp Director; Caitlin Casey – Girls Unit Director; Mark Siegel – OLT Director; and Murph Devane – Day Camp Director.



Future Minikani Events

Porcupine Picnic

June 13, 2010 1-6 p.m.

Fundraiser for Grief Counseling Program

Staff Training - Alumni Dinner

June 16, 2010 5:30 p.m.

Enjoy a meal and meet the staff for this Summer. Please RSVP by June 10th.

Alumni Weekend

August 21-22, 2010

Register at the Alumni website, www.minikanistafflodge.com

Alumni Dinner Staff Training

Wednesday, June 16, 5:30
Please RSVP by June 10th

You're invited – yes, you – to the Minikani Alumni Dinner held during Staff Training on June 16th starting at 5:30. Jen Feltz, Executive Director, would like to invite **ALL** alumni (that's you) to come and share some fellowship with the staff on that date. It's free, and alumni can RSVP directly to her at jfeltz@ymcamke.org or call 262-251-9080. Jen adds that she **REALLY** needs the RSVP by June 10th, because camp needs to order the right amount of food. So do it now – you'll be glad you did.



Alumni Weekend

August 21-22, 2010

It's that time of year again! Registration is now open for the 2nd annual Minikani Alumni Weekend held at Camp Minikani. The dates for this fun filled weekend are Saturday, August 21st - Sunday, August 22nd. Please plan to arrive at Camp Minikani at 11:00 am on August 21st.

Because of the positive feedback from over 100 people that attended last year, the weekend will be very similar to the year before. All that Camp Minikani has to offer will be available to you and your family. Swimming in the lake, climbing the rock wall, arts and crafts, sailing, nature walks and archery are just some of the many activities you can choose from. An Alumni softball game as well as a campfire will also be part of the schedule.

This year it is even easier to register for the weekend. All you need to do is go to the alumni website, www.minikanistafflodge.com and click on "register for the weekend". We have overnight and day options available for you and your family. The overnight option includes 3 meals, all activities and lodging at Camp. The day option includes 2 meals as well as all activities. Adult overnight fee is \$50 per person. For children the overnight fee is \$30. Individual cabin requests are available for families, LT groups, etc. Adult day fee is \$25 and for a child it is \$10. Children under 5 years old can attend free of charge. This year when you sign up you have the option of purchasing a Minikani tee shirt or hoodie!



Please spread the word to fellow Minikani Alumni about this incredible weekend in August. Should you have any questions leading up to the event please contact Michael Auda at michaেলাuda@gmail.com



I Didn't Know That...

Y Camping is 125 years old

What began 125 years ago as one small group of friends from the Y who wanted to experience nature has blossomed into a summer phenomenon that has changed the lives of millions of youth around the world. This year, hundreds of the nation's Ys will commemorate the 125th anniversary of camping at the Y.

Camping officially began at the Y in 1885, when a volunteer named Sumner Dudley helped start the first continuously-used camp. His goal

was to help build character in seven teenagers during a week-long camping trip in Orange Lake, N.Y.

Today the Y has become one of the nation's largest providers of camping programs. More than 335 resident camps and nearly 2,000 day camps serve more than 800,000 kids and adults every summer. Each year, an additional 1.5 million people participate in camp programs through Y family camps, weekend retreats, outdoor education, and school camping.



Alumni Workday

The painting continues...

How many gallons of paint would it take to put a new coat of paint on all 43 buildings at Minikani? Steve Radmanovich, Facilities Manager, probably knows the answer. He was there on April 17th to help Alumni and Leadership paint Cabin 10 and the Old Boy's Kybo, now called the 'Sugar Shack'. It was a great day for painting, and, because of everyone's help, visitors to camp can see just a little of what Alumni have given back. It's amazing what a couple hours of time and a bucket of paint can do to bring out the best in people and places!





Myself

by Edgar Guest

I have to live with myself, and so
 I want to be fit for myself to know,
 I want to be able as days go by,
 Always to look myself straight in
 the eye;
 I don't want to stand with the setting
 sun,
 And hate myself for the things I've
 done.
 I don't want to keep on a closet s
 shelf,
 A lot of secrets about myself,
 And fool myself, as I come and go,
 Into thinking that nobody else will
 know
 The kind of man that I really am;
 I don't want to dress myself up in
 sham.
 I want to go out with my head erect,
 I want to deserve all men's respect,
 But here in the struggle for fame and
 pelf,
 I want to be able to like myself.
 I don't want to look at myself and
 know
 That I'm bluster and bluff and empty
 show.
 I never can hide myself from me;
 I see what others may never see;
 I know what others may never
 know;
 I never can fool myself, and so,
 Whatever happens, I want to be
 Self-respecting and conscience free.



Nature Notes

By Bruce

One of my favorite sounds at camp?
 Is it the bugles, songs after dinner,
 the laughter of staff and campers, or
 the soft voices of a vesper after
 taps? All of those are great, but the
 one that immediately brings me
 back to Minikani is the deep
 baritone call of the bullfrog.

Only males emit this trademark
 "jug-o-rum" bellow, and their
 choruses can be heard during the
 day or night along the shores of
 Amy Bell and Mud Lakes. If you
 get close enough, you can easily tell
 male from female frog. Females
 have an eardrum (tympanum) the
 same size as their eye. Males
 eardrums are larger.



Bullfrogs grow to average of about
 3 and a half to 6 inches long, and
 their legs can add another 7-10
 inches to their length. A female
 bullfrog may lay up to 25,000 small
 eggs that are held together at the
 surface of the water. When they
 finally hatch, bullfrogs tadpole can
 remain in that stage for up to 2
 years!

So, the next time you hear a bullfrog
 call, see if it doesn't bring you back
 to those happy days and nights spent
 at Minikani.



MINIKANI
 EST. 1919
 ALUMNI

Where 'O Where is Susie?

Have you had a chance to check out
 the MAC website for the list of
 "missing" alumni? They are listed
 by decades (70's, 80's, etc), and it
 sure would be great to have them
 register at the website. At the very
 least, they will be able to receive the
 next edition of the Newsletter! If
 you are in contact with any of them,
 please give them a call or send them
 an email, and ask them to register at
www.minikanistafflodge.com.



Contributions

By You

The Alumni Newsletter would like
 to know what you are thinking.
 Remember, this is **YOUR**
 Newsletter. Please send your ideas,
 comments, suggestions, favorite
 memories, and contributions to
BruceRass@wi.rr.com.

