

Adult Midwest Unitarian Universalist Singles enrichment

The AMUUSE News

September 2017

As I said in my email blast, please join us for our October weekend at Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, Mi. I'm not sure what our activities will be yet, we will certainly enjoy old and new friends in planned and spontaneous activities. If folks are inclined to dress up (since this this is the weekend before Halloween), please do. It is often fun to become someone else. We will be having AM groups to connect in a smaller group. If you would like to facilitate one of these, please let me know. The weekend will begin at 5pm (Eastern Time) and dinner will be at 6pm. We will finish by 10 am on Sunday. Then the AMUUSE board will have their Annual meeting. Folks are invited to join us and even extend their weekend if they chose. (More information in next article). The camp provides linens, including towels and washcloths.

We will have a book, CD, DVD exchange, so bring something and take something. And artisans can sell their merchandise and donate a portion to AMUUSE. Please don't forget to register online. Our mailing list is created from this information. A letter will follow with more information (as it becomes available) to those registered.

If you have questions or concerns, please call me at 847-816-3356 or email me at



ssamuuse@aol.com.

Tower Hill camp has started a "Benches for Caps" program. The same program murphy joined. The program trades 400 pounds (89,600 bottle caps) and \$225 for a six foot park bench valued at \$750. To help Tower Hill's program, please save & bring PLASTIC caps with a recycle number 2, 4, or 5. These will be collected in containers shaped like a bear, like the rumor bear from July camp. (Thanks you Ken). I attached a

PDF of the acceptable caps and lids. Also, remember to bring caps for the November weekend.

GREEN TREE PLASTICS, LLC ABC PROMISE PARTNERSHIP

6/1/17 CAPS MUST ARRIVE LOOSE IN LARGE CONTAINERS SUCH AS 55 GALLON PLASTIC BAGS or BARRELS AFTER SORTING AND removal of ALL METAL, UNACCEPTABLE PLASTIC PARTS, and other DEBRIS BY CHILDREN.....UNDER GUIDANCE OF THEIR MENTOR
THESE CONTAINERS WILL GO HOME WITH THE DRIVER.

NEVER ACCEPTABLE METAL ANY TRASH...ANY drink bottles food containers plastic Ziplock type bags soap pumps trigger sprayers lotion pumps fast food drink lids grocery bags Plastic that is not a cap or lid, plastic pieces and parts Caps or lids with (1) (3) (6) or (7) recycle number METAL ANY TRASH

ACCEPTABLE CAPS medicine bottle caps drink bottle caps milk jug caps flip-top caps (ketchup, mustard) detergent caps spout caps (mustard) hair spray caps spray paint caps toothpaste cube caps ointment tube caps deodorant caps. caps w/ RECYCLE NUMBERS of (2) (4) (5)

ACCEPTABLE LIDS cottage cheese container lids cool whip container lids mayonnaise jar lids coffee can lids yogurt lids cream cheese container lids peanut butter jar lids butter container lids ice cream bucket lids under 8" Prescription bottles labels removed

If you would like to start a program, the parent company link is <http://www.greentreeplastics.com/> Select "ABC Promise Partnership" for details. They offer various length benches, tables, and stools for different weights collected.

Peering inside lids

Looking for two, four, or five

Thinking of AMUUSE

Okay, this is a very mediocre Haiku and would not be worth reading at the Camp Show, but it's a summary of what I've been doing since camp. When I first read John Murphy's info about Benches for Caps, I was just too busy to deal with it. Getting ready for camp was all I could handle plus I already recycle and didn't think I had that many caps to contribute. However, when I came home and still had some camp spirit I reread his email and guess what? I had many more lids than I imagined! Caps for Camp (or Benches for Caps) is really easy, fun, and it gives me a sense of contributing. I found there are lids I could count on—my supplements, mayonnaise, peanut butter, usually colored lids, small lids on salad dressing bottles, and and bigger flat ones like those on cottage cheese, sour cream, feta cheese, etc. Most of the times the numbers (two, four, or five) are easy to read in the recycling triangle inside the lid. As I throw the lid in my AMUUSE recycling basket, I always think of a camper or camp event. So, if you are game, let's see how many lids we can bring to Tower Hill the weekend of October 27th. For those of us who have been there and enjoy the facility, it is our chance to give back.

Kathe Merritt

BOARD MEETING - OCTOBER 29 & 30

Would you like the October Weekend at Tower Hill to be a little longer? It can happen! Just stay for the Board Meeting and you can enjoy AMUUSE fun and fellowship for one more day. The AMUUSE Board Meeting will begin after closing on Sunday, Oct. 29. This will be the final meeting of the 2017 Board. We will review the previous camp year and make any necessary recommendations to the new Board. Next is the Annual Meeting of AMUUSE. This is the time for public comment. Any member of AMUUSE may address the Board with concerns, comments, or recommendations. New officers will be installed. The last meeting will be the first meeting of the 2018 AMUUSE Board. We will make decisions about the 2018 camp season, including approving the budget, choosing directors/weekend coordinators, setting fees, committee work, etc. We will be finished by 11:30 a.m. on Monday, October 30. The cost is \$65.00 (to be paid to Susie Stewart) which includes your room, Sunday lunch and dinner, and Monday breakfast. If you are unable to stay the extra night but would like to have lunch and/or dinner on Sunday, the cost is \$9.00 for lunch and \$10.00 for dinner. Please contact Sharon Spencer if you plan to stay for any extra meals or lodging.

A letter from our President

Summer was good in terms of camp and seeing friends. We had one week-long camp in July (Nature - Where the Wild Things Are) and a short camp in August (Taste of AMUUSE.) We saw people we hadn't seen for a while and some new people. We enjoyed the Lakeside Room and the large deck for the first time at Tustin. It was great for morning groups and socializing. In August, it was fun to travel to Lake Michigan and see the eclipse with friends. It was also encouraging to have a full camp.

We are getting ready to return to Tower Hill for our fall weekend and Board meeting. I hope you can come. We will be doing some usual activities around Halloween, and we will be doing a new activity. Fran Drake has taken up the initiative to move our AMUUSE Connection Project forward by printing up postcards for us to color and send to other AMUUSERS to keep in touch and show

we care about all our friends. Hope to see you there. If you have any ideas how we can improve our camps or any ideas for new activities, please let your Camp Rep or any Board member know. You are also more than welcome to attend the Board meeting on Sunday after the weekend.

I want to wish well to Candy, John N., John F., Elise, Blenda, Rosie B., Dave K., Sue B., Diana G., Laurie H., Susie S., and any other AMUUSER living or having property in Florida whom I have inadvertently omitted. I hope your homes are safe, your friends are well, and your lives will soon be back to normal. Our hearts go out to you.

Before I sign off, I am going to share with you a couple sad events in my life. On the 14th of September, while my dogs were playing as usual at the park, Gemma's collar got caught behind Axel's canine teeth, and before we could free them, Gemma died. I see this over and over in my mind and know that if the first set of cutters we tried had worked, I'd still have two dogs. The next morning, Dave took me to the ER because I had a strange feeling in my chest and burning down my left arm. I was later transferred to OSU hospital where two stents were placed in my lateral descending artery. I returned home Saturday. I'm fine, but it is a lot to process. I'm glad this occurred during the summer because I'm not going to let it ruin my fall!

Until I see you next, "I'll hold you in my heart until we meet again, my friend."

Hugs,

Gwen

Your Help Is Valued

Each year as part of our camp evaluation form we ask for your help in several camp activities. Since we are an all-volunteer organization, without members deciding to chip in to do jobs, we can't have camp. Each year we face the same challenge of trying to find people to staff our camps. Often camp directors struggle to fill positions. I know many of you would like two week-long camps with memory books and week-long morning groups and mail bags. The Board chose to try the short camp because we don't have people, including a director, to staff a second camp. The question remains: what can we do about it? Many of the same people step up and do the jobs. More of you need to try to help. Give yourself a chance. In the past, Barb K., Pat S., and Rosie R. did just that, and they were great directors. Rosie R. also signed on to do memory book several times without any previous experience. Yes, these jobs are work; however, I know there are plenty of people

willing to help newbies through these jobs. We just need you to try! You will be amazed at how greatly you will be appreciated by the campers and awed by the sense of accomplishment you will feel. If it is at all possible that you would consider any of these jobs, please let me know at gwencody@hotmail.com or gwenvalo@gmail.com. Positions we need filled are

camp director, activities coordinator, memory book and morning group leader.

Taste of AMUUSE at Tower Hill is June 3-7. Our August camp at Kettunen Center is from August 12-18. (Camp dates are chosen by available dates at each location.)

I am looking forward to hearing from you. If you have already volunteered on the sheet sent around at camp, you don't need to let us know; we already have you on a special list!

Greetings, readers!

Last week's Taste of AMUUSE featured a pre-camp "group read" of the novel *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. A scintillating book discussion followed led by Pat Schneider [thanks, Pat]. I think I can speak for my fellow bibliophiles in saying I can't get enough of this stuff. If you think AMUUSErs are pretty smart [and we are - we are!], imagine getting together to tease apart some more great writing.

Continuing what I hope will become a new AMUUSE tradition, I would like to announce our next "group read" for the October weekend at Tower Hill. I've chosen *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson. The story takes place in Des Moines, Iowa in the 1950s.

You can find this book at your public library or order a copy through your local independent bookseller [Amazon, who?]. You have one month to read this puppy so no excuses.

And if you haven't signed up for the October AMUUSE weekend - get on it. Camp just wouldn't be the same without your smiling faces.

Jeanne

Testimonial for AMUUSE

Here I am home from a week at AMUUSE. On the long drive home there was a lot of time to think about my experiences at camp. From the games to the camp show, from kayaking to searching for the Loons, I began to relax and relax with each passing day.

As I was driving, I thought of all the various roles I have had to play in my life and how AMUUSE changed that. As a teen, my peers controlled my behavior. As a girlfriend I was controlled by fear. "What will he think of me?" Then as a mother my behavior was controlled by the need to be a nurturing caretaker. As a factory worker, the company controlled me. Finally as a UU minister there were mega controls in so many ways.

But AMUUSE allowed my inner little girl to come out and play. At AMUUSE I can truly be myself in an atmosphere of unconditional love and acceptance. I can still bring out the minister when I am needed to console, to be a safe place to share fears and sorrows. But then tuck her away again and to set the little girl free. As I remember camp I laugh and laugh at the memories as a warm fuzzy grows in my heart.

And so thank you AMUUSE for giving me the freedom to be myself. And act totally inappropriate for a retired, 71 year old woman. The minister is here to stay but so is the little girl. And she will never be tucked away again.

Rev. Rosie Rimrodt

Well, I hoped you read this far and enjoyed what you read. Still hoping to see you at the October weekend. I would really appreciate articles and/or pictures for the December newsletter. Sorry so few pictures this time. Hugs, Sharon

Dates for up coming events

October 27 - 30, Tower Hill
October 30 - 31, Tower Hill Board Meeting
May 4 - 6, 2018 - Tower Hill weekend
June 4 - 7, 2018 - Tower Hill short week
August 12 - 18, 2018 - Kettenun long week

