

# AMUUSENEWS



## From your president...

Fall has finally arrived, and I for one am glad to be away from a hot summer. I love the early morning fog, the crickets chirping all day and all night, the smell of leaves as they start changing color and falling, the cool nights with the crickets joining the tree frogs in song at night. I even like hearing the marching band playing in the high school football field on Friday nights. Even though days are getting shorter, I love this time of year.

Summer had its high points, too. July camp was a great place to party thanks to Barb Kuntz, the director. Our full house enjoyed every activity we had. Sheldon Beck kept his winning streak of camps going with his United Nations camp full of games and prizes.

I am looking forward to the weekend at Tower Hill coming up Oct 28 -30 and I hope you all show up and celebrate Halloween with us. I'm

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sure we'll hike to Lake Michigan and visit the country store full of everything! There will be lots of chatting with friends and games to play. It will be good to see everyone again after being apart for a whole SIX WEEKS!

We are also having a Board Meeting where we will plan for next year. We voted this summer to host ONE big camp in July at Kettunen and one mini-week in August at Tower Hill. This is an experiment for us, and we will see how it goes. I think it's good to try new ideas, hope you agree.

Big Hugs from your biggest fan,  
Gwen

## BOARD MEETING Oct. 30-31, 2016

The meetings of the Amuse Board will be held following the weekend at Tower Hill. This includes the final meeting of the 2016 Board which will review the previous camp year and make any necessary recommendations to the new Board.

Following this meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Amuse Board. This is the time for public comment. Any member of Amuse, anyone who has been to camp in the last two

years, may address the Board with any concern or comment or recommendation. New officers will be inducted and thank you's will be given to those leaving the Board.

Following this meeting is the first meeting of the 2017 Board. They are tasked with approving a budget, naming new camp directors and weekend coordinators and discussing any recommendations by the previous Board. Work will also continue on the Director's manual to

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## TOWER HILL FALL WEEKEND OCT. 28-30

Join us for just before Halloween, on the weekend at Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, Michigan. We will begin our weekend at 5 PM on Friday and continue on until shortly after breakfast on Sunday. The space is a wonderful setting for a fall weekend. The beach is a short hike from the camp, the food is good and the company can't be beat. We will have morning check in groups, an auction, and plenty of time to socialize. Costumes are welcome. After you register you will get more detailed information. Please join us. And if you would like to help, please contact:

Sharon Spencer [ssamuuse@aol.com](mailto:ssamuuse@aol.com) or 847-816-3356.



Amuse Weekends are open to all present and former members of Amuse regardless of marital status. Come and renew your friendships and meet new people!

## Jill Murphy Goes on An Adventure!

By Fran Drake

Last fall at Tower Hill, Jill was one of the auction winners offered a summer week hosted by Fran. She decided to visit Port Elgin Ontario in mid-August for 4 days. The weather did not always cooperate, oscillating between rain with high winds and hot and humid.

We roamed around in an air-conditioned car and visited several touristy destinations and enjoyed our time together. The adventure one day started with a visit to our main beach, a drive along the shore road with a view to Chantry Island bird sanctuary, a few light houses, a butterfly garden in Southampton, and then north towards famous Sable Beach where we had our lunch. We continued on with vista stops in Wiarton, posing with Wiarton Willie groundhog. Jill found a geocache in Colpoy's Bay. We saw totem poles at Sydney Bay lookout, stopped to check out Lion's Head, crossed to

the east side of the Bruce Peninsula to view Oliphant beach, past the Oliphant Fen, and discovered a Little Free Library in Red Bay. We had to check it out, and we took some books to read. Other places we visited were the Amphitheater gardens, Kincardine Lighthouse and boardwalk, Southampton Art School and Gallery, and Gobel's Grove beach, and listened to a live band on the Sunday night down at the Port Elgin band pavilion. The good news is that Jill is an awesome guest and also that she did not get stopped at the Canada USA border for hauling a trunk full of cement (foo dogs for her garden ha ha ha!)



## A Winter Cruise

By Donna Davis

Always wanted to cruise, but never sailed away? Here's your chance to get out of the snow this January 22, 2017!

Your friends are sailing away on the PRINCESS, from sunny Ft. Lauderdale to St. Thomas, St. Maartin, and Amber Cove. It costs about \$924+ tax. You only put down about \$150 to book it, and the balance is due in Nov. Call me for details: Donna Davis 708-756-4200



## Camp Remembrances

By Sandy Argas

Yes; not everything can be captured in some camp photos, but if you get a chance to see Jeff Medsker's photos of Center Lake-do so. He captured the sunlight on the water very beautifully. But another great way to see the light on this body of water is to kayak at sunset-gorgeous and relaxing!

Having the Olympics at the water's edge really wasn't chillin' that afternoon (it was friggin' hot!). But . . . I got one little treat that most of you missed; the triumphant return of the kayakers. So maybe it wasn't so fair to have people race against Dave Lever-a known marathoner ( and maybe he has been a triathlete in the past-Hmm), without giving them at least a little handicap. Yep, I was fortunate enough to be at the shore when Susie Stewart paddled back in. Unflappable Susie Stewart who is always so calm, cool and collected-the first words out of her mouth were, "Oh my God". Glad I didn't miss that moment-too damn funny.

Well, the next day we were on to costumes-

which country were you from? Truly, we wanted to identify your beautiful handiwork as well as your international flair. So when Brian Kemp (in a rather Indian-looking outfit) was questioned as to precisely just where his threads were from-we got the very, very non-classic answer-"Amazon Prime."

This, ladies and gentlemen, leads us to the well-thought out U.N. general assembly. The topics were . . . ingenious. Have you ever seen Jeanne Koranda in finer form? I think not, 'cept maybe in the camp show-more about that later. My only disappointment is that we ended the forum before I had a chance to defend flip-flop day. Now really, what argument could you possibly

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update the positions.

Anyone interested in attending one or both days is welcome. There will be a cost for lunch Sunday, dinner Sunday, overnight and breakfast Monday. The meeting will be over by 11:30 Monday.

Please inform Sharon Spencer if you intend to stay, so she can let the camp know. Additional costs need to be paid to Susie Stewart.

The cost of lunch Sunday is \$9.00 Dinner is \$10.00, Breakfast Monday is \$7.50 The cost for staying Sunday night is \$25.00.

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have against that? You get up later (nice), you eat a leisurely breakfast(nicer), and then you have time to nap(the nicest). People, we need to take pleasure in these small delights.

Sooo, the camp show. Yes, I loved the six-word poems-so creative, and they just flowed one after another. But, I had to give Ms. Jeanne

Koranda a standing ovation for her performance for-you know what- *Stokin'*. She was hilarious-but indeed tactful. She could have done it in a comedy club in the basement of some church and not get kicked out on her rear. Isn't that sayin' somethin'? I applaud her timing, sense of delivery, and . . . her bravado.

Just a few of my favorite camp highlights this summer.

**Laments on Leaving Camp** by Anonymous

I'm not a philosopher; I'm just another soul sharing this space and time.

Five hours have passed since camp ended. I'm home. I'm trying to return to my other life. I do laundry, but I'm sleep deprived. I give in and take a long nap.

The alarm rings. I don't want to get up. But I must. I have to leave this sweet state. I hit snooze control, just to ease more gently into awake-ness.

Okay. I feel better. I'm able to function. I'm alert. It's all good.

But I feel alone. It's very quiet here. Where are my friends? No need to run to dinner. In fact, there's nothing on the schedule.

Camp only exists in my head now. Camp is like another world now. Was it real? Who's occupying those grounds now? They used to be ours. If I turned back, no one would know me. It's all gone. It doesn't exist anywhere, except in my head. That world has gone poof.

That was my reality not too long ago. That play has ended. Where are my friends, the actors who shared the stage with me? Everyone's gone. There's no Act II. The smiles and hugs have disappeared.

## Fifteen Seconds of Fame

By Jeanne Koranda

A self-confessed public radio "nerd", I have my radio dial tuned to our local station from the minute I wake up until I'm ready for bed. We're particularly blessed in Wisconsin to have an excellent station that provides hours of interesting programming.

As I was driving home from work one night, I turned on the radio to find that they were discussing memories of childhood summer camps. Wait a minute - they're talking about AMUUSE!, I thought, and I pulled over to call in. Surprisingly, I was able to get through and I chatted on-air for a little while. Giddy with excitement, I called a couple of fellow campers later to share my "15 minutes [15 seconds?] of fame". The thing that struck me then and now is how easy it is to extol the virtues of our beloved camp.

Finding out about AMUUSE through a simple picture-less brochure at church to those many years ago has been nothing short of life changing. From my first camp in 1997 to countless weekends to my nearly 30<sup>th</sup> camp this past August, I always return home feeling renewed, refreshed and ready to take on the world.

AMUUSE truly does provide a year-round singles community. The friendships that I've made at camp, are some of the deepest and richest in my life. And the opportunity to return to beautiful natural settings year after year fills my heart and soul. AMUUSERs go out of their way to be inclusive. From your first dinner at your first camp, you are welcomed into the family. If you come with an open mind and a willingness to nurture your talents and curiosity, you will fit right in.

I've learned about life and love and what living in covenant with others is all about. I've had to exercise patience and appreciate others' forgiveness when I've been the offending party. I've been exposed to new ways of thinking and had long-held beliefs refined and polished. I've discovered that the world can be kind and generous and supportive, despite what popular politicians and blaring on-line headlines might say. I've been allowed to be my most authentic self and have had the privilege of watching others on a similar journey. But most of all, I've had fun.

I thumb through old memory books and I find I'm grinning from ear to ear. Zany costume parties, crazy



*"I've learned what life and love and living in covenant with others is all about."*



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# AMUUSE



*A Great Place to be  
Single*

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.amuuse.org](http://www.amuuse.org)

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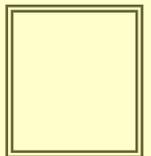
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team events, silly camp show skits are all fond memories. I think of the days - nay weeks - where I've spent hours in side-splitting laughter. I smile so much my face hurts. And each night I nod off with the happy thought that I'll be doing it all again the next day. Knowing that others are having a similar grand time is icing on the cake.

If you cherish AMUUSE as much as I do, please commit to keeping this magical camp going. Register early so we can get an accurate headcount. Spread the word about camp in your local area and promote the camp to other singles. Volunteer to serve on a camp staff or lead a new morning group. But most important of all: keep coming back.

See you at camp!

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