

AMUUSE NEWS

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER, 2015

LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT...

I am so happy that fall is approaching with cooler weather and the changing colors of the landscape.

We had two really awesome camps this summer with two brand new directors, Pat Schneider and Barb Kuntz. With new people we had new ideas and new morning group leaders. I want to thank everyone, both those officially on staff and those who volunteered for jobs for making our camps exciting, as well as warm and friendly.

There was an energy this summer that seemed really good. Having "Friends" at the beginning of dance meant that we had the

whole camp present which gave us a way to touch each other's hearts on a daily basis. The camp shows were great, and we have Nancy Smith and Pat Schneider to thank because they emailed the campers to encourage them to participate. Barb came up with a great new idea to put the afternoon schedule on the back of the weekly schedule. Duh!

We've been running camps for forty odd years and no one had thought of that!

The spirit I felt growing this summer seems to be reflected in the number of people who have already registered for the fall Tower Hill weekend this Oct. 31.

You still have time to sign up!

In addition, in response to the game that was discovered at the August Camp, the Detroit area crew is getting together a games group that may well compete with the Madison group. Hey, Ohio and Chicago... where are you!

I know how important AMUUSE friendships are in the lives of many of us. We have several good weekends planned for us to keep in touch. Hope to see you there.

I'll hold you in my heart until we meet again.

Hugs,
Gwen



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Fall Weekend Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 Tower Hill*
- *Board Meeting Nov. 1-2 Tower Hill*
- *Cruise Jan. 30-Feb. 5*
- *Camp Edwards E. Troy WI April 1-3*
- *Weekend Tower Hill May 6-8*
- *July 10-16 Week Vacation Kettunen*
- *August 7-13 Week Vacation Kettunen*

AMUUSE BOARD MEETING

The Board will once again have its meetings following our **Halloween Weekend at Tower Hill**. The final meeting of the 2015 Board will begin at 10:00 AM following the closing of the weekend. This meeting reviews the camp year and makes recommendations to the incoming Board. The Annual Meeting will follow that either right before or after lunch. Although all meetings are open to all members of AMUUSE, at

this meeting there is time allotted to anyone who wishes to speak. New members to the Board will be installed.

After a break, the first meeting of the 2016 Board will be held. At this meeting the budget for the 2016 camp season will be adopted and camp directors for 2016 will be selected. Also on the agenda are possible changes to by-laws as we work to rewrite job de-

scriptions, continuation of updating the Director's Manual, the number and locations of camps and weekends, publicity, and other recommendations. If you wish to stay for the meeting and have lunch (\$9) and/or dinner (\$10) you will need to notify Sharon Spencer **NO LATER THAN one week** before the weekend and pay for the extra meals. 847-816-3356 ssamuuse@aol.com

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FIESTA SKIRTS BY FRAN DRAKE

I attended the Art Studio Collective by Joanne Lagattola. We could work on any project we wanted, so I chose to continue sewing Fiesta Skirts for a local charity called "Planted With A Mission".

I had a lot of fabric remnants, so one day I decided to sew them into clothing for charity and claim back some space in my sewing room. I donated them to Samaritan's Purse at a local church. My space reclamation backfired on me after the women admired what I had made because 3 ladies then donated all their cotton remnants to me, one showing up at my door with

4 huge bags loaded with an entire mountain of fabric. These 4 bags were not scraps...they were yardages of cotton polyester, most of them on the see through-ish side. Dresses and skirts sewn must be "modest" and not see through, as stressed by the receiving charities, in order to curb sexual harassment of the young women.

I found the idea of Fiesta Skirts on the internet and thought this usage of a double layered skirt would be the perfect solution to using up these thinner fabrics. That is how I got started last fall on a 3 1/2 month project of completing one or two skirts or dresses per



day. I am not that ambitious this year, but I continue to sew these Fiesta Skirts because they are an excellent way to make use of the small lengths of fabric.

My friend Lynda and her husband are missionaries who fly to Nicaragua, Haiti and 12 other third world countries. They deliver Gift Bags with clothing, hygiene articles, school supplies, and toys. Much of my sewing was delivered to Nicaragua in the spring, and this



July I handed over another 64 outfits to Lynda. I can only image the smiles on the faces of all the girls who will receive one of her gift bags.

I'm very pleased with the fact that my morning group sessions gave me the opportunity to complete another 6 skirts.

CRUISE TIME BY DONNA DAVIS

This winter are you staying home just to shovel snow? Oh, no!

Come play in the Caribbean sunshine with your friends! There's bunch of us going! It would be a lot more fun if you came along!

Fly to sunny Ft. Lauderdale and John will pick you up at the airport!

We'll be waiting for you at our WELCOME TO FLORIDA POOL PARTY!!

Come a couple days early because a lot of folks do and we always have fun!

We're heading to the Carib-

bean on Jan.30, jumping on our favorite cruise line, PRINCESS, for six glorious days of sunshine & fun!

We'll be stopping at these ports:

**Cozumel, Mexico
Island of Rotan,**

Honduras

Costa Maya, Mexico

It's just about the same price as camp: \$559-579.00, (dbl occupancy is required) plus taxes/port \$110.00, insurance \$50.

You need a room mate to book your cabin, and we

have one ready & waiting for you!!

It is \$220 to book your cabin today, but you can get that refunded up to Nov 30th. At that time, Dec 1st, the balance is due.

****Check out the ship by going on line to PRINCESS CRUISES**

Select: **Caribbean, Jan, 2016, 6 day cruise, then view results.**

continue by clicking on "**Coral ship**", for deck locations & details of ship (2,000 passengers, 865



crew)

click on each destination: **Cozumel, Costa Maya, or Island of Rotan** to see excursions available.

If you want to stay home & shovel snow, it's ok with us....

Otherwise, we'll see you in the sunshine!

OCTOBER WEEKEND

Join us for Halloween Weekend at Tower Hill camp in 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 me. Sharon Spencer ssamuuse@aol.com or 847-816-3356.

For Directions search for:
Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center
12173 Tower Hill Rd
Sawyer, MI 49125



I MAY NOT BE 63 BY CHRISTINE JEWELL

I may not be 63
But by golly
Here I feel free
Free to laugh, sleep , or play
From morning til end of day
Meeting fabulous people
Who make me feel whole
And are so kind in every way
So, I say thank you for having me
Even though I'm not 63.



**ADULT MIDWEST UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST SINGLES
ENRICHMENT**

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Future of AMUUSE

At camps the last two years, I have held an open discussion titled *The Future of AMUUSE*. One of the topics of discussion has been if we should go to one or two camps. Two camps gives us the chance to see each other twice during the summer, but the camps are then smaller. If we went to one camp, it would be more economical and we could have a larger group. We have the opportunity next year to have an earlier August date, 7-13, but since we have to share it with a band camp, we can not have the larger building. We, therefore, decided to have two camps next year, July 10-16 and August 7-13. We are not likely to get the big building in August, ever, so unless we come up with a different option, we may continue to have 2 camps if we have the numbers.

Other areas of concern are staffing the camps. This year we had good response to the how I can help for morning group leaders, but we need people to do the memory book. Only one person signed as interested in learning that job. I guess if we have no one to fill the position, our choice is to not have one. I think that would be sad, because it is one of the few print examples we have of what our camp is like. Sandy Light and I have been doing this job off and on since 1998 and we are both retiring from this job. I have used publisher software to do the memory book and Sandy used an adobe product. If you have either of these programs or similar ones, it would be wonderful if you would email me that you would be interested in this position for the 2016 camp year.

We are also in need of someone to take over editing the newsletter. Again, I have been doing it in Publisher. Newsletter goes out three to four times per year. I have several people who have volunteered to write articles, but as you can see by this letter, I don't always have a lot of submissions. If you like to write and to design, or are just interested in seeing what you can do, please let me know. I will be happy to give you a couple newsletters to work from.

Having new people in positions in AMUUSE breathes new life into the organization. Trying out different ideas is exciting. Just as at camp, our group is forgiving and encouraging as we know that people who volunteer their time and effort are doing their best for the group.

If you didn't make it to camp this past summer and would like to volunteer for any staff job or non-staff job, please email

Gwencody@hotmail.com with *any position* you are interested in.

You can also consider Board positions. The following are to be voted on after camp in 2016: Recording Secretary, Communications Secretary, Treasurer.

WEBSITE- WWW.AMUUSE.ORG