

# THE AMUUSE NEWS

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March 2017 Edition

Letter from your President...

According to the calendar, it is spring, but it seems like we just got winter. I remember in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that the King Oberon and Queen Titania of the faeries were discussing the oddities of weather like frosts on the crimson rose and summer buds appearing in winter. Sound familiar? The problem they said was because of their disagreements. It would seem that there must be lots of arguing in faery-land these days! In Shakespeare's time, disturbances in nature meant that the natural order of things was amiss and until that was rectified, trouble would abound in nature! Goodness, I guess someone has goofed somewhere!

Welcome to spring and welcome to the new camp year. We are ready to begin our season with Camp Edwards Weekend at the end of this month. When the Board met in the fall, we were feeling hopeful and inspired with plans to have our traditional three weekends and to make a change in the summer camps due mainly to lack of attendance for two full week camps. Therefore we decided to do one large camp (we hoped) and a smaller extended weekend type camp in August. As winter came and grey settled in on most of us (who didn't escape to warmer climes) it seemed that interest and excitement waned. As I look at our camp numbers, I see that very few registered yet. In fact, there are only nine registered for Camp Edwards and the numbers of attendees for that weekend is due to the camp as I write this. I know it may seem early to some of you to register for a camp, but as a director, I must say it is a bit frightening to line up morning group leaders and plan events if it appears that no one is coming! It is also concerning that August camp is still looking for volunteers to do morning group activities. The arrangement there is that there will be a choice of three groups each day. That means that several volunteers are needed. It is a great opportunity for someone who has an idea for a new morning group to try that out for a day. Unfortunately, we aren't being overrun with volunteers.

I love AMUUSE, and the people I have met coming to camps and weekends are precious to me. My way of showing this is to attend camps and weekends as much as I can and to volunteer to do things for the group. Like many of you, I am aware that things are changing. At one time there used to be more people who wanted to be morning group leaders than we had openings. Now, it is becoming more difficult to find people willing to do a group. People don't want to run for camp rep or board positions. And it **feels** like people aren't even very interested in attending camp either. I say it **feels** that way because when I check numbers, they don't change. I have been asking myself some serious questions and I am asking you as well:

- Is it time for our group to fold? Is AMUUSE a thing of the past?
- Is AMUUSE no longer capable of meeting **your** needs? What is missing here?
- Why don't **you** sign up early for camp if **you** intend to come? If you sign up early, why do **you**?
- What keeps **you** from volunteering to lead a group, activity or run for a board position? If **you** do, why do you?
- If **you** haven't been to camp or a weekend recently, what has kept **you** from coming?

I would really appreciate your feedback on these questions. I take responsibility for AMUUSE very seriously. I want to do what is best for the group, which is **YOU**. That is why I would like to hear your own thoughts. As President of the Board, I need to help with a long range plan for the group. Without knowing what **YOU** want, it is difficult to do. You may email me or write me at my home address. I hope to hear from you. I'm sure you could also send your responses to Sharon to be letters to the editor.

Until I see you again, I'll hold you in my heart my friend.

Hugs,

Gwen

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## *Nature - Where The Wild Things Are!*



If you are ready for a *rumpus* and a *wild time*, put July Camp on your calendar and register now! This is the only full week summer camp this year so we have reserved plenty of space - even 10 rooms upgraded to include bathroom and linens for two.

What can you expect from this adventure?

- There will be a scavenger hunt every day where you will try to find where the **WILD THING** has gone.
- There will be puzzle points earned for other things you find in the wild and photograph with your phone or camera.
- There will be a costume party where you can dress for the theme in animal print clothes or costumed as a wild animal!
- There will be a papier mache craft Monday afternoon so you can create an animal mask for the costume party or fashion wild animals.
- There will be a campfire where you will be in the wild with drumming and rhythm makers (bring them along.)
- There will be a wild time at the Camp Show as usual.
- There will be canoes and kayaks as usual on the lake.

I won't tell all, for there needs to be a few surprises when you get to camp. Just come prepared to meet some interesting, fun, exciting people (see the picture?). Come prepared to eat some great food. Come prepared to lounge on the enormous deck or join a conversation or a jam session. Come to have laughter and fun.

More Morning Groups to Follow Soon!

Massage - Sue Breen

Yoga and Spirituality - Sandy Argas

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*Campers - Get Ready !! Nancy Smith will again be your Camp Show organizer and Mistress of Ceremonies for the July 2017 camp. If you have any talent what so ever - please bring that guitar, keyboard, Karaoke song, horn from high school band, joke, poem, silly trick. As Amuuse friends, we are very supportive on one another...and the more participating, the better.*

*The theme of the camp is "Nature-Where the Wild Things Are". Oh my goodness, we can go "wild" with that theme ...*

*Nancy has been copying fun things from the computer since last summer. So, if you do not have anything, I know with your cooperation we can have you do something fun for the camp show. Yes, I can set you up with some fun jokes, and you will instantly become a stand up comedian. Need a fun story to share ... hey, we have that too ...*

*So, just come to Tustin, MI in July with an open mind ... that YOU too, can receive a lot of applause for the part you will play in the camp show. Guaranteed, we will make you feel like a million bucks for agreeing to be a participant.*

**AMUUSE WEEKEND AT CAMP EDWARDS**

Come out, come out wherever you are!

Alright all you winter sleepyheads - today is the First Day of Spring which means the AMUUSE camp season is in bloom. Wake up! We will be gathering for some April Fools' Fun & Frivolity **March 31st - April 2nd**

Camp Edwards in East Troy, WI sits on the shores of beautiful Lake Beulah. Wisconsin is known as the Land of Sky Blue Waters, and Lake Beulah is no exception. All meals are served in the camp dining hall overlooking the lake - the perfect backdrop for your morning coffee and delightful conversation. Or maybe you're too busy digging into a tall stack of flapjacks with real [camp-tapped] maple syrup (Did somebody say bacon?) to notice that Bruce the (stuffed) Moose is staring you down. No matter. Your stress level will drop to zero in this tranquil setting.

Camp Edwards offers acres of woods and walking trails, along with a long, wooden boardwalk that extends out to a private island. The perfect setting for watching wild birds in migration. We'll be staying in a comfortable lodge ["marsh-side"] with heated rooms and multiple bathrooms. Night time will feature games and hilarity. This is AMUUSE, after all.

Worried about a long drive? Call a fellow camper and carpool. East Troy is also a hop, skip 'n jump away from Milwaukee and all that this city on the shores of Lake Michigan has to offer. The world-class Milwaukee Art Museum is worth the trip alone. Come for camp and then extend your stay a little bit. Attractions abound.

So crawl out of your cave and register on-line **NOW**. We can't wait to see you!

Jeanne Koranda

(608) 246-2046

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### Tower Hill in May

Friends gather to laugh and play!

Bring a good joke to share for opening.

Girlfriends, bring your crafts!

MG offerings; your craft or a trail hike. If you want, bring your bike.

Saturday, after lunch, how about a bean bag tournament and after dark, a campfire.

We'll squeeze in a few words about cruise choices.

And maybe some texas hold 'em during the weekend.

Register on line and if you have questions, please call Sharon Spencer

847-816-3356 or email ssamuuse@aol. Come! Have fun in the sun!

ugs from camp director,

Donna Davis.

Looking forward to the fun!

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### IT'S A SMALL WORLD by Kathe Merritt

Last month, while vacationing in Florida, I attended a discussion group at the UU Church in Fort Myers. The activity was to choose a partner, share our goals, and then introduce our partner to the group. We were almost finished when I heard the person behind me say, "This is Jack Ulman from Cleveland, Ohio." I almost jumped out of my seat! I turned around and mouthed, "I know you!" Jack had attended my first AMUUSE camp in June, 1994, among others. As soon as we were finished, I ran up to him and said that I knew him from AMUUSE. Luckily, he remembered me, so the conversation wasn't too awkward. Jack still lives in Cleveland and spends some winter months in Fort Myers. Yes, it's a small world.

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And Lastly, a poem written by Ed McCarthy which I think fits all of our locations.

WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES  
LOSE TRACK OF TIME  
I HAVE THESE FOOTPRINTS  
IN MY MIND  
OF FABULOUS PLACES  
THERE ARE THESE TRACES  
GENTLE BREEZES  
FROM AN INLAND LAKE  
CARESS MY FACE  
AND COOL MY BROW  
AND MAKE ME WISH  
TO BE THERE NOW

SO JOIN US AT ANY OF THE WONDERFUL EXPERIENCES LISTED HERE



**AMUUSE 2017**

March 31-April 2 Weekend –		Camp Edwards East Troy Wisconsin
May	5-7	Tower Hill Weekend
July Retreat Center	9-15	Camp at Kettunen
August Week	20-24	Tower Hill Mini