

Greetings, Members!

Happy New Year! Welcome to our latest version of the *Communicate* newsletter. We hope this iteration will allow you more immediate access to news you can use. Enjoy!

Even though the holiday season has come and gone, there are still plenty of opportunities to give in meaningful ways that will have a real and lasting impact. Read about how to help a camp pick itself up, how to help galvanize your community to contribute to earthquake victims, and how to help one of our camps win a huge prize:

Helping Out

There are some efforts originating from our camp community that could really use your support. Two are based on tragedy, but together, we can make better things emerge from participating in all three causes:

1. Sometime in the last month, Camp Hayward and Camp Burgess were the victims of brutal, malicious acts of vandalism. Windows were smashed in dozens of buildings, cabin doors were kicked in, and toilets, sinks, and mirrors were smashed. Sandwich police estimate that the criminals did \$100 thousand worth of damage. Bruce Netherwood, Executive Director of the South Shore YMCA, suggested two ways to help. "Please consider making a donation, which will enable us to rebuild and rejuvenate Camp Hayward. Checks can be made payable to YMCA Camp Hayward, and sent to 75 Stowe Road, Sandwich, MA, 02563.

"In addition, we hope you can attend our 5th Annual Volunteer Day, which will take place on May 8, 2010. This upcoming volunteer day will be a special one, considering the many projects we need to complete in order to help re-open camp!" If you have questions, feel free to call (508) 428-2571.

2. If you're looking for a way to increase the ways you can help out earthquake victims in Haiti, Pam Cobb of Camp Runoia wrote in with this idea: "We are matching any camper donation with a \$10 donation from camp. Within twelve hours of sending an email, we have heard from dozens of families." Runoia chose to donate to Save the Children's Haiti Earthquake Fund. It's a great way to try and mobilize a community of caring families and individuals to help out a cause that affects so many.

3. Seeds of Peace, an ACA-accredited camp in Maine that works to empower young leaders from around the world through time spent at summer camp in New England, is one of 100 finalists for a \$1 million prize via the Chase Community Challenge. Vote to support their efforts on Facebook. The voting started today and lasts through January 22nd. Learn more about the camp and the contest on their website: www.seedsofpeace.org.

Read the latest about the ACA New England family in member news. Also, read about the status of legislation from our state associations (in this edition's case, New Hampshire and Maine), and see how it might affect your summer.

Life Events

George Marcus made a difference to the causes he supported - children, camp, and faith.

When George passed away on Saturday, October 24, 2009, ACA New England Executive Director Bette Bussel wrote, "We already miss George. He was larger than life, had a great sense of humor, and was a mentor to many." His deeds in service to summer camps were numerous. He worked with the Cohen Foundation for almost forty years, serving as the director of Camp Tel Noar and as the Foundation's first Executive Director. Around ACA New England, George was known as our "go-to guy" on standards, serving as the chair of the Standards committee for sixteen years (not to mention ACA National's Standards Commission and ACA New England's Board of Directors). Bette wrote, "He trained countless camp professionals and visitors on the ins and outs of the ACA accreditation process. At one point, he had all the standards memorized and could even sing about them aloud."

What a tribute the standing-room-only memorial service in Framingham was to George Marcus, as is the outpouring of fond memories on a Facebook page devoted to his memory, which has 762 members. "Dr. Marcus had the wisdom of a 500 year old and the heart of an 18 year old," it says. A Tel Noar alum wrote, "My years as a member of the staff are ones that I cherish to this day. George was an incredible father to us all - he was an amazing man." Another said of George and his wife, Norma, "You engendered an environment where anyone could flourish - as an individual, and as part of an extended family. You combined a clarity of mission with a true love of humanity, and the result has changed countless lives."

ACA New England's members recognized George many times for his dedication; he received awards for Special Recognition, Section Service, Distinguished Service, and the Peter Kerns Award for the Advancement of Professional Development. He also earned two ACA National awards, the Jewish Camp Directors' Award, the Keter Torah Award from the Bureau of Jewish Education, and the Dr. Shevach Award from Hebrew College.

He will obviously be greatly missed.

Helen Charpentier passed away at her home on Saturday, November 7, 2009. She left us the same way she lived her life: peacefully.

She and her husband, Bruce Charpentier, founded and ran Sunapee Arts Camp in New Hampshire for more than thirty years. According to an obituary, Sunapee Arts Camp "was a place where children could explore different activities and find themselves growing into people that cared about others and the world around them." Helen strove to be the perfect model for that ideal: she dedicated her life to education and activism, working to end nuclear programs and Third World Debt. "She believed that, if anyone suffered in the world, no one could be truly free," said the obituary. She later started Peace Camp, a conference/retreat center for people concerned about peace and social justice.

One more note from the notice about Helen. "Her neighbor, age 7, said after hearing of her passing that he does not need to feel sad anymore because Helen now is the brightest star in the sky."

We also lost **Malcolm Itkin** on October 16, 2009, but not without a fight. Malcolm, who directed Kamp Kohut from 1978 to 1989, wrote a lengthy piece about his life and his fight with sarcoma cancer for the

sPECial Fund, an organization "committed to research, education, advocacy, and support" for those with the disease. It began, "Hello, my name is Malcolm Itkin and I have metastatic sarcoma and there is currently no cure. So what!" What follows is a long treatise on reconciling with family, doing what you love, and dying with dignity, maturity, and a positive attitude. If he lived his life like he wrote, he will surely be remembered by all who knew him.

Two other people whose lives were significantly influenced by summer camp in New England are worth noting, too. One was **George Kane**, who died at age 104 in November. Starting in 1919, he spent two summers at West End House Camp on Long Pond in Maine. "He told the story that when he first saw Long Pond, his heart skipped a beat," said Bill Margolin, executive director of West End House Camp. "And even years later, he'd say that when he sees Long Pond on a visit, his heart still skips a beat." Founder of Kane Financial Corp., a lending company that later turned to equity investing, he credited Boston's West End House Boys & Girls Club with helping set a young immigrant on the path to success. According to an obituary that appeared in the *Boston Globe*, "at 99, he returned again to the camp in Maine that captured his youthful imagination. When Mr. Kane spoke to campers, 'there was a sense of history speaking,' Margolin said."

Ed See, one of the best-loved senior members of the Camp Pemigewasset family, passed away on Monday, September 7, 2009. One of the camp's other senior statesmen, Tom Reed, Sr., once paid tribute to Eddy as a lifelong friend, and as the man who had probably managed to send more descendant and relatives to Pemi than anyone else (Tom Reed, Sr.'s son, the aptly-named Tom Reed, Jr., noted that, "in the matter of descendants as in almost every other important thing in his life, Eddy was ably abetted by his lovely wife, Kay."). The younger Tom Reed also notes that "Ed See's many and longstanding contributions to the vitality and welfare of Pemi are more than matched by the many, many good works he and Kay did in his hometown of Westport, CT, and beyond. We will miss him sorely as one of those people who understood Pemi to the core, who treasured it always, and who carried the active and generous spirit of the Pemi Kid out into the world at large for all of his 93 years."

Of course, member news isn't just about remembering the recently passed. At least one person, Thatcher Elias Cook, is new to this world, born to **Matthew Cook** of the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Described as "a blessed handful," he's got a whole lifetime to fashion an existence that we hopefully won't have to reflect on until sometime in the next century, when robots, crying fuel-efficient tears, will be writing all the fond remembrances on our behalf.

And finally, **Jaime O'Connor**, the Operations Director at YMCA Camp Fuller in Rhode Island, wrote to tell us that she was married, on October 3, 2009, to Rick Nadeau, in Augusta, ME. The wedding reception was held at the YMCA Camp of Maine in Winthrop, where Jaime attended for many years as a camper and staff. It was a fun event. In fact, some of the camp guests made Jaime sing a camp song in front of everyone. Gotta love camp people!

State News

From the Great State of Maine:

Maine's legislature is back in session, and the Maine Youth Camp Association is tracking a number of bills. One concern for this year is a law that tightens requirements on installation of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, including requiring hardwiring. MYCA is working with the State Fire Marshall to clarify how the bill applies to camp sleeping quarters, taking into consideration that many do not have electric service to cabins.

A law to regulate swim areas on inland waters has been passed and rules are being developed by the state of Maine. Only qualified entities will be eligible to run swim lines (licensed Maine camps are, fortunately, one such qualified entity), and a permit will be required to do so. While the permit fee has been waived for licensed camps, MYCA is working with the State Department of Conservation to craft rules that will not create undue expense and burden for youth camps.

From the Great State of New Hampshire:

We hope to see all our New Hampshire Camp Directors Association members and New Hampshire camp representatives at our annual early-morning membership meeting at the ACA New England Conference in Manchester, NH, on Saturday, March 27, where we'll discuss current issues, elect our slate of board members, and announce the date and location of our fall 2010 conference. The NHCDA camp directory will be available in print and online in the next few weeks, and we hope you'll check the website and take a look.

The NHCDA Board held its first meeting of 2010 on January 12. Our long-time lobbyist retired in the fall of 2009, so our Legislative Committee has been busy interviewing several promising candidates. We hope to have our new lobbyist in place soon, to keep us up to date on any issues that may arise this spring.

New Hampshire camps are reminded that commercial boating licenses now expire on December 31. License fees have increased to \$15, but licenses will be valid for five years. Camps may want to act now to ensure that their staff can renew licenses for the coming summer, rather than letting licenses expire and necessitating that they re-take the written test. Licenses for camp operation have also moved to a December 31 expiration. We assume that camps operating only in the summer will get their renewal applications in March and receive their licenses as usual before they open, but camps who operate year-round or have a longer season may wish to contact NH DES directly to inquire about the need to renew earlier.

*We invite your ACA-accredited camp to register for **THE Summer Camp Fair**, for ACA-accredited camps only. It takes place from 5-8 pm on Monday, February 8, 2010, in the cafeteria of the Minuteman Career & Technical High School. The high school is located at 758 Marrett Road in Lexington, MA (exit 30B off I-128/95 to 2A West). If you'd like to register, fax or mail in the registration form on the next page.*

american **CAMP** association™
New England

THE Summer Camp Fair 2010

Featuring Camps Accredited Through ACA New England

REGISTRATION FEES:

\$125—Table
\$150 Table w/electricity (limited)
\$50 Literature Only

\$ _____ Total Enclosed for
(circle one)

Table Table w/Electricity Literature

Camp Name:

Contact Name:

Billing Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone #:

Email Address (important):

Payment by:
____ check ____ MasterCard ____ VISA

Account Number:

3 Digit Code:: _____

Expiration Date:: _____ / _____

Date: Monday, February 8, 2010

Time: 5-8 PM

**Minuteman Career & Technical
High School Cafeteria**

(Lexington, MA, I-95 & 2A))

To register, please return completed form
with payment. Expect confirmation via
email.

Fax: (781) 541-6084

Mail: 80 Westview St

Lexington, MA 02421

Contact person: Lucy Norvell
(781) 541-6080 x 14
Lucy@ACANewEngland.org

Tomorrow's ECP event, "Creating a Camp University," led by the Connecticut Camp Guys at ACA New England's office in Lexington, MA, is now full. Don't worry, though – you can still join the Emerging Camp Professionals for drinks afterwards at nearby Palio's Grill, from 5 to 7 pm.

*There's lots of new stuff on our website. First and foremost is more information about ACA New England's annual conference, coming up on March 26-27 in Manchester, NH. We've posted a preliminary schedule of workshops; it's subject to change, but enough people have called and emailed to find out about speakers and topics that we thought it would be helpful to put it up. While you're on our site, you should probably **register**, too.*

The 2010 issue of our Guide to Summer Camp is available for download online. It includes information for families embarking on the camp search for the first time, as well as a directory of every ACA-accredited camp in New England. We like it, and we hope you do as well.

Finally, we wanted to alert you to some new stories - one on how camps help kids bridge school years (printed below) and another on how to navigate a camp fair. Both of these are geared more towards the parents and public we serve, but more content for that audience and you, the camp professional, is on its way shortly. Make sure to bookmark our site (www.acanewengland.org) and come back often to see what's new.

Let the Learning Continue

Summer Camps Help Bridge Academic Years

While many children look forward to the summer as a time of unstructured free play, many parents worry that, well, summer is a time of unstructured free play. Specifically, there is concern in many families that once school is out, school is forgotten until the fall, and that lessons are lost.

Enter summer camps, many of which are providing a range of ways for children to continue learning – and to continue loving learning.

The Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket runs one particularly innovative program that we learned about last summer. They approached the Pawtucket School Department about forming a partnership to prevent summer learning loss. The resulting program enrolled sixty rising middle school students at Camp Ramsbottom and Sun-n-Fun, ACA-accredited camps run by the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket. Participants spent an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon with a teacher from the Pawtucket School Department reading two books; in between, they took part in camp activities related to what they were reading, led by youth development and adventure counselors. The chosen books – *Chasing Redbird*, by Sharon Creech, and *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life*, by Wendy Mass – dealt with issues like loss, identity, and relationships. Chosen based on recommendations by local librarians, the books also incorporate plenty of material that could be turned into summer camp activities: pioneering, trail hiking, teambuilding, and visiting zoos and museums.

In addition to keeping kids' minds active and engaged, Joe Tomchak at the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket wrote, "campers had opportunities to develop socially and emotionally, to build relationships with caring adults, to learn outdoor skills and environmental appreciation, as well as to develop friendships with peers, and respect for people with different backgrounds."

The program was funded by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. "Summer learning is much more important than most people think," said Stephanie Cheney, Senior Grants Manager at the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. "We're excited to support summer camps and other organizations that are strategically working with public school systems to design fun, dynamic programs that ultimately

mitigate summer learning loss. The fact is that learning takes place year round, in many different environments. Summer programs are important, as they can help increase learning outcomes for all students, not just the ones whose families possess the means to engage in enriching activities outside of school. Support for these programs can also help start the important conversations that need to be had about how schooling is organized for everyone.”

Lots of ACA-accredited day camps are based on independent school campuses, which means that they have access to academic facilities, even if they don't offer academic programs. Greg Jutkiewicz, director of Concord Academy Summer Camp, said, that they offer specialty camps that make use of the fact of being school-based, as in 'Bridging Math and Art Using Technology,' as well as some robotics camps. “I believe 'academic lessons' can exist in all sorts of forms, and the 'social lessons' of making friends, solving your own problems, learning from a young adult, dealing with emotions – as many camp people will say, I know I learned more in the summers than I did during the school year.”

Emily Parker, director of Nobles Day Camp, agreed. “Our camp doesn't have an academic component,” she said, “but what camp *can* do is make kids excited about learning. We don't have the pressure of standardized tests or grades on us, so kids can really explore different choices on a daily basis. Because we're school-based, they have access to some amazing facilities. We can offer photography and drama and all sorts of activities like that.” Summer camp can support kids' efforts in school by helping them learn to live in a community and work and play together.

Staff at ACA-accredited camps can tell you about their favorite 'teachable moments.' When I worked at a camp in New Hampshire a few years ago, we traveled to another camp for a track meet. One of our better runners found a butterfly lying on the ground; several of the younger campers gathered around as he explained that it was a Mourning Cloak, identifiable by its dark underside. Then, he won the 800 meter event. And now he's studying at Oxford. Having graduated from Harvard.

At Moose Hill Nature Camp last summer, one of several ACA-accredited camps run by Mass Audubon, groups playing games in the pine forest noticed a lot of birds making some loud noises. Upon further inspection, staff discovered a Cooper's hawk nest with fledglings. Director Kay Andberg said that they “showed the kids how to avoid that area for the next few days and weeks, but we also quietly watched from a close distance. It was a wonderful time to get to observe the hawks, and show the kids how the parents both protect their young and teach the fledglings independence.”

Camp can foster interest in future academic pursuits – certainly, being outdoors might create a fascination with scientific observation. Camps in New England regularly participate in loon and butterfly counts during the summer, and campers have access to a plethora of flora and fauna to study, not to mention field trips to local museums, zoos, mines, mountains, starry nights, and bodies of water.

Finally, the American Camp Association has established a partnership with the National Summer Learning Association, which provides services to communities, school districts, and programs to support efforts to make quality summer learning programs accessible to youth. Encourage camps with which your family is affiliated to look into their resources.

Finally, an update from the business end: ACA New England's Annual Fund makes a difference in the camp world. At this writing, camp professionals throughout New England have shown their support of our good work, through their commitment and generosity! We've reached a third of our goal in just this first month. These donations help keep ACA New England strong to effectively represent our camp family, professionals, and community through educational programming and events for camp professionals, as well as for the public at large. Your important support helps spread the message that camp is essential. There is still time to add your voice! Call Jenny (781-541-6080) with your credit card information or mail a check to the office, ACA New England, 80 Westview Street, Lexington, MA 02421. All donations are tax deductible.