



**G**reetings from Camp Kamaji! Kamaji's Assistant Director **KAT MARTIN** writes:

I read a parenting blog recently that really bothered me. The mom described how annoyed she was at the neighborhood boys who rang her doorbell daily to ask her son if he would come play and ride bikes with them. She closes her blog entry by sharing that her house is for sale and that she cannot wait to move out of the neighborhood — she never grew up in one and could not stand living in one now. I find this absolutely shocking for two main reasons.

In my opinion living in a neighborhood where it is safe to visit friends in neighboring homes and to play outside is a benefit! How wonderful that these boys stepped away from the video games, the text messaging and the television to play outside in the sun and even <gasp> get exercise by riding their bicycles. With research showing that children spend up to 6 hours a day sitting in front of a screen which ultimately impairs their social, reading, writing skills and threatens an

increasing number of children who are experiencing health problems associated with childhood obesity at younger and younger ages. How can riding a bike be considered a bad thing?

Too, feeling involved in a community where members interact with each other is not something you can take for granted. It's special. Living in a neighborhood where you know your neighbors, know that they are watching out for you, keeping an eye on your property, developing friendships with each other — how great is that? What fun!

While I don't have children, I've recently rediscovered the many unique benefits of living in a neighborhood. When I adopted my puppy a few years ago, I began walking him through the neighborhood during the day and heading for the dog park every evening at 5:00 pm. Shortly into our daily routine of walking, I realized how much I enjoyed hearing friendly greetings to me and shout-outs to Myles (my dog). Former strangers smiled and said 'hello' to both me and Myles. At the park we were greeted by

our "crew" — a diverse group of men and women of different ages, races, faiths and backgrounds. And talk about the diversity: puppy pals included Aspen and Nelson the golden retrievers, Oliver the Yorkie, Al the Burmese Mountain dog, Zoey the Boxer, Rufus the Miniature Pinscher and Myles the Jack Russell.

That first summer when Myles and I headed to camp and away from my new-found neighborhood friends, I was nervous to return home, worried that my new community of friends wouldn't remember me after being away for three months. I was wrong. I didn't even make it through the front door of my building when my neighbor, Matt, and Oliver the Yorkie called out to me and Myles, asking how our summer was and telling us how glad they were that we were back. Even my acquaintances at the park warmly welcomed us back by calling out to Myles from across the park.

This neighborhood friendliness extended beyond 'Hello's and dog park romps. When one of the dogs at the park was injured in an accident, we loyal dog parkers raised money to help with the vet bills. When one of the regulars spied a coyote at the park, she hung signs to make sure that all of us were made aware of it so that we could protect our dogs.

The point is, while I don't know all of the people's names (and yes, I DO know all the dogs' names!), I am part of a community where we look out for one another. My neighbors notice when Myles and I are around . . . and when we're not.

I'm sure it's no stretch for you to imagine that these are but two of the many reasons I love camp. It's a safe place where children are 'unplugged', where they play outside, AND where they are part of a diverse community where everyone looks out for one another.

While our Kamaji community flourishes, I am hopeful that our campers when away from camp, find similar communities — where neighbors look out for one another and where children can make friends with other boys and girls living on their

## GREETINGS (continued)

street/block and where they are safe to ride bikes, play on the swings, shoot hoops.

My hope is that my neighbors – unlike the mother who wrote the parenting blog entry described above – want the same for everyone, be they kids on bikes, adults or even dogs in our neighborhood. Instead of seeing neighbors as pesky and annoying, I hope that those who live where I live find the joy, the pleasure, the liveliness, the memories that come from being part of a caring welcoming friendly community. I feel privileged to live in such a neighborhood.



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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Coincidentally since writing the *Greetings* opener for this newsletter, Kat has moved to a new neighborhood. We have sent out via email to everyone her new home address as well as the new camp phone number for our Chicago office.



We wish Kat as great a neighborhood in her new one as the one she just left behind!!

## THINGS WE CAN'T FORGET

**FIRST SESSION:** Land of the silver birch . . . Piggly Wiggly . . . camping overnight at Randy's house . . . Chacka . . . 1-2 let's play zoo . . . Zognard . . . zodiac . . . Mommy Moscowitz . . . squirtle . . . Junior Rangers . . .

**SECOND SESSION:** 8-weeker Flash Mob . . . HOBO – you ain't got no place to go . . . gypsy dancing . . . Coco and Dolce . . . "Don't wanna go home" . . . Opah!! . . . Yibbet Yibbet huh . . . Quelf . . . M.O.P. . . . Frank Sinatra . . .



## CAMPER ENROLLMENT 2012

Kamaji's 2012 camper enrollment numbers are coming in daily – which is great news! We are well ahead of where we were enrollment-wise this time last year!! YEAH!

That said . . .

1. If you are planning on returning to Kamaji this summer and have not yet sent in your enrollment form, we urge you to do so now!! Your parents can go to

<https://www.kamaji.com/enrollment-form/>

and enroll you on-line. It's quite simple and easy . . . and fast, thereby guaranteeing you a camper spot for Kamaji's 99<sup>th</sup> season.

2. If you know of any families that may be looking for a summer camp for their daughter, please have them get in touch with [mike@kamaji.com](mailto:mike@kamaji.com).

## CAMP KAMAJI FOR GIRLS

### SUMMER ADDRESS

32054 Wolf Lake Road  
Cass Lake, Minnesota 56633  
Phone 218.335.6612

### WINTER ADDRESS

7436 Byron Place  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105  
Phone 314.721.0475

[www.kamaji.com](http://www.kamaji.com)

Mike and Kathy Jay, Directors  
[mike@kamaji.com](mailto:mike@kamaji.com), [kathy@kamaji.com](mailto:kathy@kamaji.com)

Kat Martin, Assistant Director  
[kat@kamaji.com](mailto:kat@kamaji.com)

## 2012 RETURNING CAMPERS

Since the last issue of the *Rainbow Connection* went to press, the following veteran Kamaji campers have enrolled for the summer of 2012: eight week campers include **EVA ALLESANDRONI** (4<sup>th</sup> summer) of Watertown, MA; **OLIVIA EUBANK** (5<sup>th</sup> summer) of Chesterfield, MO; **KAYLA KRAFT** (4<sup>th</sup> summer) of Glenview, IL; **BETSY LYLE** (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) of Chassell, MI; **BRIANNA SULLIVAN** (4<sup>th</sup> summer) of Watertown, MA; and **CAILEIGH SULLIVAN** (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) of Watertown, MA; first session campers include Rachel Abraham (5<sup>th</sup> summer) of Evergreen Park, IL; **EMMA BARNES** (3<sup>rd</sup> summer) of St. Louis, MO; **ISABELLA FINLEY** (3<sup>rd</sup> summer) of Columbia, MO; **SERENA JOHNSON** (3<sup>rd</sup> summer) of Chicago, IL; **HANNAH KISSEL** (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) of Chicago, IL; **REBEKAH KISSEL** (3<sup>rd</sup> summer) of Chicago, IL; **DAISY MACK** (4<sup>th</sup> summer) of Lake Nebagamon, WI; **KAYLA MATTHEWS** (3<sup>rd</sup> summer) of Chicago, IL; **MALAINA MYERS** (5<sup>th</sup> summer) of Indian Harbor Beach, FL; **BRIANA PARKS** (4<sup>th</sup> summer) of Chicago, IL; **PAULINA PRESTAMO** (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) of Monterrey, Mexico; **ALEX RENDLEMAN** (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) of St. Louis,

MO; **KATE RENDLEMAN** (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) of St. Louis, MO; **KATE RENDLEMAN** (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) of St. Louis, MO; **SALLY SNEIDER** (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) of St. Louis, MO; **MYKAEL SNIDER** (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) of Florissant, MO; **ELLIE TOMASSON** (3<sup>rd</sup> summer) of St. Louis, MO; **MOLLY WEINBERG** (3<sup>rd</sup> summer) of Chicago, IL; **SHULIE WEINBERG** (4<sup>th</sup> summer) of Chicago, IL; and **ELLA WHALEN** (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) of Marquette, MI; and second session campers include **MICHAELA DESTEFANO** (3<sup>rd</sup> summer) of Evanston, IL; **QUINN GORMAN** (4<sup>th</sup> summer) of Chicago, IL; **SAMANTHA KRAFT** (6<sup>th</sup> summer) of Highland Park, IL; **KAITLYN MATHIS** (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) of Chicago, IL; **SLOAN PASCHEN** (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) of Highland Park, IL; **ARABIA SABREE** (5<sup>th</sup> summer) of Killeen, TX; **JASMINE SAUNDERS** (6<sup>th</sup> summer) of Chicago, IL; **KATHERINE SLECKMAN** (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) of St. Louis, MO; **ALLISON WEISS** (5<sup>th</sup> summer) of Santa Monica, CA; **MEGAN ZANDERS** (5<sup>th</sup> summer) of Chicago, IL; and **MELONY ZANDERS** (2<sup>nd</sup> summer) of Chicago, IL.

### WELCOME BACK IN 2012!!

## KAMI SISTERS 2012

We thank all of those returning Kamaji campers who volunteered to be Kami Sisters — connecting returning with new Kamaji campers. Please know that if Mike's not written you yet to assign you a new camper, it does not mean he will not do so in the near future. As we receive new camper enrollments for this next summer, we will continue to assign Kami Sisters . . . so please be patient!!

Mike began mailing Kami Sister letters on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. To those of you who receive a letter asking that you be a Kami Sister, we hope that you be in touch with your Kami Sister often! Remember how you felt as a first-time Kamaji camper? Remember the questions you had and how great it was to hear from someone who had been there and could relate to how you were feeling????? Remember traveling to Kamaji for the first time? the first meal? the first evening? waking up for the first time at camp? Think how much better it felt to have someone "check in" with you once you were at camp those first few hours/those first several days? Let your Kami Sister know you care!!! Thanks!

With that reminder, please understand that it is not very comfortable for us to have a new camper (or her parents) telephone to tell us that she has not yet heard from her Kami Sister or that her Kami Sister does not respond to her e-mail messages/ letters/phone calls.

Again, we are asking you to consider the enormity of the commitment you're making. If you feel you can't make the commitment please let us know now. We promise not to ask any questions should you tell us you're not able to commit. We'll simply ask someone whom we've not yet asked to be the Kami Sister instead (there are many out there who really do want to be Kami Sisters!). Really, it is no big deal to do this — however, it is a HUGE deal if you don't let us know . . . if you don't write or call . . . if you let down a new camper . . .

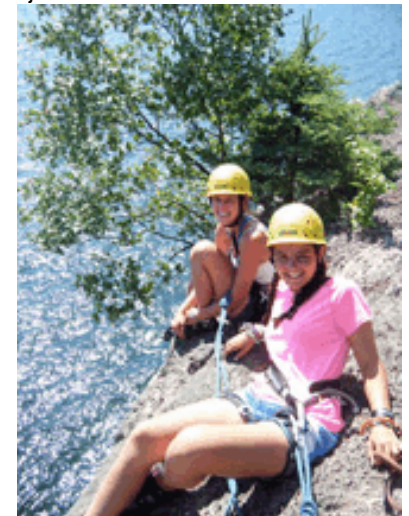
[Mike@kamaji.com](mailto:Mike@kamaji.com) is the contact person at camp with questions and/or concerns about Kami Sisters.

**NOTE TO ALL NEW CAMPERS:** In return, we expect the new campers to keep in touch with their Kami Sisters, too. If you have not yet been contacted by (or have lost contact with) a veteran Kamaji camper, please let us know now.

## 2012 NEW KAMAJI CAMPERS

Since the last issue of the *Rainbow Connection*, the following girls have signed up to be first year Kamaji campers in 2012: **SLOANE WARD** (4<sup>th</sup> grade) of Northbrook, IL will be an eight week camper; **SARAH BRODSON** (5<sup>th</sup> grade) of Vernon Hills, IL; **GRACE CONRAD** (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) of Chicago, IL; **CHLOE FOSSE** (7<sup>th</sup> grade) of Glencoe, IL; **ELOISE FOSSE** (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) of Glencoe, IL; **LUCY GALLUN** (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) of Evanston, IL; **EMMA SHEARBURN** (4<sup>th</sup> grade) of St. Louis, MO; **CADEN TRAVERSARI** (4<sup>th</sup> grade) of Philadelphia, PA; **ALANA TREVINO** (4<sup>th</sup> grade) of Monterrey, Mexico; and **RUBY WEISS** (5<sup>th</sup> grade) of Cherry Hills Village, CO will be first session campers; and **SYDNEY ACKERMAN** (4<sup>th</sup> grade) of Glencoe, IL; **BETH FISHER** (4<sup>th</sup> grade) of Glencoe, IL; **MADDIE FISHER** (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) of Glencoe, IL; **ISABELLE MADORSKY** (5<sup>th</sup> grade) of Evanston, IL; and **SYDNEY ROTHENBERG** (4<sup>th</sup> grade) of Deerfield, IL will be second session campers. We are delighted to welcome you into Kamaji's summertime family and look forward to spending a part of camp's 99<sup>th</sup> season with you!

We are thrilled to **WELCOME** you to Camp Kamaji!!



## KAMAJI STAFF 2012

Signed staff contracts are piling up in Kamaji's winter office. In addition to all those listed in the December/January issue of Kamaji's **RAINBOW CONNECTION** the following will be joining the 2012 Kamaji Staff Line-Up . . .

Veteran Kamaji folks —

**LUCY BEHN**, 17 years old, is from Highland Park, IL where she is a senior at Highland Park High School. Lucy's hobbies include sailing, photography, traveling and hanging out with her friends. Lucy returns to Kamaji for her 9th summer where she will work as a cabin counselor and sailing instructor.

**KATE BOWKER**, age 17, is from Chicago, IL. She is a senior at the Latin School. Kate loves sailing, running, hiking and baking. She will be back at Kamaji for her 9th summer to work as a cabin counselor and sailing instructor.

**SARAH BRONSON**, age 17, grew up in Highland Park, IL where she is a senior at Highland Park High School. Sarah enjoys dancing, yoga, sailing and spending time with her friends. This will be Sarah's 9th summer at camp and she will be working as a cabin counselor and waterskiing instructor.

**JILL BURNSTINE**, 19 years old, is from Glencoe, IL but is now living in Saint Louis, MO where she is a sophomore at Washington University. Jill's hobbies include running, reading, zumba, spontaneous dance parties and hanging out with her friends. She is excited to return to the singing, adventure and fun in the Northwoods for her 8th summer (after 2 summers away). Jill returns to work as a cabin counselor and windsurfing instructor.

**JUSTIN DARNELL**, 21 years old, hails from Celina, TX. He is currently a sophomore at El Centro College where he is studying Baking and Pastry in the Culinary Arts. Obviously, Justin LOVES to cook but when he's not busy in the kitchen, he loves to read. This will be Justin's 2nd summer at Kamaji where he'll work as an Assistant Cook.

**SARA ETSHOKIN**, age 24, is originally from Highland Park, IL but currently lives in Chicago. Sara is currently getting her Masters of Education from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Sara returns to Kamaji this summer for her 9th summer after a four year absence to work on our Administrative Staff Team.

**MEREDITH GOODALE**, 20 years old, grew up in Glencoe, IL but is now a junior at Augustana College where she is majoring in Biology and Pre-medicine and minoring in Spanish. Meredith loves rowing, lacrosse and keeping in touch with her Kami-family. 2012 will be Mere's 9th summer, she will be teaching fishing and work as a cabin counselor. Mere is also looking forward to teaching Lacrosse as a new activity option to try out!

**BECCA LANGSAM**, 17 years old, returns to Kamaji for her 7th summer. Becca is a senior at Ladue Watkins High School in Saint Louis, MO. Becca loves lacrosse, watching movies and Harry Potter. This summer Becca will be back to work as a cabin counselor and archery/mad science instructor.

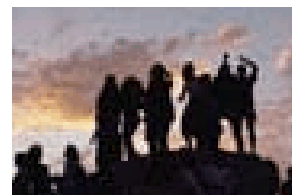
**ELAINE MASKUS**, age 19, is from Saint Louis, MO but is off at Wesleyan University in her sophomore year of college where she is working towards a neuroscience major. After 2 summers away, Elaine returns to Kamaji for her 6th summer to work as a cabin counselor and sailing instructor.



**MEAGAN MESIROW**, 17 years old, is from Deerfield, IL where she is a senior at Deerfield High School. Meagan's hobbies include theater tech, going to shows, staying in touch with all her friends and playing with her brothers. Meagan is back for her 6th summer at Kamaji where she'll work as a cabin counselor and canoe/kayak/campcraft instructor.

**AMY MOSCOWITZ**, age 20, is a Saint Louis, MO native but is now living out in Tacoma, WA where she is a sophomore at the University of Puget Sound as an Economics and Art History double major. When she's not hitting the books Amy is outside hiking, rooting on Kansas basketball and Cardinals baseball or gluing rhinestones on anything she can get her hands on! Amy is back for her 9th summer at Kamaji as a cabin counselor and windsurfing instructor.

**LAUREN MOSS**, 22 years old, is from Piedmont, Oklahoma. Lauren is currently a student at Mercyhurst College where she is studying psychology with an art therapy minor. Lauren loves the outdoors, running, rowing and road trips! This summer she returns for her second summer at Kamaji where she'll work as a cabin counselor and canoe/kayak/campcraft instructor.



**MARJENA SLOAN**, ageless, will be back for her 32<sup>nd</sup>(!!) summer as Kamaji's Head Cook. From Grinnell, IA Marjena worked for 30+ years as a cook for Grinnell College before leaving to become a cook for the Grinnell School District. "Pied Piper" to a brood of five cats, Marjena is not only gifted as an amazing cook but also as a gardener!! Two summers ago, in celebration of Marjena's 30<sup>th</sup> summer at camp, we renamed the dining hall **Sloan Hall**. Mind you, at Kamaji the name Marjena needs no last name (much like that of Madonna, Beyonce, Oprah, Pink, etc) so at first campers wondered who was named "Sloan" at Kamaji!! (P.S. Camp Kamaji is the 'envy' of every other camp director out there who does not have a Marjena' on their staff.

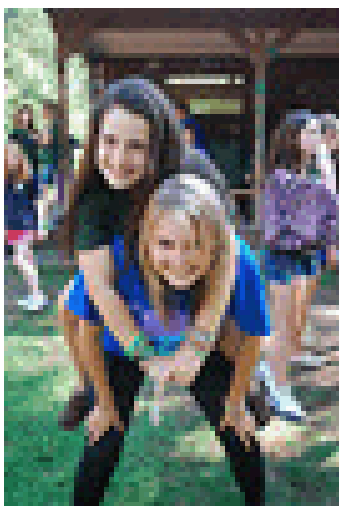
**KATIE "K THOR" THORESEN**, 21 years old, grew up in Long Grove, IL and is presently a student at Central Michigan University. K Thor keeps busy as she is both a photojournalism and anthropology major. K Thor loves photography, reading, watching movies and just playing outside. This will be Katie's 2nd summer at Kamaji as a cabin counselor and photography instructor.

## KAMAJI STAFF 2012 (continued)

New to Kamaji in 2011 are —

**TAYLOR BANNISTER**, age 20, is from Cadillac, Michigan but is currently in her sophomore year at Adrian College in Adrian, Michigan. Taylor's passions include the studio arts, ceramics and the outdoors. This will come in handy this summer as Taylor joins us to work as a cabin counselor and Art Village instructor this summer.

**LIZA BAYLESS**, age 19, is from Denver, Colorado. Liza is wrapping up a gap year between high school and starting as a freshman at Wesleyan University. This winter Liza traveled in Indonesia with a group of 12 people where she explored the country, studied the language and lived with four different host families. She is off to Ghana this week to work at an internship where she will be mentoring victims of human trafficking and living with a Ghanaian family. She'll wrap up her year of international travel in Cass Lake, MN this summer where she returns for her 7th summer (first on staff) as a cabin counselor and waterskiing instructor.



**KELLY BURTCH**, 22 years old, is from Canonsburg, PA. Kelly is a senior at Allegheny College where she is a Studio Art major and minoring in both Creative Writing and Psychology. Kelly hopes to become an elementary school teacher in order to combine her love for children and art. She's off to a good start this summer where she will be working as a cabin counselor and art village instructor.



**KARA FRAZIER**, age 21, is from Wareham, MA and is currently a senior at Radford University where she is a nursing major. Kara hopes to become a pediatric nurse because she loves working with children. While this is Kara's first summer at Kamaji, she has worked at camps before this and loves working with children in the outdoors. This summer Kara will work as a Nursing Assistant.

**PAOLA HERNANDES**, 19 years old, is from Veracruz, Mexico. She is currently in her first year of dentistry at the Universidad Veracruzana. Paola is looking forward to working at Kamaji for her first summer as a Kitchen Assistant so that she can explore someplace new and meet a lot of new people!

**BECKY LEWIS**, age 21, is from Fort Calhoun, Nebraska but currently lives in Wayne, NE where she is a junior at Wayne State College and is majoring in K-12 Art Education. While Becky has a passion for all things "Art", she particularly loves ceramics and painting. This summer Becky will put her teaching skills to the test as an Art Village instructor and Cabin Counselor.

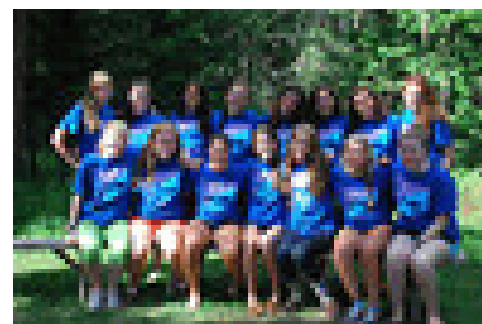
**YARELI LINARES MORALES**, 19 years old, is from Tlaxcala, Mexico. She is currently a sophomore studying International Trade at Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla. Yareli loves the outdoors, and enjoys camping and climbing. This summer Yareli will head to the Northwoods to work as a Kitchen Assistant.



**LAURA "SHANTY" MARTINEZ**, 20 years old, calls Puebla, Mexico "home". Shanty is currently in her 6th semester as an urban planner and environmental designer at Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla. She is looking forward to her first summer at Kamaji working in housekeeping because she wants to spend her summer in a fun working environment, making new friends and trying something completely new.

**KATE O'BRIAN**, 21 years old, is from Hamburg, NY, which is a suburb of Buffalo. She is a 3rd year nursing major at SUNY Plattsburgh. When she is not in class or studying, Kate has taken on a leadership position at school as a Community Advocate for first year students. Kate will be working at camp this summer as a Nursing Assistant.

**PRISCILLA SULAEMAN**, age 23, is originally from Cirebon, Indonesia but is now a sophomore at UNLV where she is majoring in Gaming Management. Priscilla loves to travel and can speak English, Chinese and Malay. This summer Priscilla will learn to speak Minnesotan ("oh fer cute") and join us as an Administrative Office Assistant.



## STAFF NOTES

The 2012 Staff Line-Up is shaping up great!! For a list of those who will be working at camp this upcoming summer, see Page 5 of this newsletter and Page 4 in the December/January issue of the **Rainbow Connection** (which you will find under NEWS at [www.kamaji.com](http://www.kamaji.com)). We will also be posting *Meet Kamaji's 2012 Staff* at [www.kamaji.com](http://www.kamaji.com) — so be sure to periodically check the STAFF INFO page on Kamaji's website to keep up-to-date as to who is "signing on"!

We are thrilled to have so many returning staff members, and first times staff who were former campers as well as lots of fantastic NEW staff who we know will help us continue to make this summer at Kamaji even better than the past.

If you have friends you think would make PHENOMENAL counselors at Kamaji, please email [kat@kamaji.com](mailto:kat@kamaji.com) or refer them to the staff application: <https://www.kamaji.com/staff-application/>

If you are "on the fence" about returning to work at Kamaji this summer, now is the time to decide! Many activity areas are almost completely staffed, so if you are thinking that your position will be there when you're finally ready to commit, you could be disappointingly mistaken. E-mail [kat@kamaji.com](mailto:kat@kamaji.com) ASAP if you want to work at Kamaji this summer!!



## A KAMAJI THANK YOU . . .

. . . to the families of **LUCY GROOVER, SAMMI REMIS, LEXI 'LINKS' MARKHAM, SHAYNA and ADENA ROSENBLUM and THE BERLER FAMILY** for opening their homes these past two months to Kamaji, its Directors, campers, staff and prospective camp families. Your generosity and warm hospitality are so appreciated. To all of you — Ye Directors say "Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!"



## Camper Updates!

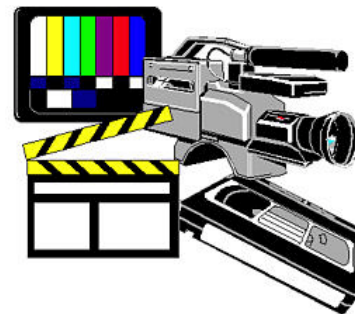
### KAMAJI REUNION SCHEDULE

Kamaji's whirlwind tour is winding down as we hold the last two camp reunions. On February 4<sup>th</sup> **KENDALL 'KK' KUZMINSKAS** and family will host our Boston-area reunion \*\*; and on March 7<sup>th</sup> we will travel to Mexico for our Monterrey reunion (details to follow in the March 2012 **Rainbow Connection**. (At this time we have no plans for a Los Angeles reunion but if there is a family there who would be willing to host a gathering, please contact [kat@kamaji.com](mailto:kat@kamaji.com).)

These last reunions are always "bittersweet" in the sense that, with the last showings of the 2012 Kamaji video, the curtain truly comes down on last summer.

BUT the good news is Kamaji 2012 is just around the corner!! So camp is not over . . . it is only just beginning as we begin looking ahead to the summer of 2012 — Kamaji's 99<sup>th</sup> season!!

\*\* **For those campers, staff and alumnae who live in the Boston area**, please join us at 1:00 pm at the home of K.K. Kuzminskas, 408 Bridge Street, South Hamilton, MA. If you've not done so already, please RSVP [kathy@kamaji.com](mailto:kathy@kamaji.com) and let her know whether or not you will be attending!!



### 2011 KAMAJI VIDEO

We have been giving out the camp videos at each of the reunions as they occur. If you were unable to attend the reunion and had pre-ordered/paid for a 2011 video, you should have already received your DVD copy via snail-mail.

For those of you who have ordered a video and live in a city where we did not hold a reunion, we mailed out your video earlier last month. If you did not receive a video in the mail and should have, please let us know immediately and we will look into it for you!!

For those campers who live in Boston and ordered a video, you will receive your copy at the reunion on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February.

"Kamaji's Summer of 2011" is still available on DVD!! For those of you who would like to purchase a copy at \$30 a copy, please e-mail [mike@kamaji.com](mailto:mike@kamaji.com) or call us at 314.721.0475 to order your own copy of this one-time-only release. Quantities are limited so act now!! (Price subject to increase once "Kamaji Summer of 2011a" garners its sure-to-win Oscars!! \*\*)

\*\* This is an unbiased, completely objective, impartial and real critique by Ye Editor. Honest!

### WWW.KAMAJI.COM VIDEOS

We have uploaded lots of new videos on the Kamaji website. Link on to VIDEOS from the home page to preview. And definitely feel free to forward your favorites onto your friends and family!!

## RANDY'S RAMBLINGS

Camp is in the midst of winter. Finding it too cold to work outside (it's 1° Celsius right now!), I have been busy refinishing the tables in the dining room and installing some new windows in the Admin Staff cabins.

I also had a couple of HUGE bonfires at Council Fire ring where I've been burning up lots of brush gathered from fallen tree limbs, chainsawed trees that were dead and the old benches that you sat on last summer at Council Fire. I should have raided the kitchen for s'more makings — I could have easily roasted enough marshmallows to make thousands and thousands of those yummy chocolate bars and marshmallows sandwiched between graham crackers.

This winter has seen some very cold days — and lots of nice days too. It's been warmer than usual so it's taken a long time for the ice on Wolf Lake to thicken up enough (about 2 feet deep now) so that the fishermen could move their ice houses onto the lake. It's very cold now and there's literally a small town that's cropped up off the shores of Kamaji.



Snow fell on camp recently but only about four to five inches. It looks so beautiful. Still it's not enough to bring the very low water level up much. We really do need lots more snow and plenty of spring rains so that you will not have to wade too far offshore this summer to get to the sailboats.

Speaking of summer, Patch and Oreo are so ready for all of you to come back to camp. They are very bored chasing rabbits and chipmunks; I think they rather be swimming out to hop on the pontoon boat or up at the tennis courts stealing the balls. Patch especially misses swim class and scuba diving for crawfish!

Till next month . . .

*Randy  
& Nathan, Bailey, Patch and Oreo*



## CAMP FOR ALL KIDS

In addition to those names listed in our December 2011/January 2012 issue of the *Rainbow Connection*, we want to thank the following people who made donations to **Camp for All Kids**

[\(<http://campforallkids.org>\)](http://campforallkids.org)

these past two months:

LISA ARONSON  
 WILLIAM BASKETT  
 VIRGINIA BAYLESS  
 SUSIE AND JOEL BLAU  
 MARK BROUTMAN AND SANDRA SIMON  
 RANDALL CLARY AND LISA ETZWILER  
 LAUREN COBEY  
 LINDA AND FREDERIC COWAN  
 JULIE FISHER ROADS  
 ELIZABETH AND SPENCER GARLAND  
 SARA GLASER  
 BETHE AND GARY GROWE  
 JENNIFER GROWE AND DANIEL SOSHNIK  
 THOMAS AND JENNIFER HILLMAN  
 KRISTEN (BAYS) AND CHRISTOPHER HITE  
 LUKE JERNAGAN  
 JOAN KLEARMAN  
 ROBERT KLAUS  
 MICHAEL LEAF  
 SARAH LICHTENFELD

DAVID MELTON AND NANCY SEGAL

THE NEUSTETER COLORADO COMPANY/  
 AUER FAMILY FUND

MISSY NOVAK

JUDY MEISNER

BARBARA AND RICK MELCHER

SUSAN AND GARY MELTZ

GLORIA AND MIKE MORISON

STEFANIE (PESSIS) AND RICK WEIL

MARY ROGERS

GRACE ROUSER BLATTER

LUVINA AND JAMEEL SABREE

PERRIN AND TED STEIN

SALLY AND NARDIE STEIN

SHELLEY OVERHOLD AND DALE THIESEN

KATHERINE TIMONEY

ROBIN AND JIM TORNER

JANET REALI

JENNA SACHS AND JOHN KASTNER

DARCY AND RON SCHARFF

DEBRA USINGER

JOHN WASSERMAN

HOPE WELLES

CHLOE WHITE

CAROLYN WORKMAN AND KURT WACKER

Thank you so much for your generosity!

## NEWSBITS

This section of the *Rainbow Connection* is devoted to special events in current campers' and staff member's lives. If you have any **NEWSBITS**, please email [kathy@kamaji.com](mailto:kathy@kamaji.com) with details and photos (if available).

**"Congratulations!!" to . . .**

**IZZY NEWMARK** (St. Louis, MO '08 - '12) who celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on .For her Mitzvah project, Izzy She collected over 500 children's books and sent them to Virgin Gorda. She wrote the following:

'Reading is my passion. For my service project, I have decided to create a children's library for the children of Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands. As some of you may know, because of my grandparent's generosity, I have been fortunate to visit this wonderful Island every year of my life. . . (but) it is hard to travel there and not realize how lucky we are and how much we have. The availability of books is very limited for the children of Virgin Gorda. They do not have the library system like we have in America. As a result, I plan on creating the "Flamingo Collection" for their pre-school children and donating it to their library. I will provide rewards every year, probably ice cream, for those children that read a certain number of my books.'

**MALISSA LINDSAY** (Cicero, IL '10-'12) for making the B honor roll last semester. She will be honored at an all-school assembly this next month.

**MAGGIE MCGANNON** (Mission Hills, KS '07-'12) was voted captain of the Shawnee Mission East High School girls' freshman basketball team.

**LAURIE BUSH** (Overland Park, KS '11-'12) placed 4th in Science Crime Busters at a preliminary science olympiad tournament. Her next competition is Regionals February 25<sup>th</sup>. (We wish you good luck, Laurie!)

**JOSIE CLARK's** (Boulder, CO '11-'12) team will be competing in a basketball tournament in the end of February.

**MADDIE GORDON** (Highland Park, IL '11) is playing Highland Park Park District basketball, indoor soccer for a Highland Park travel team, and violin in her elementary school's orchestra.

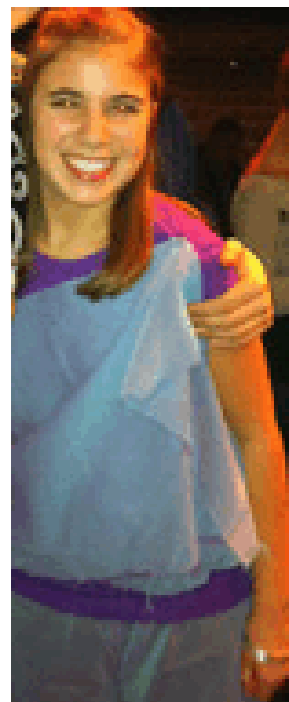
**JENNY BRAVERMAN** (St. Louis, MO '08-'12) played the lead role of Jasmine in Wydown Middle School musical theater's production of The Disney musical "Alladin" December 9, 2011.

**SAMMIE AXELBAUM** (Chicago, IL '12) is busy trying some cool, new after-school activities -- gymnastics, drama and hip-hop. Plus she'll be doing "Girls on the Run" for the third year this spring (to get primed and ready for Capture the Flag this summer!)

**JOIA MCKINNEY** (Chicago, IL '11) On January 27th and 28th, Joia qualified for regionals in the following events: 500 meter freestyle, 200 meter IM and 100 meter freestyle.

**CHLOE JACOBS** (Wilmette, IL '11-'12) recently competed in a diving skills meet and she took first in Level 2 competing on both the 1 meter and 3 meter springboard events.

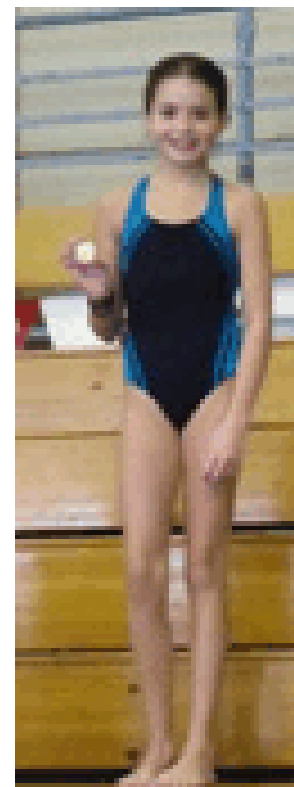
**LOUISA GOLDMAN** (St. Louis, MO '07-'12) will perform the role of Betty Parris in *The Crucible* at Missouri Baptist University. Louisa is the only non-adult in the performance – quite a coup!! She will also be performing in the 7th/8th grade play at MICDS in St. Louis.



## —INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW—

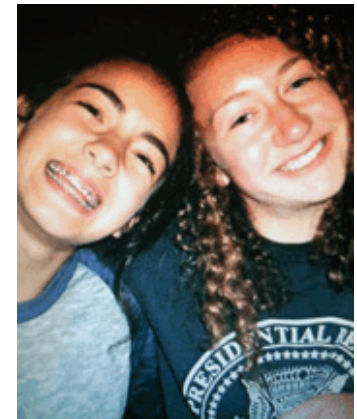
What long-time Kamaji camper/CIT/JC - known by her last name - was jet-setting across the country from south to west to north to west?? (Hint: Her picture is seen in several photos under the Kamaji Paparazzi Kaptured column on page 9.)

What Kamaji JCs spend their school days "emoticon" texting?? For one of their more clever texts see below. Can you figure out what the message reads??



## KAMAJI PAPARAZZI KAPTURED

Over the past month the following Kamaji folks were captured by anonymous Kamaji-camera-wielding photographers:



## — It's A SMALL SMALL WORLD —

New camper **LUCY GALLUN** (Evanston, IL '12) learned that her dad's step-sisters, **KK MCGREGOR** Neimann (Milwaukee, WI '86-'91) and **PATSY MCGREGOR** Kurkulis (Milwaukee, WI '83-'85), were Kamaji campers!

## — IN HER OWN WORDS —

Kamaji camper **REBECCA STRULL** (San Rafael, CA '10-'12) writes:



### **Council Fire**

A few dips and curves from main camp, the path gently unfolds into a broad open clearing and curves, worn and loved. The evening sky appears bare, except for the few stars, dancing along the treetops and lighting up the smoke that swirls up towards the heavens. Around the inner perimeter of the clearing, sturdy, colorful, wooden poles raise from deep within the Earth, rooting the girls of Kamaji to the underground world, while the smoke from the five fires billows up towards the Great Spirit, connecting the girls to the creator. Songs and stories with every coming week float out of eager lips and circle about the clearing, drifting through the many eyes and ears gathered around the fires, and winding their ways to the hearts that rest peacefully beside one another. Covering the clearing, a soft layer of grass joins together the past with the present, the present with the future. Sisters' voices that once projected across the clearing to recite and share still vibrate amongst the thin green strands. Smoke tingles the nostrils of the girls united about the fires. Mosquitos skitter in and out of the glows of the flames and busily nip at icy fingertips and protruding noses, boats hum as they tear across the still lake, but the Great Spirit knows what is right. The steady beat of the drum guides the girls back to their cabins.

## — FEBRUARY POEM —

This month's poem is actually the lyrics to a song Kamaji camper **PRIYA YOUNG** (St. Louis, MO '11) wrote (and performed at Kamaji this summer).

### **Happy Endings**

I realize that it's the same old story,  
stuck in a life that's oh so boring.  
feeling that you don't fit,  
and you're the odd one out.

I know that it's not changing anytime soon,  
and maybe one day I'll get used to it.  
All I know is  
I can't keep living in the doubt.

And the fairytale book says I'll have a happy ending,  
and if I don't, my story's not over yet.  
I don't know what to think, I'm overwhelmed  
Life ain't always what you expect,  
and . . .

Someday I'll wish upon a star,  
and maybe that dream will come true.  
And someday I'll find that happy place,  
somewhere over the rainbow.  
Someday my life will fall in place,  
I'll find that missing puzzle piece,  
and someday, my prince will ride in  
on his white horse and sweep me off my feet.  
Oh – All those beautiful dreams,  
come rushing back to me.  
Maybe I'll find my happy ending.

I realize that life ain't perfect.  
You gotta work for what you want if it's worth it.  
I'm not a princess, I'm just beautiful me.

And there's times when I think I can't face it.  
Back in first grade, things were so easy.  
I didn't understand life at all,  
it seemed so serene.

And the fairytale book says I'll have a happy ending,  
and if I don't, my story's not over yet.  
I don't know what to think, I'm overwhelmed  
But life always works out well.

And I know I have a steep hill to climb,  
gotta leave the bad of the past behind.  
I don't wanna change who I am,  
just wanna find my happiness yeah.  
and . . .

Someday I'll wish upon a star,  
and maybe that dream will come true.  
And someday I'll find that happy place,  
somewhere over the rainbow.  
Someday my life will fall in place,  
I'll find that missing puzzle piece,  
and someday, my prince will ride in  
on his white horse and sweep me off my feet.  
Oh – All those beautiful dreams,  
come rushing back to me.  
Maybe I'll find my happy ending.

## — IN CLOSING . . . —

February finds us, for the most part, completing this year's round of reunions, continuing staff recruitment and filling the remaining camper spaces. We welcome camper and staff referrals so please pass on any names to us of those who might be interested in joining us at Kamaji in 2012 as campers or members of our staff line-up.

As always, we invite you to send in poems, sayings, drawings and photos for publication in **The Rainbow Connection**. Remember - this is YOUR newsletter!!!

And now, we "put to bed" yet another issue of the **Rainbow Connection**. We'll be back in touch March 1<sup>st</sup> - if not sooner! Till then, take care, keep in touch...and THINK SUMMER!

With love from

*Kathy and Mike  
and Kat, too*

P.S. February's Birthday List can be found on Page 11.

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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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1	Kalie Hirt	18	Lucy Baker
1	Ariana Michel	19	Sarah Brodson *
1	Grace Shapiro	19	Jamila Taylor
5	Josie Clark	20	Mel Yemma
7	Sammi Remis	22	Haley Little
7	Ella Cook	24	Eleanor Goldman
9	Mike Phipps	24	Emily Goldman
9	Maria Morales Gamboa	24	Christine Burris
10	Grace Gardner	26	Emily Trenton
11	Lindsey Aronson	27	Bec Cribbes
13	Paige Jones	28	Rebekah Kissel
14	Talia Apter		
16	Emma Barnes		
18	Grace Dockstader		

\* — New Camper in 2012  
\*\* — New Staff Member in 2012

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY