



Greetings from Kamaji! We open this issue of Kamaji's **Rainbow Connection** with the words of Pine Manor camper **HANNAH RODGERS** (St. Louis, MO '07 - '11) who wrote the following as her *Camper Farewell* for Candlelight O'Naug SheNodin:

'Three nights ago, as I was trying to write this speech, a camper advised me to 'be emotionally connecting'. Needless to say, this wasn't helpful at all, but it made me realize that I have two goals for my farewell: to make people laugh and to make people cry.

I then asked thirty campers if they could think of an experience that would only happen at camp. I heard stories from people about falling off docks to catching frogs by flashlight to throwing mattresses over doors. There were stories I shouldn't repeat at O'Naug and stories I didn't even understand. Everyone had a story — likely because there are so many things that just wouldn't happen anywhere else but at camp. For example, the other day I saw a missing poster for "Tobey" who was not a person or a pet, but a flashlight. That same day, I looked at myself and realized I was wearing a cowboy hat and duct tape shoes and thought, "Only at camp." Only

at camp do we happily sing songs about dead birds. Only at camp do people get dressed up to visit Bemidji. Only at camp are Canadian Outfitter's sweatshirts really intense.

I'm so glad to have been part of such a unique place for these past five years. I remember stepping off the bus as an 11 year old first year camper. Instantly swarmed by screaming people whom I'd never seen before. My first camp memories are of hoards of girls shouting nonsensical songs, jumping up and down so much I was sure the benches would break. I remember being told what tribe people thought I looked like . . . and honestly having no idea what they meant by Mundahmin or Geshig. Now, in retrospect, those girls probably were trying to break the benches and I bet tribe selection is completely random anyway. I used to think the Pine Manor kids were so old and so cool, I almost can't believe that after such a short time, this same scared, shy little girl is one of them. Just like thousands of girls before me and thousands to come, I grew up at camp.

I'm glad I did, because Kamaji campers can turn literally any bad situation into a great time. I mean who plays "Little Sally

Walker" during a severe storm warning — 200+ Kamaji folks sheltered in the Lodge, that's who! One day in horseback riding last year, it was too hot to ride so we threw each other in the horse trough. Even on the Canadian, three people capsized and instead of shrieking they laughed instead. That is Kamaji.

If there's one thing camp has taught me, it's how to enjoy life. In fact, sometimes I think I learn more at camp than at school. I learned things canoeing in the Canadian wilderness that I could never learn in a classroom. I don't know about you but I'd say it's more important to be able to be a good friend than to be able to multiply x times y. Why should we spend nine months in school and only get one or two here? School may help us get better test scores, but camp teaches us to be better people.

I've learned so many things at this place. I woke up this morning wondering when I'd hear the bell again, and I don't know. I don't know the next time I'll ride a horse or windsurf or eat a gooey roll or throw a key log in Council Fire. But, I could do all of those things and still miss camp, because camp isn't the food or the activities or the cabins. Camp is waking up every morning in a room full of your friends. Camp is laughing so hard your stomach hurts, even though it's often laughing about something few people even understand.

So here's to my 135 days of making memories. Here's to 405 of Marjena's meals followed by camp songs, 20 Council Fires, 13 O'Naugs, 5 Tribe Days, and staff shows and Capture the Flags. Here's to my 5 candle holders that are so much more than pieces of wax-covered paper.

Here's to things that can't be measured, like laughs and friendships and memories, because in 12 hours, we'll leave the bells and cabins and songs and tribes. Tomorrow night we'll go to sleep without bunk beds or headlamps, but that's okay, because the important things — you can't leave behind. Even if I never come back again, I'll always have the lessons and experiences and lifelong friendships and for that, Kamaji, I thank you.

THINGS WE CAN'T FORGET

FIRST FOUR: MS. NBAR (Ishkabuba) . . . "Ladies of the Hatchery" . . . Babysitter's Club. . . Rumble, Rumble, Whistle, Roar – Tom ain't ticklish anymore! . . . Child of the Wild Blue Yonder. . . middle names . . . Cab, Cab, Cab, Cabin Cleanup. . . Johnny Johnny Whoop! . . . 'Work your magic' . . . flirty face . . . Kaza . . .

SECOND FOUR WEEKS: Gushie . . . The Question Game . . . tazer laugh . . . Auco Taco Moments . . . Gumby . . . shexy . . . belly flops . . . Snitzell! . . . Yama ♡ . . . Priya's song – **Happy Ending** . . . 1 – 2 – Let's play Zoo! . . .



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WHAT IS A RAINBOW CONNECTION?

For those of you who have never received the **Rainbow Connection** we would like to tell you what it's all about. The **Rainbow Connection** is our way of keeping in touch with all of you during the off-season.

Between September 2011 and June 2012 we will be sending you a total of 9 monthly newsletters which will contain all sorts of news relevant to Kamaji, its campers and staff. While we write the newsletter, it is really **your** news. So we ask that you let us know what's happening with you so we can include info in our "Newsbits" column.



There are also several other columns to which you might contribute information (or gossip, facts and fiction ☺ — all in good fun and never mean-spirited, we might add!!) These columns appear on Page 6 of this issue of the **Rainbow Connection**. Too, we'd love to receive poems, sayings, drawings — your own or someone else's — that fit the theme of camp. So help us make this monthly newsletter the best it can be — for everyone!! To that end, we truly appreciate your input, welcome your contributions **and** thank you!!



KAMAJI 2012

We hope to see all of you back with us at Kamaji next summer! Speaking of next summer — the dates for the 2012 Kamaji season are now finalized and are as follows:

EIGHT WEEK SEASON:
Monday, June 18 – Saturday, August 11

FIRST FOUR WEEK SESSION:
Monday, June 18 – Saturday, July 14

SECOND FOUR WEEK SESSION:
Monday, July 16 – Saturday, August 11

We have e-mailed this information along with a 2012 Kamaji Enrollment Form to your parents. You can also find this same info on the bottom of Kamaji's homepage at www.kamaji.com.

All camper openings will be on a first-come, first-serve basis for both returning and new campers. If you or your parents have questions about this please give us a call.

P.S. CIT Info for 2011 Pine Manor "grads" will be mailed sometime in late September.

CAMP KAMAJI FOR GIRLS

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Phone 218.335.6612

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CAMP FOR ALL KIDS FUN-D-RAISER/REUNION 9.10.11



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP FUNDRAISE AND ATTEND AROUND THE CAMPFIRE FOR FREE!

Visit the Camp Kamaji team page at
<http://cfak.donorpages.com/AroundtheCampfire2011/CampKamaji>;

Click the blue "Join this Team" button (below the list of team members), complete the registration form and customize your fundraising page.

Make a contribution of \$50.00 or more to YOUR fundraising page.

Send the link to your fundraising page to your family and friends. By setting up your personal fundraising page and emailing the link to your family and friends, you will help raise a significant amount of money for the Camp for All Kids.

Attend "Around the Campfire" on September 10, 2011 for free!

In 1991, we decided to diversify Kamaji's camp community by providing renewable "camperships" to girls from under served communities. This idea proved so successful that other camps wanted to participate. All this led to the formation of **Camp for All Kids** Foundation which has given hundreds of wonderful children the opportunity to attend either Kamaji, Birch Trail Camp, Camp Timberlane, North Star Camp or Chippewa Ranch Camp.

The **Camp for All Kids** Foundation is sponsoring a huge fund raising event to insure they can provide "camperships" in the future. There are two parts to this event.

One event will be the "World's Greatest Camp Reunion" to be held on September 10, 2011 at Banner Day Camp in Lake Forest, Illinois. Campers, parents and alumni from Kamaji and the other four participating CFAK camps will gather for an afternoon of camp activities. Think mini-Tribe Day perhaps followed by Capture the Flag? There will also be plenty of time to sing camp songs and catch up with old camp friends. A special BBQ dinner followed by a campfire program lead by Noel "Paul" Stookey (of Peter, Paul and Mary). We confident that you'll enjoy "Around the Campfire".

In addition to the "World Greatest Camp Reunion" **Camp For All Kids** is also sponsoring a team campaign to raise money for future camperships! We hope you will either make a tax deductible donation to the Kamaji team or, better yet, start your own team. Ask family members, relatives, friends, neighbors, work contemporaries to support your team.

To join the Camp Kamaji team (headed by Kathy and Mike) or start one of your own all you have to do is visit

<http://cfak.donorpages.com/AroundtheCampfire2011/CampKamaji/>

where you will find all the various options.

Please help us celebrate **Camp For All Kids'** 20th year of providing camp scholarships. Better yet, please plan on joining us at Around the Campfire on September 10th!!

Thanks in advance.

Please Join us for a multi-camp reunion celebration on September 10, 2011 at Banner Day Camp in Lake Forest, Illinois just north of Chicago. Spend the day visiting old friends, enjoying activities and greeting camp alumni celebrities. Then enjoy a fantastic BBQ dinner and a special concert around the campfire with Noel Paul Stookey of Peter, Paul & Mary!

1:00 pm — 2:00 pm Registration and welcome
2:00 pm — 4:00 pm Individual camp reunions and activities
5:00 pm — 6:15 pm Dinner
6:15 pm — 8:00 pm Concert around the campfire with Noel Paul Stookey

2012 RETURNING CAMPERS

The first enrollment forms for Kamaji's Summer of 2012 have been received. And the following veteran Kamaji campers have already signed up for next season:

SYDNEY ARONSON (returning for her 3rd summer) of Deerfield, IL; **EMMA FLEISHER** (3rd summer) of Highland Park, IL; **EMILY MILLER** (6th summer) of St. Louis, MO; **MADDY MILLER** (6th summer) of Omaha, NE; **SAMMI REMIS** (3rd summer) of St. Louis, MO; **AMY ROGIN** (th summer) of Highland Park, IL; **ADENA ROSENBLOOM** (2 summer) of Nashville, TN; **SHAYNA ROSENBLOOM** (5th summer) of Nashville, TN; **YAS SALON** (3rd summer) of New Albany, OH; **DINA SCHULMAN** (6th summer) of Bexley, OH; and **MADDIE THALL** (2nd summer) of Deerfield, IL will be eight week campers; and . . .



2012 NEW CAMPERS

ABBEY ALDERRMAN (4th grade) of Tulsa, OK; **SOPHIE FRASIER** (4th grade) of Tulsa, OK; **LIZZIE KALT** (4th grade) of Glencoe, IL; **SARAH SUFFIAN** (3rd grade) of St. Louis, MO and **SOPHIE THALL** (4th grade) of Deerfield, IL will be first year/first session Kamaji campers in 2012 and **JOSIE LAMBERT** (3rd grade) of Evanston, IL; **HANNAH SCHWARTZ** (5th grade) of Deerfield, IL and **PHOEBE WASSERSTROM** (3rd grade) of Columbus OH will be first year/second session campers in 2012. We welcome you all to Kamaji's summertime family!!



. . . **ABBY ARONSON** (5th summer) of Deerfield, IL; **JANE AGLER** (5th summer) of Chicago, IL; **SAM ARONSON** (7th summer) of Chicago, IL; **SISSSEL BATEY** (3rd summer) of Bloomfield Hills, MI; **EMILY BRAVERMAN** (7th summer) of St. Louis, MO; **ANA LUCIA CHAVEZ** (2nd summer) of Garza Garcia, NL, Mexico; **EUGENIA CHAVEZ** (2nd summer) of Garza Garcia, NL, Mexico; **JOSIE CLARK** (2nd summer) of Boulder, CO; **POSEY COHEN** (3rd summer) of Evanston, IL; **IZZI EINHORN** (6th summer) of Chicago, IL; **AVERI EISEN** (3rd summer) of Englewood, CO; **SAWYER FLEISHMAN** (2nd summer) of Deerfield, IL; **SYDNEY FLEISHMAN** (2nd summer) of Deerfield, IL; **ASHLEY GIMBEL** (3rd summer) of Highland Park, IL; **CAROLINE GLASER** (2nd summer) of Wynnewood, PA; **JOANNA GOLD** (3rd summer) of Oakland, CA; **CALLEN GRIFFIN** (3rd summer) of Chicago, IL; **LUCY GROOVER** (2nd summer) of Wynnewood, PA; **ADELAIDE HOCKING** (2nd summer) of Wyndmoor, PA; **CLARA HOCKING** (2nd summer) of Wyndmoor, PA; **ELISE HOCKING** (3rd summer) of Wyndmoor, PA; **HALEY HOROWITZ** (3rd summer) of St. Louis, MO; **MIA KALT** (2nd summer) of Glencoe, IL; **SOPHIE KALT** (5th summer) of Glencoe, IL; **MADDIE KARP** (5th summer) of Chicago, IL; **EMILY KLEIN** (2nd summer) of Austin, TX; **KALLIOPE KORNFELD** (5th summer) of St. Louis, MO; **RAINA LEVIN** (7th summer) of Miami, FL; **LEXI MARKHAM** (3rd summer) of Canton, GA; **OLIVIA MARTIN** (7th summer) of St. Louis, MO; **JULIA PEKSA** (2nd summer) of Cedarburg, WI; **LEAH RIVKIN** (7th summer) of Wilmette, IL; **JULIA SACHS** (7th summer) of St. Louis, MO; **EDITH SALK** (2nd summer) of Chicago, IL; **ALEXIS SCHWARTZ** (7th summer) of St. Louis, MO; **ANNA STEINMEYER** (2nd summer) of Highland Park, IL; **REBECCA STRULL** (3rd summer) of San Rafael, CA; **HANNAH SUFFIAN** (3rd summer) of St. Louis, MO **CAROLINE TIMONEY** (2nd summer) of Wyndmoor, PA; **EVA TIMONEY** (2nd summer) of Wyndmoor, PA; **OLIVIA WADE** (returning for her 2nd summer after a year's absence) of Canton, GA; and **ANNIE ROSE WINKLER** (2nd summer) of Philadelphia, PA will be first session campers; and . . .

. . . **HANNAH ALLEN** (4th summer) of Evanston, IL; **JORDAN BLONKSY** (6th summer) of St. Charles, IL; **CASEY BOROVSKY** (5th summer) of Deerfield, IL; **JENNY BRAVERMAN** (5th summer) of St. Louis, MO; **LAURIE BUSH** (2nd summer) of Overland Park, KS; **IZZY COHEN** (3rd summer) of Highland Park, IL; **LANIE COHEN** (5th summer) of Highland Park, IL; **CAROLINE COMBS** (3rd summer) of Los Angeles, CA; **MARGARET COMBS** (6th summer) of Los Angeles, CA; **SARAH DEVEREUX** (2nd summer) of Boulder, CO; **ELLIE EISENBERG** (2nd summer) of Glenview, IL; **ELLA FIES** (5th summer) of Evanston, IL; **LILLIAN FLEISHER** (2nd summer) of Highland Park, IL; **RYAN FOREMAN** (2nd summer) of Chicago, IL; **ELLIE FRIEDMAN** (2nd summer) of Bloomfield Hills, MI; **JENNA FRIEDMAN** (2nd summer) of Bloomfield Hills, MI; **MELISSA GARTENBERG** (6th summer) of Buffalo Grove, IL; **KATHRYN GERNSTEIN** (5th summer) of Austin, TX; **SARA GOLDEN** (5th summer) of Winnetka, IL; **EMILY GREEN** (7th summer) of Mission Hills, KS; **GRACE GREEN** (3rd summer) of Mission Hills, KS; **CHLOE JACOBS** (2nd summer) of Wilmette, IL; **ELLA KANTAR** (2nd summer) of Evanston, IL; **SYDNEY KAPLAN** (2nd summer) of Deerfield, IL; **ELLA LAMBERT** (5th summer) of Evanston, IL; **HANNAH LERNER** (2nd summer) of Glencoe, IL; **SAM LOVETT** (3rd summer) of Chicago, IL; **KATIE LOWENBAUM** (5th summer) of Glencoe, IL; **MAGGIE MCGANNON** (6th summer) of Mission Hills, KS; **ANNE MEISNER** (5th summer) of Minnetonka, MN; **REAGAN MITCHELL** (3rd summer) of Kansas City, MO; **SARA MOORE** (3rd summer) of Wildwood, MO; **MAGGIE MORISON** (3rd summer) of Highland Park, IL; **IZZY NEWMARK** (5th summer) of St. Louis, MO; **NATALIE RINGEL** (2nd summer) of Glencoe, IL; **JESSICA SCHWARTZ** (2nd summer) of Deerfield, IL; **GRACIE SCLAMBERG** (2nd summer) of Highland Park, IL; **LAUREN SEIGEL** (5th summer) of Santa Barbara, CA; **GRACE SHAPIRO** (6th summer) of St. Louis, MO; **MOLLY SHAPIRO** (4th summer) of Ann Arbor, MI; **SARA STANICEK** (4th summer) of Northbrook, IL; **JACQUELINE STEEL** (3rd summer) of Winnetka, IL; **ELLA SULLIVAN** (3rd summer) of Lawrence, KS; **CHLOE WASSERSTROM** (3rd summer) of Columbus, OH; **ELLA WORTH** (2nd summer) of Glencoe, IL; **REBECCA WORTH** (3rd summer) of Deerfield, IL will be second session campers.

WELCOME BACK!!

A WORD ABOUT ENROLLMENT

As you can tell from the list on Page 4 of 2012 campers already enrolled as of August 31st — nearly 60 per session — Kamaji's 99th summer enrollment is off to a great start — especially given that it has been only three weeks since the 2011 season ended.

With a hold-fast-to-no-more-than-150-campers-per-session limit **and** several prospective camper families anxious to learn more about Kamaji **and** lots of 2012 campers just beginning to enroll, we are optimistic that KAMAJI 2012 will fill up quickly. So if you are wanting to be assured a camper place at Kamaji next summer, we urge you to enroll now!!



KAMAJI'S CURRENT ADDRESS

Mike and I have no plans to leave camp anytime soon. The pull of Kamaji and the scent of autumn in the air entralls us. So for the time being, if you need to get in touch with us, you can send snail mail to our attention at

CAMP KAMAJI
32054 Wolf Lake Road
Cass Lake, Minnesota 56633

or telephone us at

218.335.6612

or email

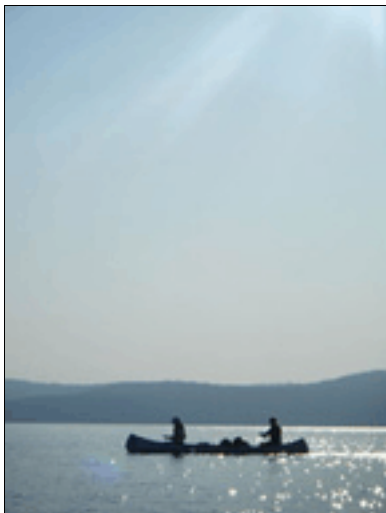
mike@kamaji.com

and

kathy@kamaji.com.

We will let you know when we begin the trek southward to Kamaji's wintertime office. At this time, we are anticipating leaving here in late September — we will let you know exactly when we do move!!

Meanwhile Kat moved back to Camp Kamaji's Chicago office last week. So if you need to get in touch with Kat you can either email kat@kamaji.com or telephone her at 773-857-3378.



KAMAJI'S 2011 VIDEO

The 2011 Camp Kamaji video still sits in its unedited form and will not be available for release until the Kamaji reunions which begin sometime in early November. As always, to keep the element of surprise, we will not pre-mail the videos — instead we will give you your copy at your area camp reunion.

Many of you have already pre-ordered and pre-paid for a video. Those of you who would like to order a copy and have not done so as of yet should mail us a check payable to Camp Kamaji for \$20. IF YOU PURCHASE A VIDEO AFTER NOVEMBER 1ST THE COST WILL BE \$30.



As always, if you have a song you would like to suggest for the camp video (we need a total of 4 more in addition to "Friends are Friends Forever" by Michael Smith), please email kat@kamaji.com to let her know your suggestions. If you are the first to recommend a song that we select, you will receive a free 2011 video.

REUNION SCHEDULE

Included in the next issue of the **Rainbow Connection** will be a list of tentative dates for Kamaji reunions to be held throughout the winter months — specifically in terms of locations, dates and times of each of an anticipated \pm 20 total camp reunions. **If your family would like to host a reunion in any cities/towns throughout the USA or abroad please let us know right away.**



NEWSBITS

IT'S A SMALL SMALL WORLD

This section of the *Rainbow Connection* is devoted to special events in (current and former) campers' and staff member's lives. So if you have any **NEWSBITS**, please email info to kathy@kamaji.com.

"Congratulations!!" . . .

. . . **DINA SCHULMAN** (Bexley, OH '07-'12) will be called to the Torah for her Bat Mitzvah on September 17th. More than a few Kamaji tribeswomen will be in attendance; **EMMA FLEISHER** (Highland Park, IL '08-'12), **EMILY GREEN** (Mission Hills, KS '06-'12), **SYLVIE STOLAR** (Chicago, IL '08-'11) **CHLOE WASSERSTROM** (Columbus, OH '10-'12) among others. . . . **JESSICA KUBERT** (Chicago, IL '08-'11) who will be bat-mitzvahed on September 24th. "Mazel Tov!"

. . . **SERENA JOHNSON** (Chicago, IL '10-'11) who auditioned for and has been accepted to the Chicago Children's Choir.

. . . **PRIYA YOUNG** (St. Louis, MO '11) who auditioned for and was selected to perform with the St. Louis Children's Choir.

. . . **KELSEY HECKATHORNE** (Club Med Staff, Baldwin City, KS '11) on being newly hired as an RN on the Medical Surgical Unit at Overland Park Regional Medical Center!

LUCY GROOVER (Wynnewood, PA '11-'12) recently met up with **HANNAH KISSEL** (Chicago, IL '11) during a visit to Chicago in August. They had fun reminiscing about camp and eating yummy treats.

MAGGIE MCGANNON (Mission Hills, KS '07-'12) is running for Student Council President. No bias but Ye Directors think you'd be great!! AND she is running on the country's biggest Cross Country High School team (280 students in all!) for Shawnee Mission East High School.

LAUREN ROBINSON (St. Louis, MO '07-'11) who made the Whitfield High School "Varsity" Volleyball Team.

MEL YEMMA (Westport, CT/Colorado College '02-'11) is living in Chiang Mai, Thailand for the next 4 to 5 months where she is taking intensive language courses and environmental science field studies. Mel writes "The heat at camp this summer better prepared me for the crazy hotness and humidity here. I'm definitely missing the northwoods though!"

KENDALL KUZMINSKAS (South Hamilton, MA '08-'11) just returned from a three week safari to Kenya, Africa.

This section of the *Rainbow Connection* is reserved for "chance encounters" between Kamaji-ans. Please let kathy@kamaji.com know if you, unexpectedly/by chance, run into someone from Kamaji in an unlikely place. Please email kathy@kamaji.com should you catch up with another Kamaji-an in the unlikely (or perhaps not so unlikely) place!!

EVA ALLESANDRONI (Watertown, MA '09-'11) and **BRIANNA SULLIVAN** (Watertown, MA '09-'11) who were recently vacationing in Portland, ME texted me the following: "So we are eating ice cream at our favorite ice cream shop in Maine when who should walk in? **SADIE WOLF** (Atherton, CA '05-'11)!!



From L-R: Betsy Smith Hocking, Anne Sherman, Elise Hocking, Clara Hocking and Adelaide Hocking

ELISA, ADELAIDE and CLARA HOCKING (Wyndmoor, PA '10-'12) recently learned that their grandmother's close summer friend also attended Kamaji. **ANNE (SHERMAN) BERRY** attended Kamaji from 1944 - 1951. She was from Tulsa. Anne's mother, **MARGARET SCHERMERHORN** also attended Kamaji as well, and spent one of her summers at Kawajiwin on Star Island. The Hocking's mom **BETSY SMITH HOCKING** (Fremont, NE '82-'83, '87 and '90) writes: "Anne has such deep, strong feelings about Kamaji and was SO happy to hear that Kamaji history is taught to the current campers. She and Elise are both Nanahtahgas. Anne and the girls talked about songs that are still sung today, and other continuing traditions. I think that it brought camp history night to life for the girls. Hearing about the train ride from Tulsa and all of her tales - were all fun for them. Anne could still recite the Council Fire pledge - and wanted to hear about so many aspects of camp to see what, if any, changes had been made."



Anne Berry Sherman and Elise Hocking

NAME THAT KAMAJIAN

Let me preface this column with the following. . .

. . .Disclaimer: I cannot vouch for or confirm the accuracy, truthfulness, completeness or usefulness of any information printed in this column. Suffice it to say that Ye Editor publishes both rumors and conjecture, in addition to accurately reported information although such information may contain errors or inaccuracies due to the mischief of overzealous contributors who are girls who just wanna have fun!!

Truly, this column is never malicious, never mean-spirited; instead it's just a jest column for fun!! So if you have substantiated or even unsubstantiated information that is in good taste and good fun, send info to kathy@kamaji.com!!

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS . . . ?

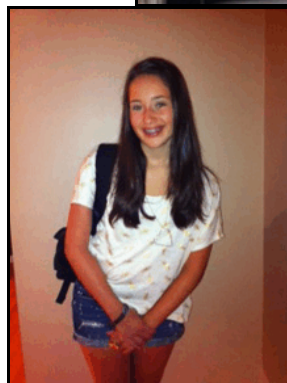
This column tells of former campers' and staff members' whereabouts since they left Kamaji. We always look forward to re-connecting with many of Kamaji's alum over the year and finding out what they've been up to!! Please send "Where in the World Is . . ." news to kathy@kamaji.com.



Cartoon Submitted by Leilani Fitzpatrick

KAMAJI PAPARAZZI KAPTURED

Kamajians seen out-and-about this past month:



SEPTEMBER POEM

"Goodbyes"

The Norway pine trees,
proud and tall,
surround us
on this final morning.

The scent of pine needles
draws me in
and reminds me
that we will soon
be leaving.

Down at the docks,
we look out
at the great expanse
of shining blue glass,
and the colors of the fire,
just beginning
to light the sky
before our watery eyes.

Like a ghost rushing past,
unseen, barely heard,
the wind rustles
through the trees,
whipping our hair
across our tear-streaked faces.

As we hug each other,
we smell
that familiar scent
of campfires.
The smoke that rises
from the fire each night,
swirling around us.
The smell, warm and friendly,
reminds me again,
that today is our
last day – our last sunrise,
our last trip down
to the docks, to the lodge –
our last everything.
And we are left
to assume and hope,
that we will all return,
next summer.

IN CLOSING . . .

As I close this issue of the *Rainbow Connection*, the reality that it is September hits me! Signaling the all-too-quick approach of Autumn and the turning of the page/closing of the book on Kamaji's 2011 summer season, September always seems to catch me by surprise. One moment it's June and we are revving up for the camp season to begin — and the next, summer is over, the campers and staff gone, Kamaji abed for the long 10 months ahead . . . and we are making plans for the next summer!

No doubt Kamaji's campers and staff feel the same way — the time spent in school and at work during camp's off-season plods slowly by . . . while camp time speeds up and is seemingly over before you realize it.

We are powerless to keep summer's end at bay. But, at the very least, I hope we can take the lessons learned at camp and apply them to life from now until next summer . . . into next summer . . . and beyond!



For starters . . .

You found your true identity at camp so listen to that voice inside which speaks up and says "This is the real me!"

You know how to be on your own! You did it at camp. Your mom was not at Kamaji to wake you up, your dad did not help you sail, your bed was not made for you. With the help of your counselors you learned that there are caring adults (in addition to your parents) who will show you how to do things but will not hold your hand the entire time. At school there are likely teachers and counselors who can teach you when things are not always easy. So ask a teacher for help or guidance when you need it.



You can do it!! Even when you think you're not able!! You stepped outside your comfort zone at Kamaji and took a chance — to learn to paddle board (SUP!), water-ski, swim the distance, ride a horse, perform in the four week play or sing in KamaGlee, run for tribe leader. Why not join a school team or club you have never considered.

Be there for your friends — let them know they can always count on you.

And be there for others — volunteer for a community service project.

Make new friends beyond the safety of those you already know. At Kamaji you were totally unselfish in the way you made new campers feel welcomed to your cabin, to your tribe, to Kamaji. Show that same kindness and consideration to someone who's feeling left out at school. Who knows — she may turn out to be a life-long friend.

We know that school, unfortunately, emphasizes competition. Part of the beauty of camp and camp activities is that success is not measured by how you measure up against another camper. There are skill levels in many of Kamaji's instructional activities; how great did it make you feel when you worked hard towards achieving the skills listed and passing into a new level??!! You can do the same at school . . . when you challenge yourself to be best **you!**

Kamaji is a place free from fear of ridicule, sarcasm, or insult. Remember what's NCA — and try to apply the same positive NCA behaviors to your world outside of Kamaji. Don't be bullied into being the less than nice person you were at Kamaji.

Always keep a sense of humor!! We laugh a lot at camp . It's not always easy but through the highs and lows of life, having a sense of humor is a necessity. And a laugh feels good too!!

Appreciate the great outdoors. You spent the better part of your summer at Kamaji outside! Please don't lock yourself away in front of a computer screen facebooking or a Wii playing games by yourself. Again join a school team or club or volunteer for community service — it's a lot more fun doing things with others than spending time alone.

Lose your cell phone, your I-Pod, the internet . . . at least once-in-while. You gave all of that up while you were at camp. Hopefully you learned that face-to-face, voice-to-voice communication is so much more meaningful when spoken and heard than that which is texted.

Let loose and have some serious fun (keeping it camp appropriate of course!).

We wish you a great year in school. May thoughts of Kamaji never be far from your mind...and your heart!

Chairs and Benches Up!!

*Kathy and Mike
& Kat too!*



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Bella Swan | 19 Leah Rivkin |
| 2 Eliza Inder | 20 Hannah Allen |
| 2 Maria Morales Gamboa | 20 Kendall Kuzminskas |
| 3 Shulie Weinberg | 21 Chloe Wasserstrom |
| 3 Priya Young | 22 Evelyn Ballard-Labrum |
| 4 Camila Martinez | 23 Rosie Brodsky |
| 4 Sara Moore | 24 Sheridan Horn |
| 14 Emma Brafman | 25 Molly Jones |
| 15 Sarah Hazel | 26 Grace Miller |
| 16 Jordan McClendon | 26 Amy Moscovitz |
| 17 Piper Batey | 27 Joanna Gold |
| 17 Lauren Curry | 29 Maria Teresa Resines |
| 17 Kalliope Kornfeld | 30 Danielle Gray |
| 17 Ali Fields | 30 Leilani Fitzpatrick |

* New Camper
** New Staff

HAPPY BIRTHDAY