Childhood is a time of innocence.
It is the morning time of life when all is change and wonder.
It begins with being born and ends with growing up.
It is a small world of pennies and wishes... of sudden friendships... and short sorrows.
It is big stairs and small footprints.
It is joy...and laughter...and make believe.
Childhood is a magic place of dreams... where everything is possible and the best is just beginning.
It is a timeless place... where minutes are not numbered and the hours are sweet with happiness.
Childhood is for exploring... it is for running...and reaching... and touching...and seeing... and tasting...and hearing...and learning... but, mostly, it is for growing.
Childhood is when we are young.
It is the happy hour... the passing dream... the tender time of innocence that is part of us forever.

Ye Directors’ Comments

Kamaji Greetings!! When I first sat down to write this issue of the Kamaji Alumnae News in early November 2006, I was hopeful that I might be able to complete this once-a-year “major” undertaking by early 2007. But as in past years and in spite of the very best of intentions, I have again found myself falling behind-and-behind as plans, preparations and work for the upcoming Kamaji season – as well as life-in-general - got in the way of my staying on task. And while I did this optimistically in hopes of mailing this out to you long before spring sets in, as June 2007(!) is but days away, all I can say is “I hope this end result is worth any anticipation you have been building. . .!!”

That said, it is our wish that the opening poem reflects the memories of your childhood days – days of innocence, change, wonder, sudden friendships, short sorrows, joy, laughter, magic, timelessness, happiness, reaching, learning, growing up and happy hours.
We begin by...
Activity-wise, we added Geocaching. “What’s that?” you query? “I can best explain it as an outdoor activity – combining elements of orienteering and problem-solving – where participants (or, in our case, Kamaji campers and staff) who are called “geocachers” use traditional navigational techniques to find a “geocache” (or “cache”) placed anywhere at Camp Kamaji. A typical cache is a small, waterproof, camouflaged container containing a logbook and “treasure” (or as the Kamaji campers called “pirate booty”). A simpler definition for geocaching would be a modern day treasure hunt. As Mike liked to say “It’s so old, it’s new!!” Suffice it to say, the program proved widely popular.

Structurally, Kamaji saw more of Joe Drake’s fine craftsmanship. The biggest improvement project during the off-season was the complete renovation of two more of Kamaji’s older cabins. Cabins 2 and 4 now have all new exterior walls, all new interiors, new cubbies and windows which can actually be closed if needed. These cabins were last remodeled...?? To tell the truth they hadn’t been updated since they were built pre-Kamaji’s 1929 season. For those of you who are traditionalists or purists — not to worry — there’s still no electricity or plumbing in the cabins; just a fresh new look. In fact, during this past fall, Kamaji was one of several Minnesota camps visited by 40+ American Camp Association directors who asked, when viewing Kamaji’s renovated cabins, “You mean you consciously chose not to add electricity or bathrooms to the cabins when improving them?” We quipped back that being “unplugged” is a good thing these days!! And there was not a camp director who disagreed — as their campers bring cell phones, I-Pods, Discman, mini-disc players and other modern day gadgets — with the potential of camp time being spent being plugged in, tuned out, and isolated. Not at Camp Kamaji!!

Our major landscaping effort to control erosion — begun in the fall of 2003 — was completed last summer. Now all the paths in camp are “carpeted” with layer-upon-layer of softwood chips leaving no roots or ruts exposed. Many visitors to Kamaji — including aforementioned camp directors as well as alumnae — have remarked upon the paths — not because they stand out in any way, but rather because they add to the natural beauty of camp — as if they’ve always been there. No doubt Kamaji’s ground cover will look just as good when we again remodel the cabins in 2081 😊.

Overall, the summer of 2006 ~ Kamaji’s 93rd!!! ~ was a healthy, safe, fun, happy and camper-centered season. As always, we breathed a huge sigh of relief after the campers and staff had returned home safe and sound to their families. We truly owe our terrific staff, our fun-loving campers and the Great Spirit a resounding “Thanks!” for a wonderful summer.
As of May 18th (just a month and a day shy of Kamaji’s 2007 season), we have 148 first session campers and 169 second session campers enrolled – again, a bit of a skew for camper enrollment. Ideally, we would like to settle in somewhere between 150 and 160 campers per session so we’ve got a “hair to go” to fill first session . . . Of course, since enrollment is 100% dependent upon word-of-mouth referrals, we are always seeking the names of interested camp families from our current and past camp families as well as alumnae. So if you know of any prospective campers and their families please spread the word about Kamaji!! We would appreciate your contacting us at our toll free number ~ 800/7KAMAJI (800/752-6254) if you know of anyone who might be interested in attending Kamaji – and while it is likely too late to sign up for 2007, there are always future summers. Too, we thank you for your continued loyalty and support!

P.S. Enrollment-wise, Kamaji has a number of second and third (and even fourth!!) generation campers – See Page 15 for a complete listing.

Staff-wise for 2007 we have already hired over 90 staff (including our 7 camp physicians) . And with an extremely large number of former “Kamaji-grown” campers and staff members returning, our year-round assistant director KAT MARTIN (Milwaukee, WI/UV-Madison ’93-’96, ’01-‘07 ) has worked tirelessly in putting together an amazing staff for the upcoming summer!! To her we are totally indebted!! As she winds down the staff hiring process, Kat would love to have an extra sailing and an extra windsurfing instructor on-board (pun intended!!). So if you know of anyone who might like to be considered for a – live-in, full-of-perks (cabin-in-the-woods, three great meals daily – that you neither have to make nor clean up after!), out-of-doors in an amazingly beautiful lakeside setting in Northern Minnesota – job and can teach either windsurfing or sailing, you know where to apply!! All kidding aside, we depend upon word-of-mouth staff referrals so, again, if you or someone you know might be interested in working at Kamaji this upcoming summer or future summers, please let us know!

Structurally, two original cabins – the Hatchery and the Nutshell – had yet to be renovated prior to the ’06 season. Taking the advice of our knowledgeable and experienced caretaker, Joe Drake, we agreed that the Hatchery, sloping off its foundation, needed to be razed . . . and raised!! And so within days of the end of last summer’s camp season, a bull-dozer arrived onsite and within 15 minutes the Hatchery was gone . . .

(Aside) Truly, though, it was likely not the Hatchery you remember. Several springs ago, we arrived at camp to find Hatchery’s wonderful fieldstone chimney literally hanging off the building – and were forced, for both safety reasons and because no one could rebuild such a wonderful chimney/fireplace as was constructed in the late 1920’s, the entire massive stone structure had to be torn off.)

. . . In its place now stands a brand new 24’ x 28’ Hatchery cabin set back far enough to take advantage of lake views from three sides; it has the feeling of being in a tree house as Joe set it very close to the bluff overlooking Wolf Lake. There is one large camper sleeping porch big enough for 10 campers, a large counselor room that could sleep 4 and a separate cubby room. We’ve no doubt that first year Kamaji campers will love it!!

After completion of the “new” Hatchery cabin, Joe began a total renovation – in much the same vein as the other five cabins on the upper end of Kamaji – of the Nutshell. Given its unique size and shape and hip roof line, this was no easy undertaking. The Nutshell originally had four sleeping porches plus a cubby room and a large living room area. The renovation plans called for three large sleeping porches (each having its own cubby room), a large counselor room for 10 plus a cozy living room configuration more amenable to chatter and game playing.

 We did “lose” the old Storage Shed/ Laundry Room/Trip Shack to an intentional bull-dozing in hopes that during this summer a brand new Staff Retreat (at the top of the Kamaji drive, to the immediate left of the Shop/original ice house) will be built. The Staff Retreat will be a “luxury” (by Kamaji standards at least) modern staff lounge where Kamaji’s staff can relax and recoup after the campers are a-bed and/or during catch-as-catch-can-staff-“free”-time at camp and/or on days and nights off. We envision this “retreat” to be multi-roomed and will come equipped with computers for internet access, lockers (each with an electrical outlet) for staff cell phone and I-Pod storage, a TV room with a DVD and lots of movies (and a satellite dish) as well as some additional smaller rooms that are quieter and available for reading or writing or snoozing, etc. Why, one might ask, would we go such extremes for our staff? In reply, we recognize that our staff are hard-working and well-deserving of a place they can truly call their own (much in the same venue as the now defunct but once beloved “Cloud” of the 50s, 60s and 70s, etc). After all, it is the staff who are completely responsible for either “making or breaking a camper’s summer” – we think a well-rested and rejuvenated and respected and deserving staff deserve no less. (P.S. Old staff rooms in both the Lodge and back of the Shop area as well as the smaller “internet room” off in another building will no doubt be put to good use - as to what that use might be, is anyone’s guess!!)

Activity-wise, as a complement to our climbing wall and ropes course programs, we will be adding Climbing Trips to our trip program this summer. Plans include training by the University of Minnesota - Duluth followed by a two-day trip to state parks along the north shore of Lake Superior. Given the popularity of the in-camp climbing wall activity we have no doubt the climbing trips will prove equally - if not more so!! – popular!!

Well, those are our immediate plans for the summer of 2007. Of course, as the season approaches, we often find our list of “Things to Do” growing increasingly longer with priorities changing daily. First and foremost, though, we will continue to work hard to insure that Kamaji will continue in the same tradition for the next 93 seasons as it has the past 93!
Best wishes go out to Kamaji’s year-round Caretaker, Joe Drake, who had been hospitalized for seven weeks this past February and March with bacterial pneumonia. We are happy to report that Joe is fully recovered; and, in fact, is back at his Kamaji home and itching to get back to work!! However, Joe’s doctor has told him he absolutely must stay off his feet and fully recuperate. . .for at least 3-6 months. We were fortunate enough to hire a local guy by the name of Randy Nyberg who works at the middle school in Bemidji and has summers free. . .to work at Kamaji this year!! Plus some local “talent” has finished Joe’s winter projects including the renovation of the Nutshell and are currently undertaking the renovation of Kamaji’s first-ever washhouse (built in 1983) as well as finalizing plans for the new staff retreat.

Of course, Joe is always available to mentor and advise – until such time as he can resume work full-time. We are anxious for his full recovery!! If you would like to send Joe well wishes you can snail mail for his full recovery!! If you would like to resume work full-time. We are anxious to keep up-to-date. And hopefully not too far into the future, you will be treated to a brand new look!!

P.S. When on the site, don’t limit yourself to the Alumnae link only; there is so much to see (and do) on the other pages as well. Once on the home page scroll down to the bottom of the page where you will be able to click onto Photo Gallery and/or Virtual Tour links. The Photo Gallery will lead to a series of Kamaji pictures taken over the summer of 2006. (As the summer of 2007 gets underway, the 2006 photos will be permanently moved to “storage” and replaced with photos – as they are taken – of this next Kamaji season. By the way, some of the pages are password protected:

- To gain entrance to the Photo Gallery simply type in victor. (Incidentally the translation for the Ojibwa word, Kamaji, is victor!)
- To gain access to the Alumnae Bulletin Board, the password is any form of the following: PG, PGS, pg, pgs.
- To gain access to the Current Camper/Staff Bulletin Board, the password is Hatchery (it is not case sensitive so feel free to use all caps, some caps or no caps).

Also, the Virtual Tour (whose link you’ll also find at the bottom of the www.kamaji.com home page will take you on a 360* panoramic tour of some of Kamaji’s views. You might need to download the I-Pix program which allows you the tour but that is a matter of simply following the directions that appear on your monitor!!

We have revamped the Bulletin Board Sections of our website at www.kamaji.com and are glad that several Kamaji alumnae have already discovered it. . .and posted messages on it. We welcome other Kamaji alum to reconnect via the Alumnae Bulletin Board whose not-case-sensitive password is PG or PGS or pg or pgs.

The Alumnae Bulletin Board, again easily accessible via clicking here http://www.kamaji.com/alumnae/boards/boards.php if reading this on-line, is a great way to reconnect more immediately than were you to inquire about alum through emails to me which end up in a to-do-later pile!! So come on “board”!!

P.S. (Not to be confused with the password PG) I FINALLY was able to reply to absolutely every post on the board as of May 15, 2007!! One more promise made - and kept (e-v-e-n-t-u-a-l-l-y)

--- SNAIL MAIL VS E-MAIL ---

Of the 1920 currently active names on Kamaji’s alum database, 1035 have an email address. Once this newsletter is published in its entirety, I will be e-mailing this to those alum with an email address. It is my hope that most will agree to receive the newsletter via e-mail versus snail-mail. And should any of those Kamaji alum to whom we email a copy instead wish a hard-copy of the newsletter, we’d be happy to snail mail you a copy.

To those who are on our current snail-mail list – totaling 851 alumnae to date – we will definitely be sending you via US Post a copy. However, if in the future you would like to receive the Kamaji Alumnae News via e-mail, please send a quick e-message to kathy@kamaji.com and I’ll add you to our e-address book. Thanks!!

Lastly, please check both the Looking to Reconnect and the Do You Know Where We Can Find? columns (found on Pages 14 and 16, respectively) and help us locate alum who are “lost.” If you know that current whereabouts of those persons listed in either column, please email kathy@kamaji.com. Thanks!!
In the past several issues of the Kamaji Alumnae News, we have covered Kamaji's history beginning the summer of 1914 up through the mid-1930s. Late last summer, as fate would have it, I inadvertently stumbled upon a great source of "lost" Kamaji history dating from the very early days of Kawajiwin (as Kamaji was then called) under the directorship of its founder, Ms. Winnifred Schureman. In researching Star Island, I happened across a document entitled National Register Evaluation of Star Island which was submitted to the USDA – Forest Service in Minnesota in February 2004 for consideration of certain "beach cottages" on Star Island being eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (which incidentally included several of Kawajiwin's original Star Island buildings – now summer home cottages to individual owners – as well as Kawajiwin's tennis court which was refurbished and put back into active use in the 1950s by Star Island residents).

Rather then regress in this newsletter to those pre-1923 days – especially as I am anxious to take up where I left off in my recounting of Kamaji's history in the 2006 Kamaji Alumnae News, I invite you to review the November 2006 Rainbow Connection (Kamaji’s monthly newsletter to campers and staff) to learn but a fraction of what I learned about Kamaji that day. You can access this information (quite easily) by clicking here http://www.kamaji.com/newsletters/pdf/november2006rc.pdf if reading on-line OR by going to the Newsletter link at www.kamaji.com and reading the November 2006 Rainbow Connection.

And now back to where I left off with Kamaji's history a year ago. . .

Although the effects of the Great Depression could be felt through the 1930s and some would agree up until the start of World War II in 1942, summer life at Camp Kamaji seemed to have settled into a rhythm and routine that continued throughout. That is not to suggest that the impact of both the depression and the war did not have an effect on camp. At the very least I would not be surprised were the then Kamaji directors anything less than frugal and thrifty.

Previous to 1937, Kamaji Directors Beatrice Berthold and Gladys Fellows (affectionately called Bert and Phil) had lived in a little cabin tucked down below the old three-door garage/shed that had housed the laundry room and, likely, Feeble Filbert (camp’s 1929 Woody). For those of you who might remember where the rifle range (built in 1952) was located, Bert and Phil’s cabin – with no electricity or plumbing at the time – stood sentry above it. A lone outhouse was tucked into the woods below. Given that electricity did not arrive at camp until 1940, I can only imagine how bitterly cold this cabin must have been in Kamaji’s off-season!! But I digress. . .
Up until the late 1930s there was no additional construction at Kamaji. However, in 1937 Bert and Phil built “the House” entirely from felled Kamaji trees. At the time it was a single story home that included a living room, kitchen with a wood stove {according to Betty Ann Minar Richardson (Minneapolis, MN '40-'53), Bert was the cook!}, a bathroom of sorts and two sleeping porches (much like those on the cabins). Included in the living room design was a mirror – built into the wall – that had been taken from a boat (called The Asthma) that had once transported campers from Cass Lake to the original camp – Kawajiwin – on Star Island. This mirror seems to be the only tangible item from Star Island that remains a part of camp. A second story was added to “the House” in 1940 after a tornado struck the ridge – again lumber for this addition to the house was taken from trees felled in the tornado. (Today, the original directors’ cabin is staff housing& “the House” is camp’s Infirmary, now called “Club Med.”)

Too, in 1937 Bert and Phil had to construct a new boathouse and handicraft building as the original two story boat and craft house had been destroyed by a kiln fire in 1936. Both buildings were located on the waterfront. Today the 1937 hardwood house is the boathouse where we store life jackets, paddles, canoe and kayak equipment; and the 1937 boathouse is now the Yacht Club where we house our sails coat of arms which was later adopted by the American Red Cross). They also had to pass rough-water swimming tests and life-saving methods to “achieve” a water trip.

Activity-wise, the waterfront was host to fishing, canoeing, swimming (required every morning), and sailing. Nature-lore, tripcraft, tennis, archery, horseback riding, and handicrafts rounded out the instructional activity program. There were daily “water carnival” activities on the waterfront which included sailing, waterball, tilting, canoe stunts, diving, life-saving, canoe rescue, aquaplaning, and canoe polo. Pine needle skiing was introduced in 1938 and continued into the 40s - in fact, the 1946 brochure reads: “One unique feature we have had here for eight years is skiing – skiing on pine needles. All equipment, such as used in the snow, is used on the needles, and perfect fundamentals and performance can be executed in this form of skiing.” Pine-needle skiing was taught by Marjorie "Benni" Benedictor, a well known downhill snow skier from Moon-Valley in Minneapolis. Too, outdoor cooking was added as an activity.

Campers were awarded “water trips” according to their progression in swimming and canoeing – with Bert in charge of swimming and Phil, of canoeing. The campers had to pass a canoe rescue test which originated at Kamaji in 1924/1925 (according to Kamaji “legend” Phil devised the canoe-over-canoe rescue procedure which was later adopted by the American Red Cross). They also had to pass rough-water swimming tests and life-saving methods to “achieve” a water trip.

“Land trips” were reserved for those girls who showed much interest in Nature-lore and who displayed earnest efforts towards their development in swimming and canoeing. A knowledge of Tripcraft was also necessary.

Beginning in 1923 (Bert’s first as sole director of Kawajiwin) Kawajiwin/Kamaji offered eight week sessions only – this trend continued well into the 1930s; in fact, the 1934 brochure has camp beginning on July 1st and ending on August 25th – for the all-inclusive fee of $290.

The summer of 1942 cabin assignment list shows a six week session with only 61 campers listed with porch groups as small as three campers and others as large as five. Clearly the war had taken a toll on camp enrollment.

Unfortunately, we do not have any brochures in our possession that date from 1935 through 1945 – so, outside of the 1942 frayed cabin assignment list I have in my possession, I cannot speak to the length of sessions, enrollment trends or tuition costs up until 1946.

What we do know from the 1946 camp brochure, Kamaji was offering both a three week and a seven week session with a cost of $90 for the three week session beginning June 20th and a cost of $280 for the seven week session. (As an incentive to sign up for the seven week session, pine needle skiing was offered that session only!) Clearly any negative impact the depression and/or World War II had on Kamaji was a thing of the past. Bert and Phil write in the 1946 brochure: “The youth of our country have gallantly met the demands made upon them. The post-war world will draw even more heavily upon them in the way of clear, independent thinking – emotional balance – initiative – courage – alertness. We have found that, given the opportunity, the necessary help and encouragement, girls can meet the demands upon youth. Each individual will produce a different degree of efficiency in her accomplishment – true – but they will achieve. At Kamaji you will find Youth functioning an a program planned for Youth, – not struggling in a made-over, adult-geared regime.”
In 1949 the cost of attending Kamaji soared – to $125 for three weeks and $360 for seven; there were private swim lessons for the non-swimmer and horseback riding was optional with each costing additional monies on top of the tuition. Tripcraft was now called campcraft and nature hikes, dramatics, and music were added to the instructional activity program; sadly there was no mention of pine-needle skiing in the ‘49 brochure . . . or anytime thereafter.

By 1949, Bert and Phil had seemingly become “nostalgic” as their opening to the ‘49 brochure – Kamaji’s 37th season – reads in part: “With the advent of this season, it will be the twenty-fifth year for the camp under its present directors. During our span of years in camping, we have learned what girls like to do – . . . Our many personal contacts with the hundreds of girls who have spent their summers here have been an invaluable source of inspiration to us. Their contributions helped develop KAMAJI. Many of the our best policies and our nicest traditions have grown from campers’ ideas. Especially have they enriched the weekly Council Ring Ceremonies and Sunday Vesper Services, which are our most effective inspirations for building character and individualizing KAMAJI. With the inevitable backwards glance indulged in at this anniversary time, we wish to salute all those campers of past seasons, and to re-dedicate our close associations with our present and future campers!”

By 1952, Bert and Phil’s last summer at Kamaji, there was both a three and a six week session with a cost of $160 for three and $350 for six. The opening to this is very similar to that of the 1949 brochure – there is no mention of this being the end of a long stewardship by its current directors – begun with Bert’s 1923 lease of Camp Kawajiwin on Star Island after the February 22, 1923 sudden death of Kamaji’s founder, Miss Winnifred Schureman, and the later 1928 purchase of the site on which Kamaji stands today at which time Bert had taken “ Gladys Fellows into business with her.” The only “hint” that something was different was the new lettering of camp’s name as if to signify a new beginning. Indeed, by the summer of 1952 Bill and M.F. Edmonston were present at Kamaji along with Bert and Phil who had agreed to stay on one last summer to ensure that established traditions would be learned and maintained.

Flashback to Memorial Day Weekend 1951: Betty Minar Richardson (Minneapolis, MN ‘40-’53) recalls “We were at Kamaji the Memorial Day weekend that Bill and Mary Francis Edmonston stopped to visit Kamaji. My mom, Betty Erikson Minar (Minneapolis, MN ’25-’33) had been M.F.’s counselor. My dad walked Bill around camp and, in the course of their camp tour, Bill said to Dad he ‘would love to own a place like this’ to which Dad replied ‘Why don’t you buy it?’”

This recollection supports that of the Edmonston family who writes: “By 1950, Bert and Phil had bought a house in California where they had been spending winters. Plans were being made to sell the camp to the Minneapolis Girl Scout Council. However, at this time, a former camper Mary Frances “M.F.” Crosby (Kansas ’31-’34), now Mrs. William J. Edmonston, was vacationing with her family at Leech Lake. Recalling many pleasant memories of Kamaji, M.F. with her husband Bill and daughters Susan, Jane and Nancy, decided to see if Kamaji was still in existence. Since the ‘new’ highway was under construction and M.F. was vague about camp’s exact location, it took three hours of driving and inquiring to locate the camp. It was a wonderful reunion for M.F., Bert and Phil who sat at the house recalling old times and former campers. Meanwhile, Cushman Minar, a friend of Bert and Phil’s, showed Bill around camp. On their return to the house Bill remarked “This is the most beautiful place I have ever seen!” Bert jokingly replied “Do you want to buy it?; Bill answered “Yes.”

Kamaji legend has it that “less than one hour after this conversation, the phone rang – and the Girl Scouts called saying they were ready to meet the asking price and sign purchase papers. Bert told them they would need two more weeks before a final decision could be made. Bill and M.F. didn’t need two weeks to make a decision; instead they needed time to make the necessary financial arrangements.

According to the title and abstract papers on Camp Kamaji, Bill and M.F. purchased Camp Kamaji in 1958 for $62,500. We are not certain what type of “financial arrangements” were made in 1951; perhaps as did Bert in 1923, the Edmonstons leased back camp during those first years as sole directors with the sale made in 1958. . .

. . . a year before the death of Bert who passed away in April 1959.

The prose in the 1954 brochure is nearly identical to the wording found in the 1952 brochure – with the only changes reading “The year 1954 marks the fortieth year of continuous operation of KAMAJI” and the signature in the script of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Edmonston, Directors. Additionally, Nature-lore was now called Woodlore and Riflery was added as an instructional activity. Also appearing in the ’54 brochure is both a picture of Kamaji’s 1953 Three Week Camp Group with 88 campers; and one of the Six Week Camp Group with 78 campers.

Kamaji was to live on!!

And so begins another era for KAMAJI – which I will write of in the 2008 Kamaji Alumnae News.
KAMAJI ALUMNAE NEWS
Winter SPRING 2007

ALUMNAE RECOLLECTIONS OF THE 1940S

Over the past year, I have received a number of notes from Kamaji alumnae in which they recall the times they spent at Kamaji. Too, I have received copies of actual diaries, letters, and the like written in the 1940s. With the sender’s permission, I thought I would share with you some:

Kamaji 1945 – as written by NANCY KING Sour (Grand Rapids, MN ’42-’45) in her camp diary:

June 21: Today I went up to tennis – the counselor, Shorty, is swell. I also went canoeing today. Cherry pie a-la-mode for supper!

June 24: Sunday – and wash-up day. I washed my hair, didn’t put it up and believe it or not – it turned out swell. You never can tell! We had chicken for dinner today.

June 25: My white shirts, sun glasses, and stamps arrived from home this morning – also three letters. For dessert this noon, we had – drool, drool – a Hershey bar. Boy did it taste wonderful. In swimming I am working on my side stroke. There will be no riding for this season but Benny’s husband is now back in the States, and there will be skiing soon, I hope. We were weighed this morning; I tipped the scales at 127 ¼ pounds. Jo Fergesson’s father sent her a carton of gum. How she smuggled it in, I don’t know, but I am now enjoying it immensely. My nose is very sunburned – I wish I’d get a tan. Tonight we handed in our laundry; I hope mine survives the ordeal.

June 26: Last night there was a simply gorgeous full moon. It was huge and golden and beautiful. To celebrate it, our camp was allowed to go for a moonlight canoe ride. Today I went to tennis again – I learned how to score, serve and the back-hand and fore-hand drives. Tonight is Council Fire - the Metigs have it thank goodness.

June 27: Today in swimming we swam once around the sailboat – I made it but it sure poohed me completely. In tripcraft we had to build a fire under a tin can and boil water over it. Marilyn and I slaved and struggled and were the closest to boiling when the bell rang. Tough luck. Our tribe now has flag raising and retreat.

June 29: This morning I went for my first sail! Boy was it exciting! The wind acted very queerly all the while we were starting out, and when we got in the middle of the lake we jibbed suddenly and over went the boat. I had on my jeans, sweat-shirt, and lumber jack shirt, and all were drenched completely. My saddle shoes simply oozed H,0 every time I took a step. Tonight we had fudge parties in our cabins. We had loads of fun. We cooked it over our fireplaces and it was so creamy and good. Each of us had two pieces, but I could have eaten the whole batch.

June 30: Today, innocent day that it is, is tribe day. How I loathe them. There were six fields of competition – swimming, tennis, deck tennis, canoeing, flower identification, and fire-building. The Mundahmins came in second for the day and second in speed. Boy am I glad. I built a prize fire – boy, though it was a stinker. It burned like blazes for about two minutes, the required time, and then I had to put it out, which was certainly a good thing. I bet it wouldn’t have burned an instant longer! I fell off the lodge steps and turned my ankle this afternoon.

July 1: The weather is getting colder and colder. We had wash-up in our cabins this morning with warm water. The first I’ve seen for almost two weeks. In the afternoon I was bow in a war canoe and we paddled almost three miles. I never stopped once, after the first mile it was almost automatic with me. We had visitors this afternoon and thus a special vesper service. It was very nice. We had supper in our cabins – sandwiches, salad, cup cakes, and milk. It tasted real good. We ate around the fire.

July 3: Today the tribe leaders were called upon to plant for the fourth of July. How pleased we were – Jackie, Carol, Jean, Pat, Marilyn and I. Tonight was council fire – I stood in tennis. The other night we had a floating camp. It was just beautiful – and we sang songs and paddled around.

June 23: Today I finished packing for camp. We started out about 3 o’clock. . .After going 15 miles out of our way because we took the wrong way, we pulled into camp for Kamaji about three o’clock. . .After finishing unpacking and made my bed. I met Pat Bender, Nat Richardson, and Joy Bachelder, all from Bemidji. The rest of Cabin I, my cabin, arrived about 6:30. They are Jane McCoy, Jackie Fish, Betty Bragdon from Waterloo – Carol Smith, Jo Fergesson, Marilyn Hicks, and Carol Rolfnes from Minneapolis, also Eleanor Macklin from Litchfield. After supper we finished unpacking and played games in the lodge.

June 21st: Today it is extremely warm – but the barometer says rain. I went to canoeing in the morning. We paddled the dock away – I learned the front and back sweep and other strokes. Some of the old campers helped to put the sail boat up. The food is so good; I’ll no doubt gain a pound a day.

June 22nd: We were put in tribes today – I’m back in my old one, the Mundahmins, and to my surprise was elected tribe leader! I certainly am glad. There are eight girls in my tribe – Betty Bragdon, Carol Moore, Susan Leebeck, Cynthia Daunt, Mary Olson and myself. Our counselor is Liz Sewall, my porch counselor. We learned the Council Fire pledge and song. Each tribe was assigned their Kami Caper – ours was the dining room. Honest to Pete, I bet I sweep about 20 acres a day. Tonight they passed around pink pills. Ugh!

KAMAJI TRIPCRAFT - UNDATED
ALUMNAE RECOLLECTIONS OF THE 1940S (continued)

July 5th: Today in tripcraft we made wheatcakes — delicious!!! Mine were a lovely golden brown. I went skiing today & only fell down once out of three times I descended the slope. War canoe races today, too. We beat the Ishkadays & Geshigs, but the Wabuns & Nona togas, beat both of us & so I guess they’re the champions.

July 6th: The tribe leaders have started on the log — our theme is Balancing the Books of Kamaji.

July 8th: Wash-up this morning. In the afternoon the finals of the tennis tournament between Jackie and Jean. It was a pretty good game but Jackie won, natch. My prize to her was the beloved t-shirt. Tonight we had our cabin party. We had it at Bert & Phil’s & it was a wonderful time. We had toasted cheese sandwiches, ice cream & cake, candy, & other delicacies.

July 9th: We were weighed again today — sad to say, I gained four pounds; I now weigh 131. This morning we had an excellent handicraft demonstration. It was by a Red Cross Hospital worker. She showed us how to finger paint, and then exhibited many other craft activities. Tonight our cabin had to put on a program for the campers. We invited them to come dressed in their pajamas, and then we presented them with a sort of bedtime story program. We acted out The Three Bears and Little Red Riding Hood. I was the hunter in the latter. Both were funny and everyone loved them. After that we played children’s games and were each treated by a Hershey bar. Sippie Eells came today. She is going to be a counselor for the six week season. We serenaded the campers tonight.

July 10th: The last day of camp. In a way I’m glad, and yet I wish I were staying longer. Tonight was our last council fire. I received the tennis ribbon — a blue one, for improvement. The tribe leaders lighted the fires and said the verses. I had the third fire. We also put them out after the program. Fish, Pat and I talked for awhile before we went to the cabin. No one got to sleep very early.

July 11th: Reveille at 5:00!! What fun. We ate breakfast as soon as we finished packing, and then received our jewelry and money. Mom and Dad came for me about 9:30. I sure was glad to see them. Good-byes were said and we left for home.

Some songs that appeared in the 1942 KAMAJI SINGS! Songbook include: Pep Songs: Birthday Song to Bert; Good Morning Kamaji Girl; How’d You Like to Go to Kamaji, I Want to Go Back to Kamaji; Merry Widow Walz; The Lame Crane; Prune Song; Like Unto a Ship; The Owlet; Merry Widow Walz; The Lame Crane; To Whom It May Concern —

To Whom It May Concern —

Today, August 14, 1945, we at this isolated camp far up in the North Woods, heard that peace had been agreed to by our enemies, the Japanese. We woke up this morning to the sound of the lodge bell clanging and clanging, breaking noisily into the silence of the early morning. At first we thought that the bugler had overslept and Bert (the camp owner) was ringing the bell to wake us. But the insistent clanging called us all to the lodge and loud shouts of “Peace” rang out through the woods. Tears of joy sprang into the eyes of the counselors, most of whom had loved ones across the seas, and a look of being lost came into the eyes of the little ones who couldn’t seem to remember anything but war. — Unsigned

Written August 14, 1945 from Camp Kamaji, Cass Lake, Minnesota

KAMAJI ALUMNAE NEWS

Winter SPRING 2007

ALUMNAE RECOLLECTIONS OF THE 1940S (continued)

July 4th: The result of our efforts yesterday was the theme — Welcome Vets to Kami Rest Camp. The campers were returned vets and we and the counselors were hostesses. It started with a treasure hunt — the candy being discovered by Carol Moore. Then they came back through the parking lot passed under our masterpiece of a sign and were welcomed by Major Dude. Phil’s Danish and free swimming followed. At noon we had the banquet. The menu: Roast Beef, Beets, Browned Potatoes, Carrots, Onions, Celery, Radishes, Bread and Butter, Brown Gravy, Chocolate Ice Cream (with a flag in the top) and Cookies. The dining room was decorated with red, white and blue. It looked lovely. We even had candles. After dinner was rest hour. About then it began to simply pour and so the activities planned for the afternoon on the lake were replaced by the old standby relays in the lodge. Staring with supper we had a Kami Kanteen for the vets. The menu: Potato Salad, Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches, Carrot Curls, Baloney, Cookies, and Lemonade. After supper we presented a program. Martha played Deep Purple, Nat presented a torch song, Phoebe and Eleanor danced, the counselors presented a Kami Follies, and then came the climax, the highlight. The tribe leaders presented the old Mishawauka specialty — The Lighthouse Keeper’s Daughter. It was a riot — I was the lighthouse. It went over great — everyone rolled with laughter. Folk dancing ended the night. Believe it or not — Benny and her husband Robert Bailey turned up for dinner this noon.

KAMAJI SINGS! Songbook include: Pep Songs: Birthday Song to Bert; Good Morning Kamaji Girl; How’d You Like to Go to Kamaji, I Want to Go Back to Kamaji; Merry Widow Walz; The Lame Crane; Prune Song; Like Unto a Ship; The Owlet; When the Moon Plays Peek-a-Boo; Tribe Songs; Across the Stillness of the Lake; Blue Shirts; Council Fire Song; In the Still of the Night; Smoke Gets in Your Eyes; Indian Love Call; Giannina Mia; Through the Years; Goodnight Irene; On Top of Old Smokey.

July 6th: The tribe leaders have started on the log — our theme is Balancing the Books of Kamaji.

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“Mother was the Train Mother from Tulsa to camp. She met the people arriving from Dallas and brought those girls to our house for dinner, while their Train Mother returned to Dallas. Then Mother and Daddy took us and the Dallas girls in two cars back to the station to board the Frisco Line Pullman for the overnight to Kansas City. I remember Mother telling new girls how to undress in their berths with the curtain zippers closed and to be modest walking down the hallway to the powder room. She made everybody quiet down at a certain time. We must have been a giggly bunch. She got us all to the dining car for breakfast in a group. She taught us how to tip the porter. She herded us all though the Kansas City station to board the Rock Island Line, which was our day train to Minneapolis. Mother greeted more Kamaji girls as they got on at various stops along the way and got them settled in their seats.

In Minneapolis, some local mothers came and got most of the arriving girls in groups of four or five and took them home for dinner and later brought them and their own daughters back to the train station for the Great Northern Line. Mother took our own little group to a large department store in Minneapolis, where we thought it was quite a treat to ride the escalator and have dinner in the café. Back at the station, we went to sleep on board a Pullman car for the second night after leaving home. Some time during the night the Great Northern Line cars with the Kamaji girls were shifted onto a siding and parked near Bemidji. When we woke in the morning we were greeted by camp trucks with some counselors who had come to take us to camp. We stood up in the backs of the trucks for the drive to camp. I suspect this would not be allowed in this day and age.

“By the way, the Oklahoma State prison is in a town called McAlester. Whenever Tulsa children were naughty their mothers sometimes used to say ‘If you don’t behave any better than that, you might end up at McAlester.’ Imagine our shock on arriving for our first year at camp to see these counselors who had been sent to get us wearing t-shirts that said Macalester! We wanted to get to prison. Of course we soon learned that Kamaji hired the best possible counselors, many studying at Minnesota colleges to become teachers.

“The trucks took us to the camp lodge where we had a delicious breakfast. Then Bert and Phil started calling each counselor, one-by-one, and naming her porch group, starting with the youngest. My sister Beverly was in the Hatchery and I was in the Nutsheil. My first counselor was Marion Larsen. When we trooped out with our groups Beverly and I waved at Mother who was sitting at Bert and Phil’s table. Mother stayed at Bert and Phil’s cabin that first night before returning to Tulsa.

“After our first year Beverly and I, with a note from our doctor, were able to join the Plungers at camp. As soon as Betty Richards blew reveille we threw on our bathing suits and grabbed our tooth brushing things and towels and ran down to the lake. We had to brush our teeth in the water first, then plunge in and swim over to the other dock and back. Then we ran back up the hill to the cabin, wrapped in our towels, and got dressed really fast because it was so cold. The other girls were still sleepily coming out of the wash house in their pajamas.

“A sign-up activity that Beverly and I loved was being taken in the trucks to a blueberry bush area. Each girl was given a pail and we happily picked lots and lots of blueberries. That night the whole camp had blueberry pie. The food was always wonderful and we were glad to hear the bell ringing for us to come to the lodge.

“Another great memory is going to Itasca State Park and wading across the Mississippi.

“We experimented by skiing on pine needles. The slope was short and the needles kept getting dispersed and having to be rearranged after almost each girl’s turn.

“The best event for both of us was going on a sail canoe trip across Wolf Lake and through other lakes, by way of streams, to an island where we stayed for a few days. That island had a lake in the center of it that we were told was bottomless because it had been a volcano crater. We loved sleeping and cooking out. I remember a ranger came to our campsitve the last day and told our counselors there was a big storm warning in effect and he advised us to canoe to the ranger station immediately. We did this as the storm came up and turned our canoes over on high group while we waited for the camp trucks to pick us up instead of sail canoeing back to camp.

“Besides winning canoe and swim races and archery contests to earn points for one’s tribe, another competition was the corn husking race. Naturally, we had corn on the cob that evening. What better way could there be to prepare all that corn quickly for the evening meal?!!

“Points could also be won by being among the first three girls in the camp to be able to go around the entire circle at the Council Fire and name every camper and counselor and her hometown.”
KAMAJI NEWSBITS AND HAPPENINGS

This header lists prior years’ life events (i.e., marriage, birth of children/grandchildren) that Ye Directors know of.

We would like to congratulate the following Kamaji Alum who recently found their lifestyles changed:

"WEDDING BELL ~ CONGRATULATIONS!!!" to . . .

. . .CARYN NEUERMAN (Glencoe, IL ‘86-’88) on her October 1, 2005 wedding to Philip Kinzler.
. . .HEIDI PADAWER (St. Louis, MO ‘89-’95) on her November 11, 2006 wedding to Max Garfield. Heidi and Max reside in NYC where both are employed as attorneys.
. . .JULIE BARTON (Minneapolis, MN/Colorado College ‘93-’97,04) on her May 28, 2006 wedding to Seth Grant.
. . .SIMONE KIERSKY (Memphis, TN ‘86-’92) on her May 28, 2006 wedding to Will Coyle.
. . .HEIDI WERNER (Dallas, TX ‘93-’97) on her September 16, 2006 wedding to Howard Horn.
. . .ASHLEY MEYERHARDT (St. Louis, MO ‘91-’94) on her July 15, 2006 wedding to Jason Sposeep.
. . .KATY HYMAN (Denver, CO ‘86-’94) on her April 22, 2006 wedding to Ron Straily.
. . .MARION PELONE (St. Louis, MO ‘91-’94) on her May 28, 2006 wedding to Josh Chattcn-Brown.
. . .KATIE HYMAN (St. Louis, MO ‘91-’94) on her April 1, 2007 wedding to Adam Eckstein.
. . .JILLIAN COUSIN (Chicago, IL ‘90-’01) on her May 26, 2006 wedding to Robert Arnold.
. . .RACHEL SLOSBURG (Omaha, NE ‘02-’95,’99) and TRICIA BRIGHTWELL Young (Louisiana State University ‘99-’01,’03) were bridesmaids.
. . .SUZANNE CRANDALL (Glencoe, IL ‘86-’92, ’94-’95) on her April 28, 2007 wedding to David Silberman.
. . .LAUREL RIFKIN (Highland Park, IL ‘89-’96) on her May 12, 2007 marriage to Evan Klee.
. . .MEGAN KOLBRENER (St. Louis, MO ‘88-’93) on her October 27, 2006 wedding to Clifford Holekamp.
. . .COURTNEY MURPHY (Wichita, KS ‘87-’91) on her September 25, 2004 marriage to Tad Krug.
. . .CARRIE VESELY (Tulsa, OK ‘80-’85) and Jason Henderson on their August 12, 2006 wedding. (P.S. The invitations and wedding flowers were purple in honor of Carrie’s Nanaahoga tribe!!)
. . .MARION PELONE (Rome, Italy ‘91-’95) on her May 23, 2006 wedding to Luca Marcenaro.
. . .ALISSA “WHAT’S” SHAIKUN (Louisville, KY ‘84-’90) on her August 7, 2004 marriage to Todd Borro.
. . .AMY CORNBLEET (St. Louis, MO ‘91-’94) on her May 28, 2006 wedding to Clifford Holekamp.
. . .COURTNEY MURPHY (Wichita, KS ‘87-’91) on her August 23, 2003 marriage to Steve Hoffman.
. . .ELLEN BERREY (Dayton, OH ‘84-’89) on her August 23, 2003 marriage to Steve Hoffman.
. . .BARBARA “BARBIE” BALST (River Forest, IL ‘83-’85) on her October 8, 2006 wedding to Daniel Trencher.
. . .REBECCA CAMPBELL (Kansas City, MO ‘87-’88) on her March 19, 2005 wedding to Andrew Rice.

We wish all of you a lifetime of love, laughter, happiness. . .and daughters!!
BETSY PEKIN (Glencoe, IL ’87-‘93) on her engagement to David Baker. A May 2007 wedding in Chicago is being planned.

HOPIE “Five” WELLES (Toledo, OH ’94-’01, ’04) on her engagement to Reverend Luke Jernagan. A February 2008 NYC wedding is being planned.

LEAH WINANS (Dallas, TX ’94-’96) on her engagement to Mark Elliot McDonough. A July 2007 wedding is planned.

CALLY MASTIO (Wichita, KS, KU, St. Louis, MO ’01,’03-’04) on her engagement to Mark Elliot McDonough. A July 2007 wedding is planned.

MICHELLE NISENBOIM (Highland Park, IL ’90-’95) on her engagement to Alex Genser on St. Thomas October 27, 2007. Bridesmaids include GENEVIEVE NISENBOIM Sagett (’90-’95), SAM NISENBOIM (’95-’01,’03-’04) and SHEYNA NISENBOIM (’98-’04).

DAVIDA DEUTSCH (Los Angeles, CA ’90-’91) on her engagement to Alex Genser on St. Thomas October 27, 2007. Bridesmaids include GENEVIEVE NISENBOIM Sagett (’90-’95), SAM NISENBOIM (’95-’01,’03-’04) and SHEYNA NISENBOIM (’98-’04).

KATHERINE BLOCK (Toledo, OH ’92-’94) on her engagement to Vicente Undurraga. A July 21, 2007 wedding is planned.

HEATHER RIFKIN Rosenblatt (Highland Park, IL ’86-’91,’95) and her husband Brad on the October 12, 2006 birth of daughter Averi Nora who joins big sister Tatum.

TAMARA “TINKS” INKS Markham (Topeka, KS ’79-’89) and her husband Chad on the June 20, 2006 birth of daughter Sophie Clare who joins big sister Lexi.

AMY SHERMAN Goldstein (Des Moines, IA ’88-’91) and her husband Darren on the December 26, 2005 birth of son Samuel.

TRISH MCNEER Jones (Tulsa, OK ’82-’86) and her husband Glenn on the August 23, 2006 birth of daughter Zoë Cartier Lyons.

BECCA DRAGON Freiden (Glencoe, IL ’88-’91) and her husband Jonathan on the October 1, 2005 birth of daughter Alexandra Natalie.

AMI LIPSCHULTZ Polonsky (Highland Park, IL ’86-’93,’95) and her husband Dan on the June 19, 2006 birth of son Benjamin Max.

NATALIE LUEY Davis (St. Paul, MN ’95-’99) and her husband Yusef on the November 8, 2006 birth of daughter Cecelia Rose who joins big brothers Isaiah and Caleb.

NAOMI WERNER Weisgerber (Milwaukee, WI ’84-’89) and her husband Bill on the July 11, 2006 birth of daughter Kayla who joins big sister Hailey.

JULIE BARNES Cruz (Oklahoma City, OK ’84, ’91) and her husband John on the June 28, 1006 birth of son Andrew who joins big brothers Jack and Will.

CAROLYN SCHWEIZER Rubinstein (St. Louis, MO ’88-’91) and her husband Brett on the December 6, 2006 birth of son Jackson Thomas.

ANNE OSBORN Matlock (Dallas, TX ’93-’95) and her husband Scott on the December 19, 2006 birth of son Porter.

ADRI FAULDS Bond (Arizona State U, St. Louis, MO ’00-’04) and her husband Ben on the October 14, 2006 birth of son Channing Edwin.

MARY SHULTZE Esser (UW - Madison ’89-’92) and her husband Jeff on the December 20, 2006 birth of son Alexander James.

ALLIE TZINBERG Rossini (St. Louis, MO ’89-’91) and her husband Dan on the February 2, 2006 birth of son Ryan Maret who joins big brother Dylan.

JULIE FISHER Roads (St. Louis, MO ’83-’87, ’88-’91, ’93,’95) and her spouse Patti on the June 18, 2006 birth of son Jack who joins big sister Sophia.

K.K. McGREGOR Niemann (Milwaukee, WI ’86-’91) and her husband Douglas on the November 23, 2006 birth of son Abbott who joins big brother Macgregor.

BECCA DRAGON Freiden (Glencoe, IL ’88-’91) and her husband Jonathan on the October 1, 2005 birth of daughter, Alexandra Natalie.

ALISSA “What’s” SHAIKUN Borro (Louisville, KY ’84-’90) and her husband Todd on the March 23, 2006 birth of son Samuel Borro.

TRICIA BRIGHTWELL Young (LSU, ’99-’01,’03) and her husband Mike on the April 30, 2006 birth of daughter Emily Dane.

KATIE SLATER O’Bryan (81-’84) and her husband Steve on the March 16, 2006 birth of son Nicholas who joins big sister Isabelle and big brother Charlie.

SARA VESELY Peters (Tulsa, OK ’83-’87, 90,’93) and her husband Christopher on the May 11, 2005 birth of son Adam Wilke. (Congratulations, too, to grandma MARIANNA WILKE Vesely (Bartlesville, OK ’56-’59))!

grandmother LYNN BAUMGARTNER Henry (Shawnee Mission, KS ’59-’70) and her husband “Butch” on the August 2, 2005 birth of granddaughter Abigail to son Brian and daughter-in-law Tracy.
“PITTER PATTER OF LITTLE FEET ~
CONGRATULATIONS!!!” to . . .

. . .SARA BLOOM Grgurovic (Chicago, IL ’84-
’88,’90) and her husband Allen on the
December 29, 2005 birth of son Aaron
Hunt.
. . .MARA BORDEN Delman (Highland Park,
IL ’83-’84) and her husband Peter on the
March 21, 2005 birth of son Nathan Miles.
. . .ELLEN BERREY (Dayton, OH ’84-89) and
her husband Steve Hoffman on the
February 26, 2006 birth of son Eli.
. . .TARA HUMA Hume (Denver, CO ’90-’91)
and her husband Chris on the January 30,
2007 birth of daughter Lucy Hart.
. . .DEBBIE STOCKS Priest (Nottingham,
England ’97, ’00-’02) and her husband
Jason on the March 20, 2007 birth of son
Nathan.
. . .SARA MEDNIK Stern (St. Louis,
MO/Tulane U ’92-’94,’97-’02) and her
husband David on the February 26, 2006 birth of
son Eli.
. . .JAMIE WOLBACH Kesselman (Highland
Park, IL ’87-93) and her husband Barry on
the April 11, 2006 birth of daughter Lucy
Hart.
. . .EMILY GALLOP Coen (St. Louis, MO ’83-
’89) and her husband Matt on the April 24,
2007 birth of son Noah Joshua who joins
big brothers Will and Henry.
. . .LEAH FREDMAN Irvin (St. Louis, MO ’84-
’93) and her husband Matt on the February
24, 2007 birth of daughter Samantha Jane
who joins big brother Ryland.
. . .ADDIE FAULDS Bond (Arizona State
University ’00-’04) and her husband Ben on
the October 14, 2006 birth of son Channing
Edwin.

And finally, “MISCELLANEOUS
CONGRATULATIONS!!!” to . . .

. . .SUSIE OFFER Szafir (Winnetka, IL ’91-
’93) and her parents Dr. Dan and Marjorie
Offer on co-authoring ”Dialysis without
Fear: A Guide to Living Well on Dialysis for
Patients & Their Families.”
. . .ALLISON ROSENBERG (Louisville, KY ’90-
’92) on her graduation from Vanderbilt
University (summer 2006) with a Masters
of Science in Nursing and her selection as
the 2006 Robbie Simpson Nursing Fellow
at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in
Memphis. Currently Allison is a Hem/Onc
Nurse Practitioner at the James Cancer
Center (Ohio State University Medical Center).
. . .JENNIFER MENDELSOHN (Phoenix, AZ ’90-
’02) on her May 11, 2007 graduation from
The University of Arizona College of
Medicine with a degree of Doctor of
Medicine.
. . .JENNIFER SNELL (Chicago, IL ’92-
’98,’00,’02) on her May 11th graduation
from Loyola University Chicago with a
Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics.

From JENNIE HENSEL (Atlanta, GA ’93-’99,
’01) writes “I went down to Biloxi, MS to do
relief work in Dec. 2005. The night I
arrived someone mentioned that a girl
named Kate had been at the center doing
relief work but had gone away for a short
break. As I stood up at dinner that night to
introduce myself to the whole relief center,
I noticed a familiar face across the room.
Kate had returned and it was totally KATE
GAGE (San Francisco, CA ’93-’97).

From LAURIE DIAMOND (Denver, CO ’83-
’88) writes: “I met a fellow Kamaji-Alumna
a few weeks ago at a mutual friend's Rosh
Hashanah dinner. Her name is Sarah
(blonde) [SARA MEDNIK Stern - St. Louis,
MO ’92-’94,’97-’02]and she is from St.
Louis originally -- she met her husband
while at camp...he went to Chippewa and
they met on a day off. I can't remember her
last name, but it is such a small world.
She was just talking about how they met and I
asked where she went to camp and she
said in Northern Minnesota. When I asked
"Where?" she replied “A camp called
Kamaji” kinda looking at me like I was
crazy for asking. Nonetheless, it was a
crazy encounter. She was there in the
’90’s, so long after me. But we got a great
laugh out of it. It sounds like her
experience at Kamaji, along with her
husband's at Chippewa, have inspired
them to one day open a camp.

From TRISHA WOLF (Cincinnati, OH and
Washington U ’97-’03, ’06) who telephones
to say “I was having a coffee with my local
rabbis in a Starbucks back home when he
points out a rabbinical student who will be
serving at the temple I attend. Turns out
that student was KATIE BAUMAN (Little
Rock, AR ’93-’95).
KAMAJI ALUM LOOKING TO RE-CONNECT

We have been able to reconnect many Kamaji alum with "old" camp friends...and enjoy doing so. However, there are times when a former Kamaji camper writes asking the whereabouts of a camp friend and we have neither the name and/or the information to share. So I thought I'd begin a new column in the yearly newsletter - its name speaks for its intent. Here goes:

JENNIFER GERSON Eichelbaum (San Antonio, TX '88-'93) is looking for JAMIE WOLBACH (Highland Park, IL '87-'93).

NATICA “Nikki” RICHARDSON Prentice (Bemidji, MN '43-'45, '47-'49) would love to hear from any Kami campers in San Francisco Bay area or even all of California. P.S. Does anyone know location of one time sailing counselor, Dennis Gardener from Marblehead Neck, MA ???” Please email Nikki at neknee@comcast.net.

KATHY PHILLIPS Trout (Excelsior, MN '51-'59) has not been in touch with campers from the 1950's. Would love to hear from some.” You can email Kathy at mailto:rwtrout@earthlink.net.

AMY CORNBLEET Chatten (St. Louis, MO '91-'94) would “love to hear from any alum down in southern California!!” You can email Amy at amychatten@gmail.com.

...ASHLEY MEYERHARDT Sposeep (St. Louis, MO '91-'94) is looking for Jenny Johnson (Chicago, IL) who attended Kamaji in early 1980s.

SHELLEY OVERHOLT Thiesen (McPherson, KS '79-'82; '99-'02) is looking for SUSIE ROGERS (Milwaukee, WI '78-'79, '81-'85) and Cabin 3 – 1982 campers!

NATICA “NICCI” RICHARDSON Prentice (Bemidji, MN '43-'45, '47-'49) welcomes contact with other Kamaji alumnae who attended camp in the 1940s. You can email her at neknee@comcast.net.

BARBARA BAUMGARTNER Brewer (Shawnee Mission, KS '59-'63) is looking for Marta List (Ottumwa, IA).

RUTH GREENER Blum (Crystal Lake, IL '49-'55) is looking for Jane Houlton ('49-'51), Bobby Peterson ('49-'51) and Sally Muir ('49).

CARA TOWEY Brull (Minneapolis, MN '79-'80) is looking for Dana Olson ('79-'80) and Ann Thompson ('80).

MARY ANN “Giff” GIFFORD Pervier (Minneapolis, MN/Houston, TX '43-'50) looking to connect with other Kamaji alum currently living in New England area. Please contact her at 30 Montclaire Drive, Worcester, MA 01609-1511 (phone: 508.756.5253).

If anyone knows the whereabouts of any of the 348 missing Kamaji alumnae!! Thanks again!

P.S. Please review the list of LOST ALUM (appearing on Page 16) and do email kathy@kamaji.com if you know the whereabouts of any of the 348 missing Kamaji Alumnae!! Thanks again!

CAMP FOR ALL KIDS

Recent Kamaji Alumnae Contributors (including family members) to Camp for All Kids include: BEV WALTERS Piehl (St. Louis, MO '73-'86), MARY K. “TUCKY” RHEES Hazen (Tulsa, OK '58-'62), LAUREN BAER (Palm Beach Gardens, FL '90-'95), JILL PESSUS (Highland Park, IL '92-'94), HANNAH MOSCHONTZ (Valley Glen, CA '96-'05), LUCY MELCHER (Glencoe, IL '93-'97), JACKIE FISH Feiseler (Waterloo, IA 1940s), EMILY BARON (St. Louis, MO '90s), LEAH ISRAEL (Highland Park, IL '94-'06), BRANDY GRAFF (Glencoe, IL '94-'00), AMANDA BEEER (Rochester, MN '79-'89), MAGGIE WISEMAN Rogula (Fremont, NE '83-'89), SUSAN CARPENTER (St. Louis, MO '75-'82), LIZA BEARMAN (Santa Monica, CA '87,'89,'92), EMILY "SHINER" GALLOP Coen (St. Louis, MO '83-'89), MAX GLASS Highland Park, IL '90s), KAT MARTIN (Milwaukee, WI '93-'07), SHEL OVERHOLT (McPherson, KS '79-'82,'93-'99), LAUREN COBEY (Chicago, IL '92-'96), JULIE MARKOWITZ (Cleveland, OH '88-'91), ALLIE TZNBERG Rossini (St. Louis, MO '89-'91), HEIDI PADAWER (St. Louis, MO '86-'95), RISA SIEGEL (Des Moines, IA '90-'92), KARI SACHS (Apple Valley, MN '92-'91,'03,'07), SUSIE ANDERSON Wilson (Salina, KS '83-'87,'91-'94), SHARON MILLER Remis (St. Louis, MO '81-'87), DEBBIE USINGER (Milwaukee, WI 60s/70s), KARINE SAYLOR Sloan (Minneapolis, MN '82-'87), NATICA “NICCI” RICHARDSON Prentice (Bemidji, MN '43-'49).

A "Thank You" cannot even begin to adequately describe our sincerest appreciation on behalf of those campers who receive a full campership to attend a four-week residential camp program (like Kamaji’s) without the generosity of Kamaji’s campers and their families, staff members, friends and alumnae. This year Camp For All Kids will sponsor 80 camperships at five different summer camps in the Midwest. From the bottom of our hearts, we again say THANK YOU!!

If you would like to learn more about and/or donate to Camp for All Kids simply go to http://www.campforallkids.org/.

P.S. Due to a change in Executive Directorship of the CFAK Board, there was a lapse in sending us a list of those who donated to Camp For All Kids in 2005/2006/2007. If we have inadvertently not mentioned your name above and/or neglected to send you a personal thank-you note, please email kathy@kamaji.com.
As evidenced by the names above, Kamaji is still the camp of choice with several of its former campers. And this list does not even include those alum who have sent their daughters to Kamaji over the last 27 summers since we became directors. We are only too happy to provide a camping experience that is uniquely Kamaji to the daughters, grand-daughters, great grand-daughters, nieces and/or grandnieces and/or great-great grand-nieces of former campers in hopes that they will enjoy, as did their moms, grandmothers, aunts and great aunts before them, all that Kamaji has to offer.
Please take the time to read through this section!! We FOUND several missing alum who were listed in the 2006 Alumnae Newsletter thanks to the diligence of our readers!!

In past issues of the KAMAJI ALUMNAE NEWS, we have printed a listing of “Lost” alum. Several readers sent us information on the names we posted in previous newsletters; too, former campers, nonchalantly doing a “google search” of their own names, came across our “Lost” list and responded that they were FOUND!! But just as soon as we FIND someone, we LOSE another who has moved and whose forwarding address we don’t have. . .

. . .added to the likely long list of Kamaji alum whose name we never had in the first place. We continue to need your help in locating missing Kamaji alumnae. PLEASE DON’T ASSUME THAT WE KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS OF SISTERS, MOMS, GRANDMOMS, AUNTS, COUSINS, BEST CAMP FRIENDS, ETC. Look over the list below — if only to be sure that you’re not mentioned!! And should you know the whereabouts of any listed (names in parenthesis are married name of person), please go to camp’s website at www.kamaji.com where, on the Alum page link, you will find a News About Me Form (if you’re reading this on-line, click here http://www.kamaji.com/alumnae/submitinfo.html). In addition to completing the form with your own information please, where indicated list any other Kamaji alumnae with whom you’re in contact regardless of whether or not they are listed below . . OR simply email the names and addresses to me at kathy@kamaji.com. . . OR include information as an attachment to the form at the end of the newsletter.

THANKS!! Okay here goes —

Marnie Abbott, Judy Adams, Harriet Allen, Kathy Allen, Mercedes Amador, Jean Andersen, Sarah Anderson, Kate Armstrong, Sophie Auge, Emily Ayars...

Cara Baker, Marjorie Baker, Suzanne Ball, Elizabeth Barbatelli, Janie Bartholdt (Foltz), Georgie Barnes, Buffy Barnes (Nichols), Meg Batterton, Julie Beall, Debra Bean (Ciriani), Sara Behr, Laura Bell, Virginia Benedict, Joyce Benson, Patty Bergin, Gail Berry (Bevan), Bridge Binter, Deidre Bird (Kramer), Liza Bischoff, Sara Boberg, Robyn Boehmer, Brenda Boone, Mary Born, Elizabeth Braasal, Betty Bradgon, Shannon Brennan, Kay Bredenthal, Kerry Brophy, Darra Brown, Betsy Brownson, Sarah Bruce, Angie Buerkle, Joan Bulley, Joanna Butts, Tracy Byrom...

Mary Calmery (Olander), Corby Campbell (Sheilds), Sarah Canepa, Morgan Carey, Rebecca Carl, Priscilla Carter, Meryl Cawn, June Anne Chalfant, Mary Chapman, Stacy Chappell, Kate Chmaj, Jane Coburn (Alanzo), Chloe Cohen, Erin Cohen, Christelle Collins, Laura Collins, Puntie Cozad (Hunter), Carolyn Cremin, Julie Creveling, Holly Crippa, Cara Beth Crockett, Gretchen Crowe, Amelia Cullinan...

Dorothy Dailey (Brooks), Lauren Daniels, Kristie Danenhauer, Paige Davis, Sarah Davis, Allison Day, Susan Day (Charles), Ronnie Denny (Seel), Jessica Diaz, Carolyn Doerner, Barbie Douglas (Dalton)...

Barb Eagle, Buzzy Eagle (LeCluyse), Jenny Eby, Tucky Eby (Humphries), Lisa Eder, Cheryl Elliot, Jenny Ellis, Stephanie Ellis, Betty Ellis (Grindlay), Amy Epstein, Rebecca Erickson, Serene Evenstad (Warren), Brooke Everett (Hansen)...

Janet Fayman (Kernes), Laurie Fedorczyk, Darrah Feldman, Jo Ferguson, Jessica Feldman, Taryn Fisher, Melissa Foley (Covey), Jane Fothergill (Radolfie), Margie Fox, Sarah Fox, Karen Freer, Cate Frith (Denson)...

Jo Giowski, Julie Giowski, Elizabeth Glass, Amy Glassman, Becca Goldstein, Marni Goodman, Nancy Green (White), Doris Greenwood, Mildred Greenwood, Julie Grider, Sarah Grimmer, Elisabeth Grobet, Nancy Grubb (Lopez), Liz Guerrero, Maria Guerrero, Barbara Gundaker, Suzanne Gundaker, Megan Gunn...

Martha Hansen (Carlson), Kara Hansen, Sarah Hart, Margaret Hartwick, Alicia Hawkins, Mary Lee Helsey, Cindy Hayes, Joan Henley, Carol Henry (Mackey), Lisa Hering, Susie Hering, Marilyn Hirs, Susan Hippler, Susan Hirsch, Diane Hirschberg (Lea), Wendy Hodges, Kerry Hogan, Mindy Hogan, Bette Holbrook, Jane Houlton, Emily Huffman, Denise Hull, Marla Hutchinson...

Jody Jacobs, Becky Jacobson (Nutter), Marcy Jacobus, Susie Jacobus, Jean Jobe, Becca Johnson, Brooke Johnson, Jenny Johnson, Ann Jones, Patience Jones (Garrett), Betsy Jones (Schellhorn), Julie Jordan (Friedstrom), Jenny Jordan (Heitmanek)...

Jenni Kahn, “Bugs” Keller, Mary Jo Kellogg, Marge Kennedy, Alex Kierksy, Kelley Kernes, Laurie King, Jennifer Knopp, Tracy Kondla, Kim Kramer (McClung), Kathy Krause (Ferguson), Anne Kupeyan...

Ann Lackey, Marcia Lackey, Nicole LaTessa, Donna Lathrop (Fontaine), Sally Latinas (Billingsley), Barbara Laven, Tricia Lawson (Gow), Katherine Lemon, Necha Leny, Lindsey Lerner, Gerry Leveile (Seldon), Nicole Levine, Alice Lind, Marta Lister, Mary “Tat” Litton (Haukeness), Jennifer Lofgren, Magie Lowe (Francie), Teresa Lucas, Helen Lund, Betty Lyman...

Becky Macey, Eleanor Mackelian, Laura Maetzold, Stephanie Margolis, Shelly Marshall, Sunny Marshall, Andrea Martin, Carey Martin (Murphy), Susie McBride, Marion McClure, Martha McCrea, Maggie McCune, Drew McDonnell, Megan McDonough, Pat McGaw, Kelly McKinnell, Melissa McNeely (Thompson), Laura Merrick, Leslie Merrick, Melissa Merrick, Becky Mervis, Leigh Miller, Lette Miller, Patty Miller, Amanda Moore, Carol Moore, Jennifer Moore, Terri Moore, Sandy Morehead (Marshall), Lesley Moran, Karis Morris, Laura Morrissey, Sally Muir, Julie Murrow...

Laurie Nehman, Marcy Nehman, Pam Netzky, Ruth Newby (Jones)...

Susan Oehler, Carol Olson, Dana Olson, Ellen Orthwein (Reeds), ...

Pam Pannier (Lietz), Penny Pannier (Beckwith), Margaret Papen (Hollister), Karen Patterson (Kuzminskas), Jill Paulsen, Marcy Paulsen, Bobby Peterson, Corinne Phillips (Smith), Lauren Phillips, Rachel Phillips, Ida Lou Plenge, Gertrude Plummer, Jamie Porter, Julie Posey, Shania Prizant...

Judy Randall (Shealy), Kathy Redar, Anne Redinger, Mary Reeds, Nancy Robinson, Sue Rogers, Caroll Rolynes, Annie Roodhouse, Jessica Rose, Sarah Rosenberg, Cori Roth, Alison Rountree, Jade Rublein, Sam Rudolph, Danielle Rushing...

Diane Savage, Susan Savage (Hall), Kate Sawtell (DelConde), Chrissy Saylor, Sarah Scannell (Hyde), Alexis Schaeffer, Kelly Schiff, Lisa Schif, Lara Schiller, Sally Schirmer, Sarah Schroud, Sarah Schulte (Ronne), Jessica Schultz, Chloe Seals, Marcy Seelig, Wendy Seligman Siskin, Leslie Selzer, Traci Sewright, Suzanne V. Shakelford, Allison Shankman, Frissy Sharpe, Robyn Shelton (Barnes), "Shorty" Shuwacker, Debra Sill (Williams), Jodi Silver, Carolyn Simpson, Lauren Sinclair, Elizabeth Sipes, Nancy Skramstad, Carol Sloan, Nancy Sloan, Judith Smiley, Holly Smith, Kelly Smith, Martha Smith, Carol Smith (Legare), Dacia Snyder, Lindsey Specktor, Stacy Stamper, Judy Stanleyfeld (Krebs), Tracy Stanfield (Mecum), Betsy Stauffer (Leonard), Emily Steinberg, Laura Steinbrink, Dana Stephens, Brooks Stephenson, Lauren Stern, Kara Sternhell, Becky Stevens, Jennifer Stevens, Julie Strodel (Olson), Anne Sundberg, Nancy Sutherland...

Ann Thomson, Katie Touff, Kim Tracy, Kim Tuttle...

Jenny Vance, Karen Vetter, Maria Vetter, Carol Vodvarka...

Jean Wahlberg, Susie Walker (Hopkins), Louise Wallace, Jean Marie Warren, Marni Wasako, Christine Weidman, Christy Weis (Carnahan), Caroline Welles, Darragh Westrup, Emily White, Mary Whittier (Sims), Teresa Wildin (Everett), Camille Williams, Nancy Williams (Elliot), Coreen Wilson, Susie Wilson, Betsy Wilson (Baker), Coreen Wilson, Susie Wilson, Joni Wright...

Jo Yeoman, Lila York, Joanna Young, Megan Young...

Gail Zimmer, Wendy Zimmerman...
As we go to print with this -- the 18th edition of the Kamaji Alumnae News -- our country -- indeed our world -- continues on its "bipolar course" -- with both ends of the spectrum moving further and further apart. Given that it’s difficult for me to cope not only with the world but also my country so torn by strife, I can only imagine what a child’s perception and perspective must be of the world she will inherit.

Linda Goldman, the author of the highly-acclaimed book Raising our Children to be Resilient: A Guide to Helping Children Cope with Life in a Complex World, writes: "Today’s children cannot avoid a constant stream of images and accounts of frightening events. Wars, terrorist attacks, school shootings and the threat of nuclear and biological attacks are all over the radio, television and Internet. While not all of these dangers are unique to the twenty-first century, the constant presence of media images and reports exposes children to suffering and trauma in a way not experienced by earlier generations. Moreover, our increasingly fast-paced and fragmented lifestyles inevitably subject children to confusing and destabilizing events such as divorce, abandonment and change of household.

Indeed a child’s resilience grows its deepest roots in the home, nurtured by parents who incorporate healthy doses of empathy, practical optimism, respect, unconditional love, keen listening skills, and the patience to administer these values every day. Most, if not all our camper parents, are such parents.

At camp, we partner with our camper parents to not only provide this same nurturing but also to build “development assets” in Kamaji’s campers – based on support, empowerment, clear boundary-setting and intentions, constructive use of time, positive values, social competencies, and positive identity.

As partners, both Camp Kamaji and its camper parents hope to guide “our” children into a flexible and compassionate adulthood where they are empowered, confident, and true to themselves. And maybe, in our own small world at Kamaji, we can inspire and train our next generation in the consciousness and skills that nurture a healthy social life . . . not only in our homes and communities but also in our country and (here’s optimism) the world!!

And so, we leave you with this newly stated Kamaji philosophy as we close our 18th edition of the Kamaji Alumnae News. As always, our alumnae are very important to us. There is a lot of loyalty and goodwill out there which we’d very much like to keep alive. We look forward to hearing from you via email, snail mail, phone – or better yet – in person ‘neath the tall pines on the shores of Big Wolf Lake. Consider this an "open invitation" to drop by Kamaji – to retrace your footsteps . . . and relive your childhood!!

Campingly yours,

Kathy & Mike Jay

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CAMP KAMAJI -- NEWS ABOUT ME -- FORM

The following is the most up-to-date information for the Kamaji Alumnae News Database and Alumni Directory: (please print or type)

NAME:

| First | Maiden | (Camp Nickname if Applicable) | Last |

LEGAL/PERMANENT ADDRESS:

| Street | Apt. # |
| City | State | Zip Code |

HOME PHONE: ( )

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

SPOUSE’S NAME:

YEARS YOU ATTENDED KAMAJI: 19_ to ____

HOMETOWN WHILE ATTENDING KAMAJI:

City/Town, State

KAMAJI TRIBE:

☐ Please keep me on Kamaji’s mailing list!!

☐ Please email me future mailings to: ________________________________

☐ Please snail mail future mailings to my permanent address above.

☐ I am not interested in receiving mail from Kamaji.

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PLEASE MAIL TO:

Before June 1st or after September 15th: CAMP KAMAJI, Attn: Kathy Jay, 7436 Byron Place, St. Louis, MO 63105

Between June 1st and September 15th: CAMP KAMAJI, Attn: Kathy Jay, 32054 Wolf Lake Road, Cass Lake, MN 56633