

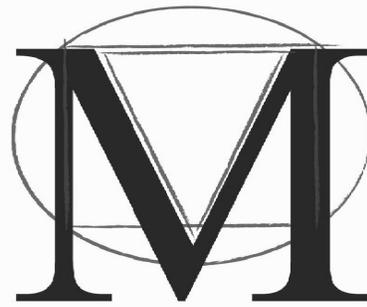
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Thanks To: Perry La Roque, Brian Siegel, Hillary Lobenstein, and Jen Feltz

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MINIKANI  
ALUMNI  
COMMUNITY  
*I'm comin' home to you...*

# NEWSLETTER



Welcome to a New Year. 2013 is already shaping up to be a great year for the MAC. We hope you will find something you like that will keep you connected to Minikani and all of your alumni friends.

◆ We will start off the year with the very popular "**Dinner Around the World**" on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Actually it doesn't have to be dinner, but it's a great excuse to have a shared experience with alumni in your own geographical area. (See the article on page 3).

◆ This year's "**Spring Workday at Camp**" is going to be a little different. On Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, Minikani needs our help getting things ready for the spring school sessions. Individuals and families will have a chance to help camp, along with a special Sunday morning invitation. (See the article on page 3)

◆ Although we don't have the actual date yet, you'll be invited to return to camp early in the summer

for "**Staff Training**", when you'll have a chance to share some of your camp experiences and skills with the summer staff of '13.

◆ The **Minikani Museum** will officially open the Summer of 2014, but that means we've got to start getting things together this summer. (See the article on page 3.)

◆ It's never too early to start making plans for the "**Alumni Weekend**" at Minikani on August 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. Held every other year, this year's weekend will give you a chance to spend a fun day or two at camp with old friends and new.

◆ We'll finish the year with our annual **Fundraiser** in December. This gives you a chance to get together and raise some money for our Campership Fund.

As an alumni group, we want to give you all the opportunities you need to keep connected to Minikani. Hopefully this will happen in 2013.

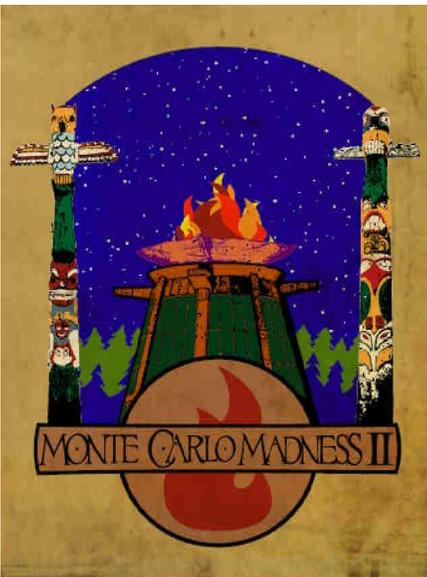




## “Monte Carlo Madness II”

Our annual festive fundraiser was held on December 22, 2012 at Potawatomi Casino. This year we raised enough money to send 5.6 children to camp! Alumni and friends donated \$3,908.04 to our Campership Fund. One alumnus donated \$700 alone; this covers the cost for one camper for one week of overnight camp. Our silent auction included lots of great items; we raised \$2,722.57 from 35 silent auction items.

Ethel’s hash, Choco Tacos, cinnamon toast, mock chicken, and other favorite camp classics were not served; instead, alumni and friends noshed on vegetable crudités, tomato bruschetta, chips and salsa, pizza, and small sandwiches. Sixty three alumni and friends attended the event. We hope everyone had a wonderful time; moreover, we hope you can join us for our fundraiser in 2013.



To insure that next year’s fundraiser is a success, please start thinking of Silent Auction items you would be able to donate to the cause. Items, Services, Memberships, Tickets, and Artwork are just a few of the suggestions. A big ‘thank you’ to this year’s Auction donors:

- Anonymous
- Mary Kate Steinmiller
- John Meyer
- Phil Edwards
- Hillary Loebenstein
- Barbara Quilling
- Evann & Ryan Derus
- Scott & Diane Roeker
- Jen Feltz/Minikani
- Kevin Wright
- Hilary Hendrickson
- Hasbrook & Dickson Families
- Beth Heimerl Slayton
- Michael Auda
- Matt Sullivan
- Nicki Rust
- Christyl Uhan
- Steinmiller Family
- David Kwasny
- Ben Krejci

The MAC is a registered 501(c) 3 Not-For-Profit Organization.

## Your Newsletter

Do you have a favorite camp memory? (Actually, who doesn’t?) Maybe a better question would be, “Do you have a favorite camp memory that you could share with other Alumni?” If you can answer “Yes” to that question, then the Newsletter wants to hear from you. Other questions you may be able to answer “Yes” to are: “Do you know an Alumnus who we can ‘Spotlight’ in a future edition?” “Do you have questions about camp that we can research?” and “Can you suggest a future topic for the Newsletter?” You get the idea. This is your Newsletter – feel free to make a contribution. Send your email to [minikanistafflodge@gmail.com](mailto:minikanistafflodge@gmail.com).



## Alumni Business

**Please update your address changes.** If you get a new email address, move to a new address, or change your name, please let us know so we can still communicate with you. It’s very easy to do. Simply go to our website and click on “Contact Us”. Another click and you will open up an email to us ([minikanistafflodge@gmail.com](mailto:minikanistafflodge@gmail.com)) and you can send us your new address(es). Thank you.



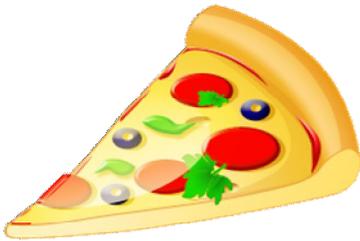
## Check Out These Websites

**[www.minikanistafflodge.com](http://www.minikanistafflodge.com)**  
This is the main site for the Minikani Alumni Community.

**[www.minikani.org](http://www.minikani.org)**  
This is the official web site of YMCA Camp Minikani. You can get information on dates for summer camp, check out Minikani’s blog, and enjoy a collection of Alumni Photos.

## Dinner Around the World

We will be hosting the 3rd Annual Camp Dinner Around the World on Saturday, March 2nd. This annual tradition brings together alumni from around the world to reminisce and reconnect. In the past two years, we have had dinners in over 25 cities across 5 countries. We are still looking for hosts. If you want to host, you will only need to provide the venue and help to reach out to alums in the area.



Hosts in the past have had pot lucks, met at restaurants, ordered pizza, or even made favorite camp food. Even if you don't think any alumni live near you, we still want you to host. If there isn't a camp dinner in your area, you can still participate with family and/or friends. In fact, Bradley "Zing" Herzing hosted a camp dinner in Austin, Texas for all of his friends, displayed his Minikani memorabilia, and even had everyone wash his car (inside joke from the '90's).

So please, save the date and host a dinner, attend a dinner, or save the night to remember how it felt to realize that staff training was only three months away. Stay tuned for dinner locations. Contact [perrylaroque@hotmail.com](mailto:perrylaroque@hotmail.com) if you are interested in hosting.



## Spring Work Project at Camp

Calling all alumni and friends! Our annual work project has been set for Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>! Camp needs our help to get the facilities ready for the first school groups of the spring season. We will also be helping construct a few new games and structures for the upcoming summer.

This year we have many different types of work projects for all different types of workers. We will have work projects that are "kid friendly" as we construct outdoor learning and play areas. There will also be work projects that require power tools and construction. Our goal this year is to accommodate all individuals and families to participate so that we can all have a part in getting Minikani ready for hundreds of campers this summer.

In addition, camp has graciously donated tickets to all work project volunteers to attend Maplefest on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Not only can you give back to Minikani, you can return the next day to eat as many



pancakes as you possibly can! Please watch out for more details about specific projects for the day as well as an official invitation to the event. We look forward to seeing all of you out at camp on April 27<sup>th</sup> for what's guaranteed to be beautiful weather\*. Please contact Brian Siegel ([blsiegel@gmail.com](mailto:blsiegel@gmail.com)) if you have any questions leading up to the work project date.



\*Definitions of "beautiful weather" may vary between individuals.



## Minikani Museum

The Minikani Alumni Board will open the Minikani Museum on the grounds of Camp Minikani. We are in need of incredible camp memorabilia, t-shirts, relics, paddles, and items from your Minikani years. We are excited to open up the Minikani Museum as part of the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary (in 2014) and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary (in 2019). If you have items or questions, please contact me—Hillary Phelps Lobenstein—at [hillary.lobenstein@gmail.com](mailto:hillary.lobenstein@gmail.com) or 920-285-0452. You can also send your items to Hillary Phelps Lobenstein, 1169 Gas Light Drive, Sun Prairie, WI, 53590. Or bring your items to the alumni weekend at camp in August! I will be there collecting items for the Minikani Museum.



## Raggers' Creed

A while back some alumni were surprised to hear the words of the "Raggers' Creed" spoken on an old TV program – The Twilight Zone. Although most of us think of the Raggers Program when we hear those words, it wasn't always so.

On January 1, 1907, Howard Walter sent a poem he had written to his mother as a holiday greeting. She treasured it so much she shared it with others, and it was published that May in the popular magazine Harper's Bazaar. Titled "My Creed", it was eventually set to music and became the traditional Christian hymn "I Would Be True", the spirit of which is applicable to good-hearted persons of all faiths.

Born in 1883, Howard A. Walter graduated with honors from Princeton University in 1905. He continued his studies in Scotland and Germany, and spent some time teaching English in Japan. It was during that time that he wrote "My Creed". He later returned to the US, married, and then in 1913 joined the staff of the YMCA for India and Sri Lanka, doing evangelistic work with Muslim students in a part of India that is now Pakistan. He died there at the age of 35 in 1918, a victim of the great influenza epidemic.

No one is quite sure when this poem became associated with Raggers. We know that the Raggers Program was started in 1914 (soon to celebrate its 100th anniversary) and Thomas Caldwell, its founder, may have been familiar with the poem or the hymn. It had been set to music in 1911 by one of Walter's friends, Joseph Peek.



Whatever the case, it became the basis of the Raggers' Creed, reminding raggers everywhere to set and obtain high goals for themselves. "His credo lives on in the numerous lives of those who have since sung this hymn and realized anew that God is more interested in what we are as a person than even what we may do for Him. In an environment today that can easily corrupt even the purest of minds, how important it is that we seek God's daily help to live a life that is true." – K.W. Osbeck (1990).



### "Ragger's Creed"

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
 I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
 I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;  
 I would be brave, for there is much to dare.  
 I would be friend to all – the foe, the friendless;  
 I would be giving, and forget the gift;  
 I would be humble, for I know my weakness;  
 I would look up, and laugh, and love and lift.



## Minikani News

The "Minikani 100" project is a Master Site Plan that 1) supports camp's outstanding overnight summer camp program and 2) meets the facility needs required to reach that goal. The hope is that this vision will come to life and be fully funded by the time we celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2019. The projects encompassed in the plan include:

- ◆ Renovation of the current Dining Hall and Swimming Pool.
- ◆ Completion of the Halquist Family Lodge East Wing.
- ◆ Address downtown camp (b-ball court area) and upper parking lot to determine options for more natural gathering spaces.
- ◆ Renovation of all KYBOs, including addition of boys facilities on the Hill.
- ◆ Chapel and Waterfront Reinvigoration Plan.
- ◆ Expansion of the Equestrian Center for therapeutic riding programs.
- ◆ Relocation of the maintenance shop to the west side of camp.
- ◆ Significant growth in endowment to provide for the future of Minikani.

This list is only a brief summary of the items. For more information about the Minikani 100, go to our website and click on the tab "Events". Or better yet, if you have questions, comments or concerns that you would like to share, or if you think they've missed something on the project list, please contact Jen Feltz directly at 262-251-9080 or [jfeltz@ymcamke.org](mailto:jfeltz@ymcamke.org). She would love to hear from you!



# Nature Notes

By Bruce

## Winter Nature Hike

I have fond memories of the Winter Camps of the 70's and 80's. Every night we had a campfire with songs and skits. We also had dances and 16 mm rented films, usually from Disney. During the day we played Bingo for prizes and went swimming in a nearby pool. If there was snow on the ground (about 50% of the time) we would sled, saucer, and toboggan for hours down big steep hills – Explorer Hill (on to Mud Lake), Carter Wells (with permission) and Skunk Hill (across a frozen Amy Belle). But, if there wasn't any snow, we organized "Clubs". Counselors would plan an activity that kids went to – 3 choices in 3 hours, just like skills in the summer. There was 'Broom Hockey' on the lake, the obligatory 'Capture the Flag' in Pine Forest, and some quieter, indoor activities like 'Board Games' and 'Massaging 101'. For me, the choice was always an easy one – 'Winter Nature Hike'.



I would take a group of kids out on Minikani's Trails to see what

we could find in winter. Here are some of the things we discovered:

1) Without leaves on the trees, the geography of camp was easier to see. You could look across Explorer Hill to Indian Hill and appreciate all the dips and valleys. Places around camp became closer and more intimate.

2) Taking a close-up look at things resulted in new discoveries. The patterns on the bark of a tree, a forgotten bird's nest, and twigs with tight buds carrying a promise of new spring leaves, stones in a path showing colors not seen before, and galls on plants bobbing in the wind were just a few.



3) Even a visit to Pine Forest during the winter was different than being there in the summer. If there was no Capture the Flag going on, we would gently lie down on the soft needles and watch the tops of the trees sway with the wind. On a windy day it could be very unsettling!

4) With less color all around us, our other senses seemed to expand. We heard the sounds of winter birds, the cracking ice on the lakes, and the howling of a wind that would suddenly disappear, leaving a loud statement of silence. The smell of pine needles and the taste of a highbush cranberry always brought back summer memories.

5) Where were the animals? Animal tracks in the mud, a feather, a tuft of fur, and possibly a cocoon were all you could find of the missing animals. Chipmunks and woodchucks were deep in hibernation, and some birds and butterflies had left for warmer climates. Frogs and turtles had found a safe place, deep in Mud Lake's namesake bottom. But other animals were still around, just harder to find. Skunks, squirrels, raccoons, deer, rabbits and mice all stay active in the winter, although a cold snap would encourage them to lay low.



6) What about the winter sky at night? Without clouds, the bright "Snow Moon" easily showed us the path, and Orion "The Hunter" was just as easy to find in the sky.

For me, winter hikes at Minikani are now just memories. But I still enjoy getting outside on a cold, clear winter's day for a hike. Next time you get a chance, you can take your own Winter Nature Hike. It won't be the same as hiking Minikani's trails, but a nearby park or hiking trail will provide an interesting time. Nature activities are simplified in winter, so it's a great time to go outside and have yourself a Nature Experience, where ever you live.

