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NEWSLETTER



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Thanks To: Rachael Shaff and Kristin Hasbrook

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A New Year is upon us. Just like you, the MAC likes to take this opportunity to remember the past year and also look forward to the future. Please remember: Our goal is to keep you up to date on what's happening at Minikani as well as keeping you connected with the people and the place you hold so dearly in your heart.

**"Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right."
Oprah Winfrey**

2017 gave us a very popular Dinner Around the World, a Service Day and BBQ where we made a few improvements to camp, June Staff Training, Raggars, a Staff Pizza Party, our Alumni Reunion weekend at camp and most recently the Holiday Party. We learned about changes in program, staff, and facilities at camp. It was a great year.

2018 gives us the promise of more opportunities to visit Minikani and to get together with alumni. Please keep in touch with us and help us as we plan activities and events that will keep you coming home to Minikani, both physically and in spirit.

Use our Facebook group, website, and email contacts to follow MAC's progress this year. Tell us what you like and don't like and help us come up with new ways to meet our goals.

Together in body, mind and spirit, we will resolve to make this year the best ever for the Alumni Community, and to keep you connected to your summer homeland.



Camp Welcome

Willkommen, Bienvenue, Aloha, Shalom – Any way you say it, it means “Welcome”. Next time you drive into Minikani, you’ll be in for a real treat.

Construction of the sign was completed late last fall. The sign was made possible by two extremely generous gifts, one from the Gary Katz Foundation, Inc., in memory of their son, Gary, who was a camper in the 1960s. The second gift was from Aluma Jen Peterson Hogervorst to honor her late father and best friend, Sally Willett Shea. Sally was a counselor in the 90s. Sally is very excited to come and see the sign in person.

The utility poles were donated by WE Energies. The “Camp Minikani” lettering that will be installed will be constructed by world-renowned wood furniture craftsmen, La Lune. David J. Frank Landscape Contracting was hired to construct the sign.



New Logo

Here is the patch showing the new Heritage Logo for the celebration of the 100th Anniversary and beyond.



Great Camp Video

Want a quick trip back home to Minikani? Check out this incredible video created, shot, and edited by Leadership Training Director Oliver Wierdsma this past summer.

<https://youtu.be/JYnaI-1NK8M>



Registration Link

Notice to alumni with kids going to Minikani: Thanks to AJ, Rachael, and Tracy in the camp office, prospective campers have a new web-based system for registration.

To make things easier, camp steps into the 21st century with state-of-the-art online registration. Sure, you can call camp and have the staff help you with registration, but one click to <https://minikani.campbrainregistration.com>, followed by your email address and password, and you’re ready to register.

Minikani Ask

Hello Alumni -

I know we all have experienced first-hand the benefits of camp, so I'm not going to try and convince you to donate - I know you already want to. Together the alumni can raise \$50,000 each year for scholarships. This will almost double the amount of kids that we can help attend camp. It's pretty simple - I'm asking you to donate \$100 per year. You can auto-pay in quarterly installments of 25 bucks.

That's it. I hope you do so today. Click below and choose "Minikani" from the drop-down menu. 100% of all funds are spent directly at Minikani. Let's all keep spreading the Minikani Spirit.

Jon F. McLaren

www.ymcamke.org/forabetterus



Winter Camp '17

What a way to bring 2017 to a close. Winter Camp went really well this year. With Equestrian and Traditional campers combined, about 70 kids participated in a lot of fun activities and bonded very well with their cabins in just four days. One of the highlights of the camp was spending a day at Sunburst Ski Area in Kewaskum, WI.



Fox6Now featured this story about Winter Camp:

Haley Solati and her sister Maddie are identical twins, with an equal love for the high-speed action on the tubing hill. "The tubing is amazing," said Haley, who is in sixth grade. "It's really fun and you get snow in your face and you spin around."

The girls were two of about 70 kids from YMCA Camp Minikani's Winter Camp braving single-digit temperatures on Thursday morning, December 28th. "We do a lot of breaks inside," Summer Camp Director Peter Drews said with a smile. "And a lot of hot chocolate."



"In summertime, you can swim in the lake," Drews explained. "You can shoot bows and arrows, all these classic activities, but I think Winter Camp is all about creativity." That includes everything from snowshoeing and skiing to building forts made of mattresses.

"This is like, the second day, and the boys in my cabin have already bonded so well, which is awesome," said counselor Nick Urban.

The Solati sisters would agree. They attended Camp Minikani's summer program before, but got their first taste of the winter version Thursday. "You get to stay in a giant lodge instead of the cabins outside," said Maddie. "The meals are really good. You just have a lot of fun and you make a lot of friends." A pretty cool way to spend your winter break!



Creed of the Red Ragers

"We believe the best and happiest life is the one spent not for self, but for others.

With this for our ideal, we pledge our hearty loyalty to the principles of the Red Rag.

We will be earnest seekers after the truth.

We will be friends not only to each other but to all, and we will do our utmost to advance in true humanity.

We will stand everywhere and always for purity and righteousness."




Holiday Party '17



MAC's Holiday Party this year was a great success. Almost 100 people enjoyed getting together and celebrating Minikani. Here are some of the comments from the party:

◆ Karen (Mead) Steen: Thanks to everyone who organized a really fun evening last night! The Myles Hayes trio was excellent! My husband and I loved the venue and meeting all of the young staff.



◆ Ryan Derus: We had a great turnout at the Minikani Alumni Community Holiday Party. Thank you to all that attended! An extra big thank you to Nina Darling and Shully's Cuisine and Events for the food, Myles Hayes Trio for the live music and Kevin Wright, Andy Gehl and Third Space Brewing for the amazing venue and beer!

◆ Andy Gehl: Thank you to everyone who came out to Third Space Brewing for the party and especially those who drank Acres Edge for the kids. You consumed 56 pints of Acres Edge! We will be rounding the total up to \$250 to give to Minikani for camperships, which will be matched by our good friends at Mansfield Hall. So all in you helped raise \$500 for the kids! Thanks again and Happy New Year!



“Dinner Around the World” Saturday March 3, 2018

Yes, Alumni, it's that time again. Dinner Around the World (DAW) 2018 is just around the corner – Saturday March 3, 2018. Make sure you get the date on your calendar ASAP.

Most of you already know the drill – DAW is a chance for MAC to get together and enjoy their Minikani experiences. In the past we've had anywhere from 1 to 32 people gather for pot-lucks, drinks, lunch, fireplace-campfires, camp songfests, over-all Minikani reminiscing and, appropriately



enough, dinner. Last year the Dinner covered from Seattle to New York and Minnesota to Florida. Hopefully this year we'll cover that again and be able to reach out beyond the continental US.

It's really easy to “host” a dinner in your part of the world. Once you decide on the event you'd like to sponsor, simply contact Jen (Peterson) Hogervorst (jenphogervorst@gmail.com) for the names and email addresses of other alumni in your neck of the woods that you can invite.



New this year for DAW is an invitation to a “Destination Dinner”. You've probably heard of a “Destination Wedding”, well this is a similar thing.

Interested Minikani alumni are invited to join the Dinner in Las Vegas. How about planning a long weekend in Vegas including a get together with other Minikani alumni? For more information (and help with travel plans and reservations) contact Bruce at brucerass@gmail.com.



SpotLight On Alumni

Kristin LaRoque Hasbrook

Kristin’s history at Minikani goes way back. In 1966 when she was born her dad, Lloyd, was the Program Director. She had a special connection to camp – living and growing up on Lake Amy Belle (her favorite place at camp) was part of it. The other part came from the fact that her family ate their meals at camp. She



remembers that when the bugles blew they had to get on their bikes and head over for meal time.

She couldn’t actually ‘participate’ in camp until she was old enough to become a two-week camper. She describes this childhood connection to camp as being “The Best”.

In 1972 she was in the very 1st Mini-Kamp session ever. She must have liked being at Minikani, because she then became a camper, explorer, LT, Counselor, LT Director (with now husband Steve),

Craft’s Director, and then, to bring her whole camp experience full circle, she was the Mini-Kamp Director her final summer at camp in 2002. Today she sits on the Minikani Board of Directors.

It’s difficult to think of Kristin at Minikani without thinking of her whole family. Her mother, Cindy, ran the store during the summer and taught at the Pre-school “Tot Time” for many years. Her two brothers, Sean and Perry, followed her footsteps and had long camp careers. She met her husband, Steve, at camp and describes it as “One of my fondest memories from camp.” (Both of her brothers met their spouses at Minikani too.)

The family tradition continues. Today Keegan, who finished his 2nd year as Explorer Director, is 22 and working in a marketing agency in Madison. Kellie, an LT III last summer, is going to UW Madison next year. Shannon, an LT I last summer, is a senior at Germantown. Shane would have been 20 years old.

One of her favorite times at Minikani included having her kids with her at Mini-Kamp from 1998-2002. She had Kellie running

around crazy, Keegan as a Mini-Kamper (definitely the camp brat) and Shannon in a backpack on her back. On the day Shannon was born she actually did Mini-Kamp and then went into labor. :)



Kristin at Staff Training Kettle Woods 1983

Today Kristin is a Counselor and Parent Consultant at Hamilton High School. She says working at Minikani helped her in her career because “being at camp was such hard work and yet the expectation was that you stayed happy no matter what...and this has transferred into my job.” Given a chance to re-live her years at Minikani, she would “realize that the real world never gets better than camp.” Amen.



Nature Notes

By Bruce

Groundhog Day occurs every February 2nd. Made popular by the 1993 movie of the same name, it gives people an opportunity to get a prediction of future weather based on the behavior of the groundhog. The earliest mention of the day was written by a journalist living in Pennsylvania's Dutch country in 1840.

In the 1880's Groundhog Day celebrations were held by the Punxsutawney Pennsylvania Elks Lodge. Some believe that the day originated as Candlemas Day, which marks the 40th day after Christmas. A sunny Candlemas Day meant cold weather ahead. The ancient Romans burned candles to mark this day (hence the name) to appease the god Februs, the mother of Mars, who was the god of war and also the god of growing things (talk about multi-tasking!).

The Scots had a saying, "If Candlemas is fair and clear, there will be 2 winters in the year." In England, people relied on badgers and otters to predict their coming weather on Candlemas Day. Early English colonists mistook the native herbivorous woodchucks for badgers, which were often called groundhogs in England.



To confuse things even more, the word 'woodchuck' comes from the Native American word 'wuchak' or 'wejac' which meant a fisher, a woodland relative of the weasel. Confusing? Don't worry. In the US today, the names 'groundhog' and 'woodchuck' are completely interchangeable.



Groundhogs at Minikani? You bet. Popular burrowing sites over the years have been the various ranges and corral sites, with the large field at the southeast corner of camp offering your best chances of a groundhog sighting.

Punxsutawney Phil has seen his shadow 87% of the time in the past 121 years, causing him to retreat into his burrow and predict 6 more weeks of winter. But Weather Bureau statistics show that he has been right only 39% of the time. Considering the critter has a 50/50 chance of being correct, one might expect better accuracy. Maybe this year they should leave the little guy alone and just flip a coin.



Keeping in Touch with the MAC

Email
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Website
www.minikanistafflodge.com

Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/28911858611>

Nature Update

Could ultraviolet light be the magic bullet that saves bats from a deadly fungus?

In the May 2014 "Nature Notes" we told you about **whitenose syndrome**, a condition that is affecting and killing Wisconsin bats.

The fungus causes a hibernating bat to wake up and fly around, using up all its stored fat. It is usually fatal, but poses no threats to humans, pets, livestock or other wildlife. It has killed more than 6 million bats in 31 states.

A researcher at the U.S. Forest Service in Madison is experimenting with the use of UV light to control the disease fungus. In the future, this research could lead to refinements in the technology, such as placing rings of invisible UV light where bats hibernate to zap the fungus.

Let's keep our fingers crossed for the bats, which in Wisconsin alone provided an annual economic benefit ranging between \$658 million and \$1.5 billion.