



AMUUSE NEWS

DECEMBER 2011



A Note From Your President

Happy Holiday Season to all of you! Christmas lights are looped over tree branches and hang from the eaves of houses.

Hot chocolate loaded with marshmallows and whipped cream is the drink of the day. The air is cold, but snow has not touched central Ohio, yet. If I were spending my Christmas in Durango, Colorado as I have in past years, I would be buried in snow and sunshine. Instead, I am here in the Midwest with cloudy skies and rain. I will not let it dampen my spirits, however. I am keeping warm, enjoying the sunny days we do have, doing bead work, knitting and looking forward to a new year of AMUUSE weekends and camps.

The 2011 camp season was exciting. June's Fifties camp was great fun with our sock hop, games and root beer floats. The water was cool, but the beach was still a favorite area for many campers. August Hobo camp had phenomenal weather- not too hot for a change! Dance was hopping, the costumes and decor at the party was great- thanks to Donna, David S. and Kathe for the creative ideas. I never know Hobo's had a Code of Conduct!

This summer also brought 19 new campers into the AMUUSE family. It is wonderful to get the opportunity to meet so many great people from all over the country and we look forward to seeing them again at our weekends and next year. They came to us with special talents, ideas, friendliness and smiles. They help us to expand and renew the spirit of AMUUSE. Welcome again, new campers!

This past October, the Board approved adding a camp in July at a new location. Suggested by

Chris Creek, Kettunen Center is located in Tustin, Michigan. The camp will be small this year, we have room for a little more than thirty, but if the camp is popular, we can try for more space in the future.

The Board also decided to keep camp costs for Saugatuck at the same rates as last year, but the July camp will be more expensive. With the expense comes air conditioning and buffet style meals and a bit more polish for those of you who like things like that.

The Board is also working to streamline the registration process by having advance registration for morning groups. This will allow us more options for groups. For example you could have a book discussion group where you could prepare by reading the book before camp. in a couple of ways. We are also hoping to be able to have you register online without having to print the form and send it in.

I feel that we had a good year last year, and it seems that the AMUUSE SPIRIT is strong. In addition to the AMUUSE sponsored weekends, campers have been keeping in touch and getting together on weekends in various locales. Craig Harvey helped August campers remember the good times at camp by making a dvd of the camp show and providing it to campers at a low cost. The online scrabblers are still going strong and the crafters are as well. I hope you have made good use of your memory books and called or emailed those friends you spent time with at camp. If you haven't made it to camp recently, I hope we will see you this summer or at a weekend, soon. For now, I'll hold you in my heart, my friend.

Hugs, Gwen

AMUUSE NEEDS (AND WANTS) YOU!

AMUUSE offers a variety of opportunities. As a member of this organization, you can do things you never thought possible. For instance, have you ever considered running a morning group? We get suggestions from campers of groups they would like to see, but we need facilitators! If you have come to AMUUSE for a few years, you probably understand the basic workings of a morning group. If you are interested in leading a group, you can get some mentoring from former morning group leaders to help set up a weekly schedule. Some ideas that have been suggested for new morning groups are **singing, learning and practicing healing techniques, bird watching and identification, yoga, sports or active outdoor group, drama, outdoor art class- drawing and painting, topical discussion group- political, on a book or books, pre-retirement, meditation** . If you have any expertise, skill, or interest in these areas, contact your camp rep and let him/her know you are considering leading a morning group. If you aren't sure if you are ready yet, you have a couple of options to get prepared. You could lead a one day morning group at a weekend or lead an afternoon activity at a camp.

You might like to step up and become a camp director! Being a camp director is a very rewarding experience, and AMUUSE really values the work the camp director does. As a director, you will be provided with a handbook (newly updated!) to help you through the process of getting a camp organized. You can also be mentored by former directors. This job requires organizational skills, but some creativity helps. As the director you will select a staff that can help with ideas.

Without volunteers to direct and lead morning groups and work on staff, AMUUSE would not exist. It is the hard work and dedication to the program by people willing to take a chance and share their talents that has brought happiness and a sense of belonging to so many people. Contact your camp reps or this year's camp directors to let them know you want to help out.



Save these Dates

March 16-18
Saugatuck* \$145

May 4-6
Yellow Springs \$70

June 17-23
Saugatuck* \$510

July 8-14
Kettunen Center \$525

August 5-11
Saugatuck* \$510

Nov. 9-11
Saugatuck * TBD

*Saug dates not confirmed
until 90 days before date.

Annual Meeting 2011

The Annual Meeting of the AMUUSE Board was held on Oct. 1, 2011 at Brentwood at Elkhart in Elkhart, Indiana. Gwen Valore was reelected as AMUUSE President for a two year term and Camp Reps Joanne Lagattolla, June, Richard Nowowiejski, August and Jill Murphy, At-Large were installed. Reports by the Treasurer, President and Camp Directors were filed and the Camp Reps made their reports. June reports focused on the new Camper Covenant written following June camp and having morning groups sign-ups before camp. August reports discussed recruiting practices and the At-Large report echoed recruitment and advertising. The Board discussed the importance of following up with campers following camp and discussed the idea of "adopting a newbie." The weekend reports were received and noted that Yellow Springs attendance was up this year.

Saugatuck- August 7-13

Director, Raoul Iacono

On their way to the National Hobo convention in Britt, Iowa, 66 hobo campers decided to stop off at Saugatuck to attend the AMUUSE August camp. Along the way, 1 new camper joined the trek. Even my brother, Blenda Bubba George drove up from Florida for the event. The weather was perfect, we sang on the Gazebo, danced at Elm, had a campfire on the beach, had vespers at the outside chapel and attended some wonderful morning groups. Thanks to a wonderful staff and for all those who attended. See you next camp,

Hugs, Raoul

Camp dates were announced for next year. It was noted that confirmation of dates at Saugatuck will be tentative and not confirmed until ninety days before the event. The Board also agreed to hold a camp this year in July at Kettunen Conference Center in Tustin, Michigan if the camp was deemed suitable by a committee of Board Members who would visit it on Oct. 30.

Raoul Iacono stressed the importance of advertising and getting our name out by speaking to singles' groups in each person's area. Kathe Merritt brought up the idea that AMUUSE can be advertised as a good value for a week vacation. Other ideas to get out the word about AMUUSE are to strengthen the web-site and keep it updated, use Facebook and twitter, get articles in various UU District Communications, have some kind of presence at UU General Assembly and have promotional cups and/or t-shirts. Finally Joanne Lagattolla emphasized that if we wish to market the group to younger singles it will be important to have morning groups and activities relevant to them.



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Summer Camps 2012

Saug in June

Back to Bedrock- Rosie Beymer, Director

June 17 - 23, 2012

Note: Dates are not confirmed

For more information about the 2012 camp contact
Rosie Beymer 2012 Director

August at Kettunen Center

Tustin, Michigan

Simplicity - Gwen Valore, Director

July 8 - 14, 2012

Confirmed

Summer is the time to relax and make your life easy. It is time to enjoy your surroundings and your friends. It is a time of simplicity, a chance to get away from it all! Come to a place where we are all new comers, Kettunen Center, and spend an exciting week getting to know new surroundings and making new friends. The Center sports a lake with a waterfront and acres of woods as well as a workout room and lots of good food. Here you can really get away from it all.

We will have the traditional costume party called "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." You can reuse former costumes or make yours out of reusable outfits! Start preparing your songs and writings for coffee house and camp show. Prepare to have fun and enjoy the simple things in life.

2012 Morning Groups

Nature- Lary Wasserman
Listening- Joanne Lagattolla
More to come...

For more information about the 2012 camp contact
Gwen Valore, 2012 director
gwencody@hotmail.com
740-363-4630

Saug in Aug.

August 5 - 11, 2011

Note: Dates not confirmed

STOP THE PRESSES at AMUUSE! - Sheldon Beck, Director

If you're tired of meeting deadlines, and your nerves are a jumble, come to the sandy shores of Lake Michigan where there's never a cross word to be heard.

You'll spend sunny days on the beach doing a little investigative digging, sure to scoop the competition. At night, you'll enjoy sports and entertainment. And in between, there's plenty of leisure living to be had.

Enquiring minds want to know : who will you be for the costume party? A cub reporter? Half of Woodward & Bernstein? Dear Abby? A memorable headline? Whatever you choose, don't forget to bring along your special "edition" - your buddy who's just dying to come to camp.

So grab your press pass, a palm pilot or a notepad or two. We'll see you in the funny pages!

2012 MORNING GROUPS:

Shall We Dance 1, 2, 3 ~~ Jane Perry

Massage ~~ Raoul Iacono

Improv ~~ Len Proctor

Growth Group ~~ Sharon Spencer

Singing ~~ Gretchen Suhre

Descriptions of the groups and additional groups will be added shortly.

For more information about the 2012 camp contact:

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