



## From the Shore...

**By: Luke Kantor, Camp Kenan Director**

After a great first year at the best job on the planet, I have been honored to continue to carry the torch into future years. I can only imagine the upcoming season as we have so many exciting things planned. This year we will be honoring our great Mother Earth and ensuring that campers understand just how amazing she is. The addition of our two 10kW Bergey Wind Turbines helps us to generate 50-60% of our own electricity. They have been working through the off season to help us save up for the immense usage during the summer. We also will be teaching renewable energy activities in solar, wind, and hydroelectricity to campers as a program.

Our large Camp garden (40'x70'), handicapped accessible lettuce trays, and bushel basket potatoes, will not only provide opportunities for campers to get their hands dirty, but early crops, hard work, and proper guidance of local farmers will lead to great

new additions to our salad bar and produce picked fresh each morning. These gardens were installed in late April during our Camp Volunteer work days, and we want to extend thanks again to everyone who attended to help us install them. Our "Great Woods" were also planted on those days. A mix of hardwood, seed bearers, and evergreens were among the 350+ trees planted on camp property.

Realistically, looking at our footprint of the camp, we can do more to reduce it... so this year, we will be actively composting our leftover food (future garden fertilizer), helping to feed local farm animals with scraps, and selling our recyclable materials to the Terracycle company (they melt the scraps down and make picnic tables, recycling bins, 3 ring binders, etc.). Money raised through our Terracycle brigades will be donated back into the campership fund, which assists us in sending kids to camp. Our rain water collectors will also provide adequate water for the garden project.



Many will be excited that we are once again bringing back "The Word On Waste" to our camp program. In this program, we analyze the volume of waste coming out of each cabin and from each table after meals.

We also will be helping out our small, furry, winged, friends by installing over 20 new bat houses! Did you

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## Countdown to GS2012

**By: Rachele Hathaway, Goosestock 2012 Chairperson**

THREE MONTHS!!!

It may seem like three months are a long time away, but once school is out and the kids are home September will be here before you know it!

Remember the sleepless nights of silk

screening, and then tie-dying your country's team t-shirts? Or painting and decorating your area of the mess hall? And who could forget the gold and bronze metal games in soccer and Newcomb!? (Those cadets always had so much energy and SPIRIT!)

"S-P-A-C-E, SPACE, SPACE CA-DETS"

The plans for this year's Goosestock

are rolling along beautifully. Our goal is to capture the spirit of the Olympiad weeks from yonder and create an experience for you and your families that will rival your fondest memories.

"We welcome you to Kenan Camp we're mighty glad you're here..."

Again this year, the Friends of Camp Kenan are asking members to pre-

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Are you ready for Goosestock: Olympiad style?



# Letter From the President

By: Mark Natemeier, Board President



Everyone loves to look at a beautiful grandfather clock, but it is not too often that we stop and look at what really makes it tick. Each clock has hundreds of moving parts that help them be both accurate and beautiful. The parts work seamlessly together to make sure

that the time is right and the chimes sound when they should. Much like that grandfather clock, the Friends of Camp Kenan organization has many moving parts that make it successful. I want to pull back the curtain and let all of you see what amazing people I have been blessed to work with this year.

Each month, at the end of our meeting, I sit for a minute in awe of what these people are able to accomplish. These former Camp Kenan staffers are giving back so much to Camp - they don't get paid, they all have jobs, other activities, and families, and they get very little publicity. But, like a Timex watch, "they take a licking and keep on ticking!"

**Adam VanDeMark, VP:** He joined the board in the Fall of 2011 and has taken over the VP responsibilities, including chairing the newly named Gilbert J. Mosher Friends of CK Campership Fund. During the past year, Adam has had to travel for weeks at a time for training with his "Top Secret" job with the Department of Defense, and he hasn't missed a board meeting! He has served our country in Iraq [2003], and is still a Gunnery Sergeant in the Marine Corp Reserves, which requires him to spend six weeks a year in Germany. On top of all of that, he got engaged to Kelly Towison last Fall and is getting married in September [not at Goosestock (GS)] of this year.

**Elizabeth (McGuire) Millen, Secretary:** I always knew her as "Tim's littler sister", but now I know her as Elizabeth the Great! Liz was part of the "rebirth" of GS 2010, and has served on the board as the Secretary since the Fall of 2010. She is flat out amazing! During this period of time she had her 3<sup>rd</sup> child [Elliott] just a month before GS2011, continued to work part-time, and has recently started her own photography business, Elizabeth Lee Millen Images (ELM Images). You can "Like" it on Facebook to get a preview of her work. Despite all of

this, Liz has been at every meeting, taking notes, and sending out the minutes. She and Lisa were the masterminds in the creation of the Torch Newsletter you are reading now. She was also instrumental in helping us make the decision to rename the Old Chapel the Michael Tobin Memorial Chapel.

**Brigid Tobin, Treasurer:** Brigid was also part of the first team that helped spawn the "rebirth of GS2010", and has served on the board since the Fall of 2010. During the two years I have worked with her she has taken a new management job at the Lockport YMCA [Business Administrator] and was engaged in the fall of 2011, and will also be getting married this September. (I am not sure what was in the water with our board members, all these Fall 2011 engagements and Fall 2012 weddings!) She is also our local connection that keeps in touch with Goose and Luke Kantor [Camp Director]. We need someone on the ground to keep in touch with Goose since he is not readily available for our online board meetings.

**Lisa (Polovick) Flaherty, CIO:** While the CIO [Chief information officer] is not a real title given by the board, it is what I call her and it is the truth. Lisa was instrumental in rebuilding the [www.friendsofcampkenan.org](http://www.friendsofcampkenan.org) website from its humble beginnings to a more functional, easy to use, professional website. If you haven't looked at it lately, please take a look today. Lisa also was "1<sup>st</sup> official" chair of GS after the "rebirth" in 2010. Which meant a lot of on the job training? She had to create almost everything from scratch including online registration, PayPal payment options, food lists, sponsor contact information, etc. GS2011 was a runaway success; she knocked the ball out of the park! Lisa also works full-time at UB and she and her husband, Kevin, just had their first child, Emma Rosemary, in late May! And, she never missed a meeting.

**Rachelle (Barends) Hathaway:** I worked with Rachelle at CK and went to college with her, so I had a good understanding of who she was, but I have still been amazed by her hard work and dedication. She joined the board in the fall of 2011 but even before that she was volunteering countless hours on the renovation of the chapel, despite just having had a baby [Robert]. She would be working at the chapel with Robert in the stroller spreading bark or holding Robert in her hands while staining the benches. We would have never gotten the chapel done for the dedication without her help. Rachelle has never shied away from a challenge, and she accepted the GS2012 chairwomen position and has been busy planning the first ever "GS Olympiad" experience. I have heard so many former staffers so excited for the 1<sup>st</sup> ever GS Olympi-

ad weekend this Fall!

**Cindy Roth:** Cindy is a swimmer, and I really like swimmers! Plus Cindy was a camper while I worked at camp in the mid-90's. Cindy was part of the "rebirth" of GS in 2010 and has served on the board since 2010. She actually worked in a Cabin at CK in 2010 during CK Olympiad week, and she still hadn't lost her touch. She has served on the board each of the last two years and also helped organize the auctions last year at GS. In addition to helping Friends of CK, she also is currently going back to school for nursing and would eventually like to work in cardiac pediatrics. But that is not it, she also works at First Niagara Bank in sales and at First Niagara Center in customer service. Yes, count them, that's 1.. 2.. jobs, plus school, and still finds time to help on the board.

**Kayleigh Fischer:** Yet another board member that would have been a camper while I was still working at CK. I am starting to feel old like Dan Doctor! I met Kayleigh during the Summer of 2010 while we were planning the "rebirth" of GS, she was the Assistant Camp Director. She was extremely helpful and enthusiastic, and was able to help us get everything set for GS2010. Since she was instrumental in setting up GS2010, she was an ideal candidate to be named to the board. She has served on the board each of the last two years, despite living many hours away from WNY. It was nice to have a current staff's prospective on the board, too. It was Kayleigh, along with Lisa, who developed the Friends of CK song book for GS2011. Copies of the song book are still available; you can purchase them online at <http://www.friendsofcampkenan.org/campstore>. She is a medical student at Stony Brook University, and despite being a full-time medical student, has still found time to help Camp Kenan. Pretty soon we will be calling her Dr. Fischer!

**Jenn Shepard:** Jenn was also a camper while I was on staff, and we are pleased to have added her to the board this year after GS2011. Jenn offered to help with the "Torch" last summer after Liz had just given birth to Elliott, and it was then the rest of the board recognized that she would be a great asset to our organization. Her professional experience and skills have enabled us to transform "The Torch" into a professional looking newsletter. She is a technical writer and trainer for Frontier Science with the International Breast Cancer Study Group. During this past year she started work on her PhD in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, and plans to become Doctor Jenn by June 2015. She has a Bachelor's from SUNY Oswego and a Master's from Capella University.

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## From the Shore...

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know that each "little brown bat" can eat up to an acre of bugs per night? Over 1,000 bugs each, per night! Maternity roosts and Bachelor pads will ensure that the mosquito population is kept at bay while we slather on less and less chemical bug repellent. The boxes will also help our friends recover from the White-nose syndrome that has been devastating populations across the Northeastern U.S.

The Kitchen has received a well needed "face lift" as well. A fresh coat of paint goes a long way. Alice is being gutted and re-done for staff comfort, and program areas are receiving much support for new materials and supplies, allowing program area directors to come up with new ways to teach traditional activities.

We are also hosting many new family, youth, and adult activities throughout the Off-Season: A youth triathlon in early June, an Olde Time Bean Dinner at the Lockport Family YMCA with Goose, a Drive Inn movie at camp, a Camper Scholarship Walk-A-Thon (June 3rd), a 100 mile Triathlon in the Fall, and many more events. These events paired with the 10 weeks of Camp Kenan Day Camp, 7 Weeks of Camp Kenan Residence Camp, Camp Happiness, Camp Hope, Campout for Cancer, and two weeks of Swim Camp lead to one full schedule!



Camp is going "green"! Come check out the changes!

I hope that if you have time this upcoming summer you can stop out to camp and say "hi", and see the amazing things we are teaching to the campers, help out at our Volunteer work days, assist as a guest referee during the OLYMPIAD week, or as we have all started "growing up", sending your own kids to camp! If you'd like to help out or visit, or have a question or twenty, please feel free to call me at [716-622-8484](tel:716-622-8484) (Camp Cell). Also, check out our updates website: [www.CampKenan.com](http://www.CampKenan.com) where we now offer Online Registration.

## TOGG Tales

By: Donald Castell

I've known TOGG since he was at Clark University and Boston College back in the late 1950's. We lived in Great Brook Valley, a low income housing complex. He had a GRA-Y program there, and when they closed the program, Goose ran the program from our house. Every two weeks we would have the meetings at different houses, and he also worked for his father who owned the Eat-more Candy and Nut Company. It was with the candy company van we went on our trips and sold Thin Mints. I remember that TOGG's family lived on the corner of King and Queen streets in Worcester, MA. He would tell us this made him "a prince of a feller". When we moved in 1959, I could no longer go to the GRA-Y club. Goose and I met again when he went up to Lockport YMCA. I took over his program at a church set up like the GRA-Y program.

I was at Camp Kenan from about 1967 until about 1974. I worked as a Senior Counselor in Cabin 5 and also was the Nature Director and ran wood shop. Several others from the Boston group were

also on camp staff – Archie Harmon, Jerry Trigiano, Rick Chaffee, and one of the Lennahan twins (at this point, I cannot remember which!). At the time, Gil Mosher was the Director of the Worcester YMCA in Worcester, MA, which is how we met him.

I can remember on one of our winter camping trips to YMCA Camp Kenan, Rick Chaffee got burned on the arm with a burning marshmallow. Goose put Vaseline the arm by a roasted marshmallow. Goose put Vaseline and cotton on it to help it heal. That night Rick had a dream of being at the carnival and eating cotton candy, which was apparent because he woke with Vaseline and cotton around his mouth. The left over marshmallows from the previous night were given to the winners of the Penny Hike. We had to flip a penny at every paved road we came to until we had flipped a total of seven times. The first group to return from the hike won the marshmallows.

### Friends of Camp Kenan Mission

To provide supplemental support for the continuation of Camp Kenan as a summer resident camp for young people.

To support the philosophy of Dr. William Rand Kenan in providing the initial foundation for Camp Kenan: "That all children may grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."

To provide for the continuing fellowship of Camp Kenan staff.



### Friends of Camp Kenan Events to Remember:

#### GOOSESTOCK »

September 7-9, 2012

Location: Camp Kenan

**Do you have a "TOGG Tale" that you would like to see appear in future issues of "The Torch"? Please e-mail [Elizabeth.Millen@friendsofcampkenan.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Millen@friendsofcampkenan.org) with yours today!**

# Throwing a Chip on the Fire

By: Brian Kalls

On a summer day in 2010, my wife Valerie and I rode our bikes from Lockport, NY to Camp Kenan. It had been many years since I last came down the driveway at 8571 Lower Lake Road. During our ride there, we took our time enjoying the sights, the sounds, and most of all, the fresh country air. It was dark by the time we arrived. We rushed through the night air down the decline of the driveway, which in the past had always made me feel like I was going twice as fast as I really was when traveling in on two wheels.

We stepped down off our bikes and walked across the cabin line towards the Infirmary, where I saw lights on. My mind began racing back through time as I passed Cabin 9, the cabin where I spent some of the most memorable summers of my life as a camper.

I had received a text from Mark Natemeier earlier that day telling me to come down to Camp that evening. At first I was hesitant. I had kept in touch with Mark over the years, but it had been so long since I was last at Camp that I didn't know what to expect. My life had been so far removed from Camp Kenan, and I was worried that it might seem foreign to me. After considering it through the afternoon I told Mark "yes".

We walked into the Infirmary to find Mark and Dan Doctor eating T-Putt pizza (now Pizza Wings & Things, a local staple on nights and days off!). We greeted each other and it was as if we had picked up right where we left off. Despite the time apart, our bonds of friendship were still strong having experienced the Spirit of Camp Kenan together. We quickly broke into anecdotes and exaggerated stories. My wife's eyes began to roll. Being that some of my closest friends are former Camp Kenan staff, she had seen this before. I quickly realized we should break up the story telling and give her a tour.



As we walked through the Great Woods, Dan thought he heard a noise and we all froze. The air whipped through the trees. The sound of the howling wind gave the impression that the Great Woods was trying to speak to us. We entered the Craft Lodge and turned on the lights. We examined the creations of campers from that summer and of summers past. We moved on to the Palace and I half expected the hundreds of Mountain Dew

cans that once decorated the walls to still be there from my last day on kitchen staff. Next was the Mess Hall. I fumbled for the words to songs I had not sung in many years. Memories of special day programs and of ravioli covered staff came rushing back to me. As we passed by the Truck Stop, the few remaining staff members from that summer reminisced and nodded to us as we walked by. When we approached Headquarters, I felt a certain reverence as if I should not enter, being that I was no longer on staff. We quickly examined the first floor and moved on. We walked to East Field, and I recounted how my cabin witnessed the Northern Lights while camped out there on my last night as a camper.

It was getting late, but before I left I had to see Cabin 9. When we entered, I was surprised to find words I had written on the walls as a camper almost 20 years before. I looked through the cabin and discovered the writing of my cabin mates from those treasured summers. We noticed lights in the parking lot. It was my father. He had come to pick us up. It was after midnight already, and I remembered how fast time could pass when at Camp Kenan with friends.

While Dan and Mark helped us rack our bikes on the roof of the car, my father told a story about how he took first place in a contest at Camp Kenan in the summer of 1953. The contest was putting a Saltine cracker in your mouth, diving off the pier, swimming a set distance, and then whistling with the Saltine still in your mouth while treading water. It made me think of how much Camp Kenan had given to its residents over the span of generations. We said our goodbyes not knowing when we would see each other next.

Last summer I spent a number of weekends in Lockport visiting with



family, and I made it a point to visit Camp Kenan several times. I even brought my sons, Conner and Brody, so they could experience the place where I spent so many of my summers growing up wondering if one day they might also experience the Spirit of Camp Kenan.

The time I spent at Camp Kenan as a camper and as a staff member was such a formative experience for me. I can't imagine who I would be today without it. Being back at Camp Kenan after so long gave me the opportunity to reflect on this. It gave me the opportunity to remember how fortunate I am to have been part of something so special.



# Countdown to GS2012 (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

register online starting in July 2012. By pre-registering you are helping us get countries set (cabin assignments) and place families appropriately. Remember, as in the past, your registration fee includes a specially designed, 2012 Olympiad themed t-shirt, five complete authentic camp meals, overnight accommodations, and enough memories to carry you through to the 2013 Goosestock!

If you find your plans unexpectedly change but you've missed the Pre-Registration period, don't fret, you're more than welcome to join the activities any day or time. Onsite registration will be available all weekend long!

Watch for Pre-Registration

Opening July 2012

at the Friends of Camp Kenan Website!  
[www.friendsofcampkenan.org](http://www.friendsofcampkenan.org)

If, for whatever reason, you feel that you cannot afford the registration fee, Friends of Camp Kenan does not want you feel that you cannot attend. Please do not hesitate to contact us. Your information will be held in confidence. We want all to be able to share in reliving old memories and creating new ones!

*"So I said to myself,  
'Self', cause that's what I call myself,  
'I wonder what's going to happen this year?'"*

We don't want to give out all the details, but here's a VERY generalized overview of the weekend's events:



Relive some awesome camp memories singing songs in the Mess Hall during Goosestock!

Friday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012:

**Olympiad T-shirt decorating:** Families will be pre-assigned to one of four countries represented at Goosestock 2012. Use this time to personalize your country's 2012 Olympiad t-shirt.

**Opening Ceremonies:** Guest torch runner and Olympiad torch lighting

Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012:

**Let the Games Begin:** Gold and Bronze Metal Games; Craft competitions; Track Meet; Swimming.

**Live Auction**

**Closing Ceremonies**

Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Chapel and Brunch:** Sunday service will be in the Michael Tobin Memorial Chapel followed by a traditional Sunday brunch mess hall

"Two's too many, None's too few  
One thing only..."

If you're dreaming of camp and can't wait to know what's planned, then YOU are the perfect candidate to volunteer as Program Director for a day, or relive part of the CNC staff experience, or even be part of the ATHLETIC staff!!!!!! While plans for this epic weekend are well underway, we still need your help to make it even better than last year. There are many ways you can help out—from leading a mess hall, to supervising an activity, to donating camp memorabilia to the live auction—every little bit helps make these the best new memories of a incredible place.

For all Goosestock related questions or concerns please contact Rachelle (Barends) Hathaway: [Rachelle.Hathaway@friendsofcampkenan.org](mailto:Rachelle.Hathaway@friendsofcampkenan.org).

## Former Staff! We need your help for Goosestock 2012!

We are looking for nostalgic items to be donated for this year's Saturday night auction at Goosestock 2012!



Desired auctions items should be related to Camp Kenan that might also be found near and dear to others, and inspire people to bid high for our Campership program. For example, photography, paintings or other painted items, vintage Camp Kenan Staff shirts, TOGG memorabilia....the possibilities are endless!



Please contact Rachelle (Barends) Hathaway at [Rachelle.Hathaway@friendsofcampkenan.org](mailto:Rachelle.Hathaway@friendsofcampkenan.org) to make arrangements.

## Letter from the President (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

**TOGG:** Goose has been a part of the board since the inception of Friends of Camp Kenan and will be on the board until he gets sick of me [which could be any day if you ask him]. Goose serves as an advisory member and he is never shy to "advise me" as he sees fit, which is early and often! I am still hearing about the bad campfires from GS2010! The best memory I have of TOGG from our board was our very first meeting after GS2010, we did it online as a video conference. We had TOGG at Ken Haak's house in front of a PC with headphones on participating in a video conference with a bottle of Mountain Dew! I want to know who would have ever pictured that back in the 70's? The bottom line is, without Goose, I doubt there would be a Friends of CK, and their

certainly wouldn't be a GS! He has held the torch very high for the rest of us.

My point in of all this babbling is first off to say "thank you" to all of the board members. Your hard work, professionalism, sacrifices, and love for Camp Kenan has been noticed. Secondly, I'd like to ask all of you reading this to make sure you thank them next time you see them or e-mail them. And finally, I wanted to encourage others to help. If these amazing people can find the time to give back to Camp despite all that is going on in their lives, can you? You can donate your time, or your money or both! Now is the time to give back!



Barker • New York

**Contact Us!**

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## GOOSESTOCK 2012: OLYMPIAD

September 7, 8, & 9, 2012

### Special Thanks:

To the members of the Friends of Camp Kenan Board of Directors, as well as to Luke Kantor, Brian Kalls and Donald Castell who contributed articles. To Luke Kantor for providing some of the photos used throughout this issue of "The Torch".

If you have an article idea that you might like to contribute in the next issue of "The Torch" please contact Elizabeth (McGuire) Millen by July 1, 2012 directly at [Elizabeth.Millen@friendsofcampkenan.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Millen@friendsofcampkenan.org). We'd love to hear what Camp Kenan has meant to you! All article ideas are welcome! The 7th Edition of "The Torch" is due to come out in August 2012.

Thank you!

**J. Shepard, Publisher & Co-Editor/ E. Millen, Co-Editor/L. Flaherty, Co-Editor**

Think green before you print.



Please consider the environment before printing this newsletter.