



News & Notes

December 2014

Camp is not a Destination but a State of Mind

Anyone who has ever been to a WALH summer camp knows and understands this. There is no place on earth where sex, color, race, religion and disability are irrelevant except camp. No one is judged based on what they can and can't do. I have so many friends I never would have had if it weren't for camp. Camp for many is a chance to escape from the barriers society places on us. We are here to fight this insidious disease known as md. What better way to fight an unforgiving disease than by removing the barriers it places on the people affected? The week we spend together gives many the courage and strength to fight through the other 51 weeks of the year. Where else can you spend the week with friends, peers, comrades, mentors and heroes? Not to mention names but Tom Downs is all these things to me. He's been through everything that I may someday go through and he handles it all with absolute grace, class and dignity. We don't see each other as often as we would like but I'm proud to count Tom as one of my closest and dearest friend. So if you feel overwhelmed by the "real" world, just relax and picture in your heart the great memories we all have from summer camp. I would also like to thank all the new volunteers and campers for joining us in our own little utopia and it is my sincere hope that you will join us again in the future when life allows.

Tom "T" Ciufu



Yearlong Raffle Winners!

We're in the final stretch of the current yearlong raffle and below are the twelve latest winners. Make sure you tell them congratulations when you see them! If you haven't won yet, don't worry. There are still two drawings left. PLUS - ticket sales for the 2015 yearlong raffle are in full swing! Tickets are \$10 each and each one gives you 48 chances to win \$50! They make excellent gifts for the holidays! Just imagine how happy Uncle Herb, cousin Melvin and Vern the mailman will be to get a gift that can keep on giving all year long! Buy now because there are only 1,000 tickets and they're going fast! If you would like to purchase tickets, and you know you would, please contact Scott Uhlman at (414) 571-0234.

November

Mike Z., Cottage Grove, WI, Sold by Kelly Z.
Dan J., Monfort, WI, Sold by Erica A.
Karen F., Madison, WI, Sold by Karen F.
Linda L., Oak Creek, WI, Sold by Scott T.

October

Kathy R., So. Milw., WI, Sold by MaryAnn K.
Matt H., Charleston, IL, Sold by Erica A.
Lori M., Chicago, IL, Sold by Erica A.
Kevin K., Milwaukee, WI, Sold by Mary Kay L.

September

Michael's Helping Hands, Sold by Jenny C.
Jay S., Middleton, WI, Sold by Foelker Family
Monica B., West Allis, WI, Sold by Erica A.
Steve H., Jackson, WI, Sold by Rick S.

Congratulations!

A Note From The Editor...

As I sit here typing this, I realize that it's been somewhere around twenty years since I took on the job of reviving and editing a newsletter to keep the members of WALH informed. It's been a lot of fun and very gratifying to give back to the organization that has given me so much over the years. But, as much as I have enjoyed it, I realize that there comes a time when it's best to give the newsletter a chance to continue its mission with some new blood and fresh ideas.

So with that in mind, Kirsten Nichols will be taking over as editor of the WALH News & Notes starting with the next issue. I have every confidence that Kirsten will do an excellent job of producing a quality newsletter and keeping the membership well-informed.

As for me, I'm going to continue giving back as a member of the WALH Board of Directors and in any other way I can. Thanks to all for reading this publication over the years. I hope you all have a wonderful and joyous Christmas and a very happy 2015!!!

Linda here...Scott has always asked me to do a final check of the newsletter. Just to check for format and then convert to a pdf to email out. With that, I have the ability to make a change or two.

So, I am going to take this opportunity to thank Scott for sharing his writing flair with each of us for twenty plus years! His articles are always captivating and express his passion for WALH. I keep telling him he should put his talents into writing a book on the power of a puppy "Max" but he may be more inclined on a short story that tells about the strength he saw in his mother. One way or another he will continue to share his gift.

Summer Camp 2015 Dates

In true Wisconsin fashion, the weather is already making many of us long for those sunny coatless days of summer when going outside didn't involve longjohns, scarves and hand-warmers. While you're having those warm weather daydreams you can get out the Sharpee and mark some dates on your calendar. WALH Summer Camp 2015 will be the week of **August 1-7**. As we muddle on through the dog days of winter, more information will be forthcoming. If you have any ideas or would like to help in any way with planning of camp and programs, donations, etc. please contact Camp Coordinator Erica Andres at ericky1834@yahoo.com. Take heart! Summer will be here before you know it!



Fall Camp 2014

On the weekend of October 24-26, 2014, about 40 individuals got together at Camp Wawbeek in Wisconsin Dells for some good times and camaraderie among the pines and falling leaves. Mother Nature more than cooperated, providing tons of sunshine and mild temperatures for some great nature walks and a cool scavenger hunt (thanks Lauren!!). And what fall weekend would be complete without a genuine Halloween costume contest? Congrats to Tom Downs for the win. Throw in some games, pumpkin painting, great food and a lot of good conversation, and you have the makings for a very memorable weekend!

Thanks go out to Erica for putting the weekend together, to Cindy, Jean, Linda and Mary Kay for keeping us well-fed and to all of the volunteers for their hard work. A special thanks to Marty Van Haren for the most-excellent wings and marinated chicken and beef kabobs on the planet!

2014/15 "With A Little Help..." Inc. Board of Directors

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