

# THE BABBLER

Fall 2017



## Keep the Campfires Burning

*In the past, we have sent our annual Keep the Campfires Burning campaign letter to you separately requesting monetary support for Ma-He-Tu. In an effort to use our dollars more effectively, we are incorporating our letter with the Fall Babblers. All contributions to KtCB are used to improve our site and support our annual program. Please keep in mind that donations to KtCB are separate from any donations you may make to the Camp Ma-He-Tu Foundation.*

Hello Friends!

80 years! Let that sink in..... 80 years! Camp Ma-He-Tu just celebrated her 80th Anniversary. The Gala was grand but what made the event so special was the memories that were shared. So many generations of women who attended camp. I don't share that same experience with them. I started my camping experiences at Camp Ma-He-Tu with the Women in the Woods encampment. I am a WIWER!

I began attending camp in 2000 when a friend from church, Kathy Baumann, suggested I bring my 5-year old daughter Kristin to Women in the Woods. I did, and am I glad I did! We had so much fun that we returned the following year with 4-year old Katie in tow. We have been attending ever since. Throughout my 18 WIWER years, both of my daughters have been campers, CITs, Staff, WIWers, and I have joined the Board of Directors. I have brought WIWers and campers to discover and enjoy this special place. They continue to enjoy it and have a deep place in their heart for this special camp.

My most intimate memory of camp was when I was asked to write about my spiritual growth for the closing WIW campfire after for attending only three years. I sat on the bench in the woods next to the path from the Dining Hall to the Rec Hall. I sat for a very long time, quiet, listening and waiting for the spirit to find me. I heard women and girls laughing and playing. I heard the wind blowing through the trees and rustling the leaves. I heard the brook, yes, there was water in it! I listened inward and heard and felt the peace, contentment and friendship that envelopes me at camp. My spirituality is nature based, and this place, this wonderful place in nature, moved the spirit within me.

Very early in my camp attendance a committee was formed which was named *Keep the Campfires Burning*. I attended out of curiosity, but was hooked from the start. I felt compelled to assist in this endeavor. And over the years KTCB has raised more than \$220,000 to improve our site and our program and has truly made it possible for our camp to remain open and thriving.

*Your* financial assistance will provide girls with the opportunity to share in the wonderful experiences and to gain lifelong friendships for another 80 years at our wonderful camp deep in the woods!

Please help to *Keep the Campfires Burning*!



Yours in  
Friendship,  
Shannon Irish







### **From our Camp Director, *Alyssa Fine***

At the beginning of the school year, while I hastily prepared my classroom for another year of fun and learning, one of my co-workers arrived with a large gift basket of cookies and home-made crafts. When I asked her what all of it was for, she simply told me “to thank you, for camp.”

I then remembered that this past winter, she and I had had several conversations about the benefits of camp, what to look for when choosing a quality sleep away camp and what a great experience it would be for her shy 12-year-old son. Inside the basket was a note that read, “Going away to camp has completely changed his life. Thank you for convincing me that this was an experience that he needed.”

This gesture touched me deeply, but didn’t surprise me one bit. After all, how many of us could say the same thing about our own experiences at Ma-He-Tu throughout the years? I know that I leave every summer having learned something new about myself and feeling just that much more comfortable in my own skin. This summer, especially, has taught me so much about myself as a leader and the wonderful women that surround me in our camp community.

I wish that I could hand deliver a thoughtful basket of cookies and crafts to each person who made the summer 2017 one of the best yet! Unfortunately, that list feels endless, so instead I hope it is okay if I use this space for a thoughtful series of thank you notes instead.

To our Board of Directors and camp alumna, thank you for your support, advice, and checking in. Your kind words, timeless stories and laughs provided me with so much confidence and comfort. Thank you for leaving a legacy of strong and independent women whose footsteps the staff and I were proud to follow in.

To Igoe, thank you for being the greatest role model, mentor, and most importantly - friend. So much of who I am today is because of you and so much of who I was this summer is because you showed me how. AND thank you for the generous care packages of food throughout the summer. I ate all the Milano cookies (in your honor, of course).

For my staff, who I love and adore more than words. Being your boss was the most fun I’ve ever had. Though I’ve said it a million times - it is I who am lucky to serve all of you. I couldn’t imagine a better group of role models for our campers to look up to.

Finally, to our campers (both present and future) - thank you for coming to camp this summer and having the time of your lives. I hope to see all of you again in 2018 - I promise that it will be an experience that you need to have.

*All the Best,  
Alyssa*



## From our Board President...

Our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year is coming to a close in just a few short weeks. The wonderful news is that our camp is strong and ready to move forward toward our 90<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversaries!

We had a fabulous year! Our new Director, Alyssa Fine, stepped into the job and didn't skip a beat. Our enrollments were at capacity with a waiting list of 14 campers for third encampment. Unfortunately, these 14 girls did not get to come to 3<sup>rd</sup> encampment, but this has helped our 2018 enrollment at this early date. Currently, camp is one-third full for 2018!

We had a staff of enthusiastic counselors who challenged themselves every day to provide the best camping experience for our girls. They worked very well as a team to create those camp memories!

Not to mention that our food service stepped up to the plate and provided kid-friendly food while coming in under budget! A nice addition to the kitchen this summer was the installation of a new walk-in freezer. This will help with food ordering and the elimination of the free-standing freezers. Before next summer, we are hoping to add a new dishwasher and new serving area to the kitchen.

Over the last 80 years there are so many friends of Ma-He-Tu to thank. The work of so many has enabled us to stay in business and to be relevant in today's camping environment. We have had several generations of Board Members and other volunteers put their hearts and souls into keeping our campfires burning. We have had countless staff members provide those extra special camping experiences deep in the woods. And we cannot forget the campers, whose lives we have impacted for the better; growing physically, mentally, socially and spiritually. The hope of the current Board of Directors is that this will continue for at least the next 20 years.

Ten years ago, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC), the agency from whom we lease our property, changed their leasing procedures. Until that time, we had an annual lease with New York State and the PIPC. We had to choose 10 years ago; either a one-year, five-year, or 10-year lease. I remember how we (the Board) agonized about which lease term to select. Would Ma-He-Tu be here in 10 years? We ultimately bit the bullet and signed the 10-year lease. I am pleased to say that this was not a mistake! I say bring on the lease for the next ten years! Maybe we will ask for 20 years to get us to that 100-year anniversary!

As we move forward with our work, we also would like to hear from you, our loyal friends. Have an idea on how to help recruit campers? Have an idea for a weekend event in the fall or the spring? Want to help us get camp ready for the summer during the spring months? We could use your help clearing paths of leaves and other manual labor! We also need your support and those ideas.

Think out of the box! Help us get to that 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



Ellen Shakespeare Karl  
President, BoD

## Camp Ma-He-Tu Happiest Camp Ever! 1199 SEIU Healthcare Workers See Camp as Perfect Union

By Ellen Shakespeare Karl

In March, 2017, I attended a session at the Tri-State Convention put on by the American Camp Association, NY/NJ section in Atlantic City. We have made it part of our strategy to have someone from the Board (and/or staff) attend this conference every year. The conference has a plethora of educational sessions for all types of camps as well as a large vendor presence. We have made some wonderful purchases at this conference as well as picking up nuggets of information to integrate into Ma-He-Tu life. When attending such events, in my mind, a successful conference is when you walk away with one or two items that are fully implementable.

The session I attended was for non-profit camps only. I think there were about 50 attendees. When we had a group discussion at our table, one camp's representative mentioned that they have campers who are sponsored by the 1199SEIU healthcare workers union. This is the largest healthcare workers union in the U.S. Coincidentally, in my job as a Professor at the City University of New York's School of Professional Studies, I was working closely with folks from 1199SEIU. Next step – inquire about this sponsorship.

My contacts put me in touch with some folks in the Child Care part of the union. In researching I found out that the union provides camping experiences to members' children as a benefit. In the summer of 2017, they provided overnight camping experiences to 800 or so children. Step number 2 – find out how to get on the list of approved providers!

We submitted an application for consideration at the end of June. In July, we had a site visit by two union representatives who perform many camp visits. **They told me that our small, all girls camp by Lake Kanawauke, was by far the happiest camp they have ever seen. Wow – quite a testament!**

By mid-September we were notified that we were approved as a provider. We have agreed to take 10 campers in 2018 from their program. The union pays full-price scholarships to Ma-He-Tu for each camper.

We attended a mandatory Camp Fair on November 4<sup>th</sup> at their offices in NYC and met with families who would like to take advantage of this benefit for their children. Parents then submit requests to the union by February for consideration.

We believe that this new camper stream will help fill cots for the summer of 2018. Healthcare workers, bring your friends!



**5th Annual  
Wager in the Woods  
Saturday, March 3,  
2018**

Mark your calendar! Before you know it, Ma-He-Tu's 5th Annual Wager in the Woods will be here.

Next year's event, while at the same location, promises to look and feel different as the Upsky has become the Radisson. Renovations to our annual site will surely make the evening an event to remember.

As always , we'll have blackjack tables, roulette tables, craps and a few other fun games to interest everyone . The silent auction will also be available and a little different this year . In past years, the profits from the silent auction were shared with an independent company who supplied the products. Instead , this year **we** are furnishing the items from donated pieces so 100% of the winning bids will go directly to camp.

Ticket prices are \$81 dollars matching camp's 81st year. That fee gets you dinner and an open bar from 7p.m. to 11 p.m.

*Ticket information and hotel room reservations will be available after the New Year.*



**ONLINE CANTEEN**

Did you know that you can order items from canteen through our web site? Log on to [www.mahetu.org](http://www.mahetu.org) and click on Camp Life. Here are a few samples:



Pewter Ornament



Gym Bag



Green, White and Navy Hat



My Heart Lives Deep in the Woods. Sweatshirt

**Donations  
April 1– November 9, 2017**

**Keep the Campfires Burning**

- Sonia Ahuja—in honor of Kathryn Maykish
- Kathy & Steve Baumann—in memory of Bill Paddack
- Dorothy Buerk
- Raymond E.& Ellen F. Crane Foundation
- Sue Feete
- Dr. Elizabeth Henley
- Beverly Hoppe
- Lauren Lemay—in memory of Bill Paddack
- Andy and Mary Lindgren—in memory of Bill Paddack
- Kristen Lindgren
- McCarthy Foundation
- Tracey McGinn
- Diane & Mike Maxwell
- Kevin Nagy—in memory of Nancy Wallich
- Bob & Marie Nurge—in memory of Bill Paddack
- Dr. Megan Paddack
- Joan & Harvey Rogosch
- The Rumley Family—in memory of Bill Paddack
- Marty & Marion Schumacher—in memory of Bill Paddack
- Karen & Gary Shafonda— in honor of Nancy Fletcher and Dot Becker
- Walter & Louise Stoeber

**Thrivent Choice Dollars**

- Charles Becker
- Loretta Bozeman
- Danielle Fey
- Alan & Linda Krampert
- Carol Lacorte
- Elizabeth Lanka
- Anita Meserole
- Joy Schumacher
- Louise Stoeber
- Paulette Van Norman
- Rev. Kim Wilson

**Camperships**

- Friends of Karen
- Katherine Hoffman
- Holy Cross Church
- Janet Margaroli (Pixie)
- Michelle McCarten
- Anne Murphy—in honor of Marion Schumacher
- Staff Donations
- WIW Auction
- WIW Donations

*Apologies if we did not include your donation. Please contact Marion at 631-351-1657, and we will include it in the next issue.*

United Way Matching Contributions

If you donate to the United Way through your workplace, you can choose to designate your donation to Ma-He-Tu. Use our LGCA code—007303.

GOTTA LOVE CAMP! GET BACK TO WOMEN-IN-THE WOODS

By Madeline Sharrock



I love camp. How many of us have said those words. If we could shout them from the mountain tops many of us would. I know that the thought of camp and especially of Camp Ma-He-Tu brings me much joy and happiness. The thoughts of camp also bring peace to my soul when my world is full of turmoil and tossed upside down.

After spending our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend with many friends and alumni of camp the tie that binds us together is still holding strong. Around the room where our Gala was held were nearly 80 years of staff pictures, a slide show bringing back memories of summers gone by, and friends from near and far, so it felt like that old comfortable blanket you love to cuddle up with on a cool day.

Women-in-the-Woods at Ma-He-Tu at the beginning of each summer gives us all the opportunity to go back to Ma-He-Tu and shout I love camp from our own hilltop. I hope you join me in making some time to join us at WIW sometime during June 30 – July 4<sup>th</sup> of 2018. We are so looking forward to walks around the lake, hanging out at the waterfront, singing around a campfire and even introducing the younger members of our families to camp for the first time.

80 years and so many generations. I find it amazing that my friendships from camp span more than four decades. Ma-He-Tu has brought many young women together across the generations and sharing all those memories and making new ones each summer at WIW keeps our bonds strong and spirits high. Now is the time to gather your family and friends to plan a get-a-away to camp for WIW. After all, who can resist coming back to a place where hope springs eternal and a welcome hug is waiting as you enter the camp gate.



**2018 Application**

**Women in the Woods**

**Camp Ma-He-Tu**

ADULT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GIRL'S NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATES (adult) \_\_\_\_\_ (children) \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am in good health, as are the child/children who will be attending WIW with me. I understand that my health insurance will act as the primary carrier while I participate in all activities at Camp Ma-He-Tu. The camp reserves the right to reject any application or to dismiss any camper(s) for sufficient cause.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Check in begins at 11 AM each day

Please indicate the days you will be attending:

\_\_\_ Sat. 6/30 \_\_\_ Sun., 7/1  
 \_\_\_ Mon., 7/2 \_\_\_ Tues., 7/3  
 Final checkout is Weds., July 4 at 11 AM  
 I will be coming for the day \_\_\_ overnight \_\_\_

I would prefer to stay in a cabin \_\_\_ tent \_\_\_  
 no preference \_\_\_  
 I would like to share accommodations with: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks or money orders payable to the **Lutheran Girls' Camp Association-WIW**. A non-refundable deposit of one day's fee per person is required to insure registration.

Mail to:  
 Mrs. Marion Schumacher, Registrar  
 6 Soundview Drive North  
 Huntington, NY 11743

OR, register online at [www.mahetu.org](http://www.mahetu.org)

Rates: Overnight fees—Adults/\$90 per day, Girls 7-15 /\$60 per day, Girls 2-6/\$40 per day. Non-overnight (day) fees—Adults/\$65, Girls 7-15/\$45, Girls 2-6/\$25.

## Camp Ma-He-Tu's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary a Hit!

“Camp” and “gala” are two words not typically uttered in the same sentence. That is, until this year, when Ma-He-Tu gathered to reunite, rekindle, and reminisce. The first event of the weekend was held high in the sky at the Sheraton Hotel in Mahwah, NJ.

President of the Board, Ellen Karl, gave a brief welcome speech highlighting the wonderful enrollments over the past few years and invited us to imagine how wonderful it will be when we hit our 100<sup>th</sup> year! Then, it was party time!

If you know camp, you know that we *love* looking at old photos. So, it's no surprise that two of the most popular activities at the gala were a do-it-yourself slideshow (complete with a slide projector and slides gathered from the treasured collections of Uncle Ernie Schwabe and Dot Becker) and a photo booth decked out with camp props like paddles, lanterns, and costume closet dresses. This one corner of the room was a one-stop-shop for looking through old memories and making new ones!

Ma-He-Tu girls know how to tear up the dancefloor! We line danced to the now-required (since the 90s!) Ma-He-Tu favorite “Any Man of Mine”; the 1972 CITs (the Grecian Urns) performed their famous Frankie Valli “Let’s Hang On” dance –complete with their original choreography; and everyone’s favorite former Business Manager and longtime practical joker, Andy Lindgren, serenaded the lucky attendees with a heartwarming rendition of Sweet Violets!

Sunday morning brought many wonderful alumni and friends back to K-24. The Ialenti family (and a few wonderful helpers!) made breakfast for us all – Chris’s pancakes were amazing as always!

Pastor Katrina Foster, advisory board member and parent, led a beautiful chapel service there and inspired us all with her words about how welcoming and accepting Ma-He-Tu is, and Diana Schimkus played guitar. God’s presence, and the beauty of our special place Deep in the Woods, was felt by all.

Perhaps the best part about Ma-He-Tu is the that all who pass through her gates become a family held together by an indescribable bond. This profound connection was unmistakable throughout our wonderful anniversary celebration. This event will be remembered for years to come as a reunion of old and new friends. We can’t wait to do this again with you all at Camp Ma-He-Tu’s 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

