



The Kawaga Spirit

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The Kawaga Alumni Association

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Editor's Note

We are excited to share with you the most recent Kawaga Spirit. The summer of 2020 will go down as one of the most remarkable achievements in Kawaga's illustrious history and proved how special Camp Kawaga truly is. Directors, Ty and Lauren Simpson, and the owners of Kawaga, The Fishers and Daubes, should be commended on the job they did to be one of the only camps in the country that successfully opened during the pandemic. This newsletter comes at a time when there are so many tremendous things going on up at camp. Kawaga is stronger than ever! We always knew that the program and traditions were second to none, and the Simpsons demonstrated this summer just how extraordinary they are as directors. The owners' commitment to developing and maintaining the physical structure is evident in the improvements that have been made to camp over the past few years, including an amazing Mess Hall, new bathroom and shower facilities, and an incredible new Chip Lodge. Camp has also recently expanded in size by reclaiming most of the Baker Lake property. In this issue we are excited to have contributions from the owners and directors to keep you up to date on the latest from "The Shores." We featured some of our distinguished alumni, Herb Heilbrun and Hollis Herrell Sr., and also included some memories and perspectives from a number of alumni from over the past 50 years. I was lucky to have my 2 sons return to Kawaga this summer, at a time when the kids needed it most. Alex was a Mohawk and earned his Sachem name Little Mighty Chief, and Bennett lived in the new Chip Lodge and made Mawanda. Many thanks to the Simpsons, Fishers, and Daubes for continuing to make Kawaga a premier camp in America. My goal is to revive the Kawaga Spirit newsletter and send it out twice a year, as we continue to grow the alumni base. I've truly enjoyed this project and getting back in touch with so many of my fellow Kawagians from over the years. My interviews have only reinforced the notion that Kawaga is unique because of the people who have been a part of our camp for over 100 years. We want to hear from the Kawaga alumni around the world, so please keep in touch with us. And if you haven't been to camp recently, you must join us for the 2021 Alumni Weekend!

-Taz





Message From the Directors

Wow what a year it has been. The ups and downs of any previous year seem to pale in comparison in 2020. Surrounded by uncertainty where so much has changed in our world and in each of our lives at times it seems there are more questions than answers. But one thing is for certain -- The Kawaga Spirit is alive and well. This past summer and the months since are further evidence to this truth

A summer like none before, 2020 created emotional and memorable moments for us . For us, none more meaningful than watching the weight and anxiety lifted from our campers and counselors when they officially learned we had weathered the storm and were Covid-free. That single moment instilled enough adrenaline to last a full summer. Navigating the procedures, protocols, messaging, and more were worth everything that everybody sacrificed. Being at camp and observing these boys and young men experience what we have during our lives -- a summer on The Shores -- was remarkable.

We are charging forward to the summer of 2021 with a full head of steam and sense of purpose. New programs, new activities, new improvements to our staff, facility, and operations. All while keeping the heart of Kawaga focused -- staying true to our traditions and values of molding boys into responsible, respectful, and caring men. This coming summer we'll again face challenges, perhaps even equal to the ones in 2020, but we stand ready and confident and believe our best days are ahead of us.

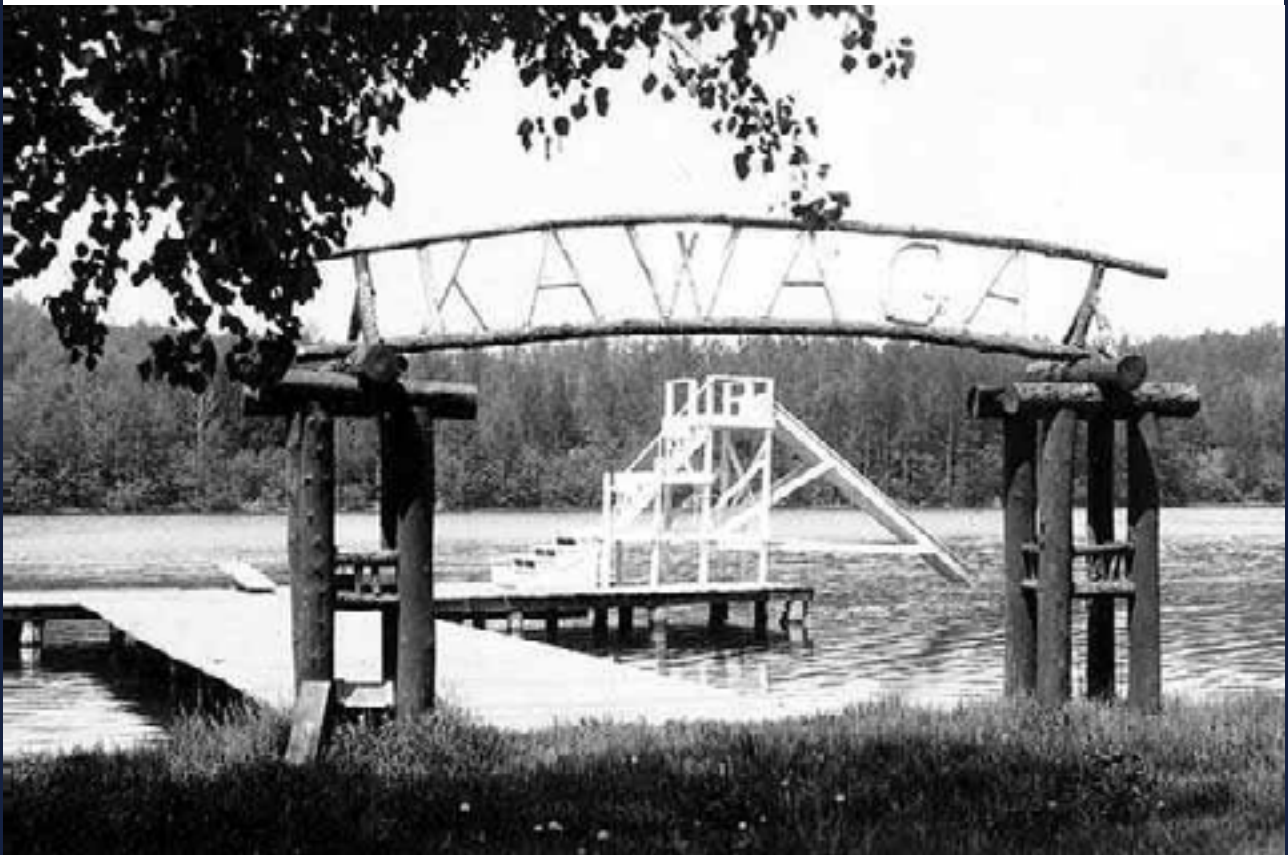
We are grateful to be yet a part in the great chain of the Kawaga Nation and thankful for all of you who have sent your support and kind messages over the years. Thank you to the Fisher and Daube families for your strength and trust in us, especially during this past summer.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter as much as we did putting it together. Lauren and I wish you good health and hearts filled with happiness for you and your family this holiday season.

See you soon on The Shores of Kawaga Bay, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

BE KAWAGA!

-Ty and Lauren





Herb Heilbrun Celebrates His 100th Birthday

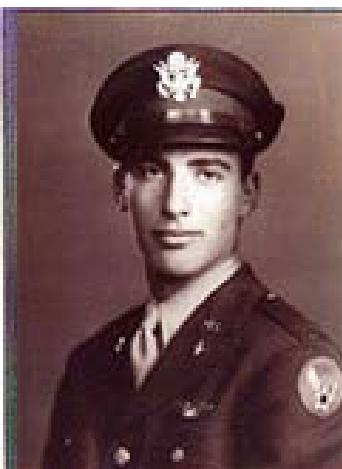
On October 11th, 2020 Kawaga's oldest living alum, Herbert Heilbrun, celebrated his 100th birthday. Herb spent the summers of 1933-1935 at Kawaga under the directorship of Doc E, and his name is still etched in Cabin 8 next to where he slept in 1935. For his centennial birthday Bill Fisch and Pete Zollo spearheaded an effort to honor Herb. They reached out to Kawaga's Director Ty Simpson, who then prepared a video presentation of himself next to a blazing campfire. In the video, Ty raised his right hand and recited the Oath of Sachem, and proceeded to honor Herb with the Sachem name, Brave Friend. Joining Herb by his side at his home in Cincinnati for this special moment was his son, Doug "Woogie" Heilbrun, Bobby Fisher, and David Tasner. Ty told Herb that it was an honor to know his story and share so many memories and friendships with his son, Doug. He went on to say, "I have an incredible amount of admiration for what you've done for this country, what you've done for our camp, and the life that you've lived is absolutely amazing." Herb's legacy at Kawaga is significant for Ty's family because his activities flag art project from the '30s hangs in the hallway of Bide-a-wee. The Simpson children admire it every time they go to and from their bedrooms in the summer. Ty concluded with the closing prayer May The Road Rise Up To Meet You.



Herb always looked back fondly upon his camping days at Kawaga. He understood the value of Kawaga and made sure his two sons had the Kawaga experience for themselves. The two of them spent a combined 23 years at camp dating back to 1969. Jeff currently resides in Jackson Hole, WY where he's in the golf resort industry, and Woogie lives in Centerville, OH where he works for a Salesforce consulting firm. Kawaga made an impression on Herb and taught him the values of sportsmanship and fellowship. Herb was an excellent swimmer, and one of his favorite memories was beating Camp Strongheart in a fierce swimming competition. Another memory from his camping days was when he asked Lou if he could have his archery bow sent up to camp. As Kawaga alumni know, Lou was a big and strong man with a larger-than-life personality. When the bow arrived, Lou took it out of the box to present it to Herb. Lou pulled back the bow and accidentally snapped it in half, breaking young Herb's prized possession. Lou replaced the bow with another that he bought in town, but it wasn't quite the same as the original!

One of Herb's earlier memories was the journey he'd take from Ohio to get up to camp each summer. Back before interstate highways, all the kids would take the train from downtown Chicago and get off at the Kawaga stop, which is where the Bearskin Trail meets Kawaga Road today. Herb recalls squirt gun fights on the train and everyone getting off the train and racing into camp. In those days a jacket and tie was proper attire for the train, and today's tradition of CITs wearing a tie up to camp stems from that. Herb has lived a remarkable life and has been featured in many publications and television documentaries about his experience in World War II. Herb was a B-17 bomber pilot in Europe and flew 35 missions. After the war, Herb worked in commercial real estate in Cincinnati until he retired. Fifty years after the war, in an effort to express his gratitude to the men who protected his squadron, Herb sought to meet members of the all-black 332nd Squadron. At the annual meeting of the Tuskegee Airmen, Herb met John Lehr for the first time. To their surprises, they learned that they were not only from the same hometown of Cincinnati, but appeared standing next to each other in a third-grade class photo. The two men acknowledged that it was racial segregation that kept them apart, and vowed that they would share their story in an effort to bring about historical enlightenment and improve interracial understanding. Herb and John would go on to become close friends, and until John's death in 2015, they spoke to many audiences, sharing their unique friendship with people of all ages. Herb was honored by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations. Their story appeared on the History Channel and in a PBS documentary, and was even the subject of a book *Black and White Airmen: Their True History*.

"This is a terrific honor," said Woogie. "We very much appreciate it and we very much love the Kawaga Nation, and are thrilled to be part of it."





Who's the guy we love the most? H-O-L-L-Y

Beginning in 1967, Hollis Herrell's involvement with Kawaga spanned three decades and three family owners. He touched the lives of Kawaga Braves in a kind manner, and left his mark on every part of Kawaga. His Kawaga career began when he responded to an ad for a Waterfront Director that Lou Ehrenreich placed in the American Camp Association magazine. Holly met Lou for the first time in Madison, Wisconsin at the home of Kawaga's Program Director, Gene Farrell, and negotiated a \$1200 salary that was astronomical for the time. He told Lou that he'd give him the best waterfront director he ever had, but he had to stay out of his business and let him do his job!

Holly spent five years as Kawaga's Waterfront Director where he taught lifesaving and also helped out at sailing and waterskiing. He took over as Program Director in 1972, a job he held for 5 more years, and his famous instructional swim call over the P.A. system is ingrained in the minds of hundreds of Kawaga Braves. He'll never forget the 27 days of rain his first summer as P.D., when Diamond One was flooded all the way to the Mess Hall and the only way for



everyone to enter was the backdoor through the kitchen. Holly spent several summers at other camps in Wisconsin and Michigan in the late '70s and early '80s. It was at Camp Greenwoods where he met Greg Jenks and poached him to Kawaga. In 1986, when Ron and Liz Silverstein passed the torch onto the Fisher brothers, Holly served as Kawaga's Director, a role he held until 1989. It is written in the 1986 Annual Pineneedle that "Holly, having held many administrative roles at camp as well as being a Kawaga parent, will be our new Director... Holly is a man who knows Kawaga, he shares our love for Kawaga and is dedicated to all that it stands for."

Holly recalls so many great campers and counselors at Kawaga over the years, and the impact Kawaga had on his sons Hollis Jr. and Mark. Both his boys started at Kawaga from a young age, while their father was on staff and their mother worked as a secretary. He recalls Lou's policy was that women were not allowed into camp, so his wife Thamer, lived in the Outpost with other wives of Kawaga staff including Sandy Bald (wife of Arts and Crafts Director, Don Bald). Lou would later say that one of his biggest mistakes was not letting women into camp, and that policy changed when Ron and Liz took over in 1969. Holly also remembers the counselors he had to fire, like the one who bit the head of a fish to scare the Chips, and the counselor who took the Oneidas on the Canadian camping trip but decided to stop in Minneapolis to catch a Twins baseball game instead. He got caught when one of the campers called home from a payphone.

Lou was a "man's man," according to Holly, and enjoyed having a good time. He was smart and athletic, and went to college at University of Chicago where he also played football. He was tough on the staff and campers, but they meant everything to him. Lou was held in high regard by other camp directors and throughout the American Camp Association. He was a larger than life figure who Holly described as "hell on wheels" when he was younger. He recalled a story about Doc E once telling Lou and another counselor at the end of the summer to take out Kawaga Dock in order for it to be rebuilt. Rather than take it out by hand, Lou used dynamite to blow up the dock. He immediately headed to town for 2 days to let Doc E calm down before he showed his face back at camp. Back in the day counselors were allowed to smoke cigarettes in the mess hall after meals. Lou liked to smoke while he'd call on people to lead camp songs. He also remembers that Lou drove a Cadillac and once came down to the parking lot to find a camper tossing rocks at his car. Without hesitation, Lou sent the boy home!

Holly spent most of his years at Kawaga under Ron's leadership. He introduced Ron to fishing and over the years the two became fishing buddies and close friends. Holly felt that Kawaga stayed very much the same when Ron took over for Lou. Ron was a P.E. teacher and wrestling coach, who was more competitive and placed a greater emphasis on sports. For Ron, nothing was better than beating Menominee and he even had to beat Agawak in the annual archery and riflery competitions! During one of the Ron years, Holly recalled walking around camp at night to check on patrols only to find that there was one counselor in camp sitting on the compass, while the rest were in town! Holly was an English teacher for 22 years before he became Vice Principal and later Principal at Pewaukee High School in Wisconsin. He retired from education at 57, but was talked into going back in the classroom temporarily when they needed a teacher at the last minute. When he did retire for good he and his wife Jan (mother of Dave Foppe) travelled two lane roads throughout the state of Wisconsin stopping at sites and restaurants.

Kawaga was a big part of Holly's life and he enjoyed playing a role in camp's history. "The whole experience and so many individual things made camp pleasant. I'd never do it any other way," said Holly. Today he lives in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin and due to Covid restrictions, he's not allowed to have visitors. According to Mark, Holly is quite the conversationalist and draws an audience at the retirement community. He also keeps busy by writing, which he's always loved to do, and he collects and repairs antique fountain pens. He'd love to hear from the guys, so send him an email at holnjan@live.com.





David Goldman 1994–2002, 2004–2007

What are you up to now?

I am married, with one son (future 4th generation brave). I live in Northbrook and work alongside my father in our plastics company that was started by my grandfather in 1955.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

Earning my skipper my Group 1 year was a big achievement personally. Not many campers tried to achieve this and I worked hard all summer to do it. As a CIT, I won the Sailing cup and was up against some very talented sailors. I was never the best athlete but loved to sail and I was particularly proud of this. I was always immersed in the history of Kawaga and while many of the projects that I worked on to make camp cleaner have gone by the wayside, I was happy to do my part in preserving it in any way that I could. Editor for the Annual Pineneedle, being Chief of the Chippewa and having a Pineneedle dedicated to me. A big Pow Wow was always a magical experience for me. I loved anytime that the camp came together.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

I spent over a year of my life in Chip Lodge, predominantly as a counselor. Being a Chip counselor is hard work but I learned to always be patient and that there is a way to communicate whether the person is 7 or 70. Treating people with respect, listening to their problems and helping guide them to better themselves has allowed me to be well respected by my peers in every facet of my life.



Robert Adelman 1984–1991

What are you up to now?

I am a personal injury attorney with two kids at Deerfield High School, including a Kawaga Brave named Tyson "Little Wise Bear" who has been a Brave for 6 years.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

The traditions and accomplishments of Mawanda and Sachem that brought everyone together and the opportunities to meet awesome counselors from different countries. (I'm looking at you Tony and Simon!!)

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

I still try and live my life by the Ideal. Whenever I face challenges in life, I always remember that there will be difficulties and challenges, but how you stand up in the storm will define you and build your character.

Duke Fisher 1972–1992 (officially)

What are you up to now?

I am currently the President of Berman Capital Advisors in Atlanta, GA.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

My best memories are far too countless to recall and might unnecessarily implicate some others! What I can say is memories of great friends and friendships, tremendous amounts of laughter, the brotherhood, the spirit of competing on behalf of Kawaga, particularly as Group 1 and a CIT. The Boundary Waters, The Show, Nights out, learning to water ski, shooting 50's in riflery and 54's in archery.

Making Mawanda and Sachem, learning the Ideal and on and on. Being there long enough to be a part of those same and many other experiences as a counselor and as the director. The best though, was watching my son Little Running Bear and my many nephews experience the same thing these many years later.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

I have no doubt that without my long and deep association and involvement with Kawaga, my life would be far less rich and fulfilled and that my career likely would have taken a very different path. The opportunities to grow and lead at such a young age and to have so much responsibility prepared me exceptionally well and provide tremendous context as to what was truly important in leading others and what was merely a distraction and noise!





Seth Good 1988–1998

In total, I spent 11 summers at Kawaga. I started my camping career as a Chip in 1988 continuing through CIT ('94 CIT), before spending 4 years on staff from 1995–1998.

What are you up to now?

I am married and have 2 kids: a 9 year old daughter, Maya, and a 5 year old son, Ethan. I live in Highland Park, IL and am a partner at a law firm. I hope my 5 year old will one day be Little Fighting Brave.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

My greatest camp memory was having David Tasner as a counselor for 4 consecutive years. Other highlights include shooting hoops on the Omni, Boundary Waters camping trip, the all-night treasure hunt and beating Menominee in Senior Ball. But really, it is the comradery and fellowship that distinguishes Kawaga and makes it the greatest place in the world. Whether it was eating in the Mess Hall, chilling in the Roost as a CIT or unforgettable nights out on the town as a counselor, the time spent with my best friends at camp is what I look back on most fondly. And the more years that go by, the more I realize how special those summers were.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

Camp has had a profound impact on my life and my career. From the core values instilled through the Kawaga Ideal, to connections created through the alumni network, to that bond that exists between all "camp people", Kawaga has definitely played a role in my achievements.

Daryl Colwell 1989–1997

I was a camper for 6 years, 1989 – 1994 and was a staff member for three years, 1995 – 1997.

What are you up to now?

I live on Long Island with my wife Lisa and daughters Morgan (11) and Sydney (8). Both of my girls go to Camp Wayne in Pennsylvania where my wife spent 11 summers. I've spent the last 20 years in the digital marketing industry and recently founded my own consulting firm, Hunter Mentality, where I help companies unlock growth via sales, marketing & business development. Still playing a lot of tennis and working hard to bring down my golf handicap.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

I have to say the first thing that came to mind was catching the final out at 1st base in our 6–5 Senior Ball win over Menominee my CIT year. Once I heard the umpire call the runner out, I must've heaved the ball 40 feet into the air in pure joy. We worked hard all summer for that game and I hope the game-ball still hangs in the mess hall, or somewhere at camp. I'd be crazy not to include the Boundary Waters trip our CIT year. Looking back, it was not only a great accomplishment as our group, but some of the best stories we still tell are from that week.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

It's helped me a number of ways and it's quite rare I go a day to two without thinking back to my days as a camper or counselor at Kawaga. You learn about setting & achieving goals.... making Mawanda & Sachem or winning a spot on that competition team. The ability to live and work alongside people from all over the country & globe. It taught me how to create everlasting bonds & friendships. Kawaga also taught me to get outside of my comfort zone and go try something new.





Mike Grayson 1959-1972

1959-1971 plus the last three weeks of 1972 and so many visits over the years

What are you up to now?

I never really got out of the Pineneedle Office. Though semi-retired now, I have been in the printing/graphic design business nearly all my life. I was in retail printing for about 30 years and am now a print broker; still doing some graphic design on the side. My next big project will be the design and implementation of a "Kawaga History Museum" in camp.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

Best memories -- I could write a multi-page "Whispering Pines." Lou Ehrenreich as a mentor and friend; making Sachem and getting a Sachem name (True Heart); Canadian wilderness trip with Kent Alexander; Canadian truck trip with Gene Farrell; the Jim Rubovitz napkin award; decorating the mess hall with Tom Jagers for Fourth of July lunch; writing Counselor Shows, again with Tom Jagers; Liz Silverstein teaching us to "dance" in those shows; 1968 - The Torch is Passed; "Onward Brothers" (verses one and three); Crystal Shores; late night snacks in the kitchen of Bide-a-Wee; Pineneedle production day; "Open Secret;" tapping ceremonies; watching the Northern Lights from the front steps of the mess hall; and so many more.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

Kawaga embraced a "husky" non-athletic kid, taught him self-worth and led him to areas where he could succeed. The Kawaga Ideal has always guided me -- in parenting and in business. The skills I was taught at camp as both a camper and counselor greatly influenced my career choices. (You can take the boy out of the Pineneedle office....) And the life-long friendships -- some spanning 50+ years and new ones from Kawaga today. I will be eternally grateful to Lou & Dag, Ron & Liz, the Fishers, the Daubes and Ty & Lauren for creating and perpetuating Kawaga's rich traditions and history. "As God gave us the fire, so gave He us the warmth of friendship."



David Stone 1982-1988, 1991

I was a camper from 1982-88, and on staff in 1991.

What are you up to now?

I live in Chicago and have my own consulting practice (Stone Planning), working in the planning of sports and entertainment facilities and events. And lately, staying a lot closer to home than usual.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

I have eight years of great memories but if I had to pick two categories, I'd say the incredible people and competitions (specifically, beating Menominee in just about everything, every year).

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

Probably too many to list here. But I'll pick one. I don't explicitly think about it often, in general or specific passages, but I do think the Ideal has impacted me, similar to things you absorb from your parents. Before I even knew the full meaning of the words, I knew what it was saying in general and I think it's helped to make me at least a slightly better person. Cliché but true.





John Halperin 1973–1980s

What are you up to now?

I am Wealth Advisor with UBS in Beverly Hills CA. I have been doing this for over 25 years and most of my clients are in the entertainment industry. Check out my website: <https://financialservicesinc.ubs.com/team/johnhalperin/>

Looking back, what are you best memories from Kawaga?

This is a hard question to answer, but I think it became really clear when I went back with my son to visit camp a few years ago. I wanted to show him around to see if he might want to attend. The camp was thriving, full of campers and counselors enthusiastically enjoying their summer. And physically most everything was the same. The Mess Hall, Tennis Courts, Diamond Two, the cabins... but as I walked around camp I felt like an outsider. I realized that as beautiful as camp is... it was the PEOPLE that made it special. It was the lifelong friendships that I made throughout my over ten years of attending camp that account for my best memories. As some may know, Woogie, Greg, Ho Don and I played a weekly game of trivial pursuit during the pandemic. We did this for months, continuing the Jew v. Goy Trivia Challenge that we started many years ago at camp. While the competition is fun and we enjoy seeing who will win (the Jews by the way), it is the many stories about camp that continuously interrupt the game play that I enjoy the most, or the sharing of old pictures or scribbles from counselor meetings. These stories bond us and take us back to a time of no responsibility...no tests, no work, no children...just being in the moment. I have made lifelong friends from my time at camp that I keep in touch with regularly. I am also pleasantly surprised that when I happen to reconnect with other friends we seamlessly continue our friendship like it was only yesterday that we were together on the shores of Kawagasaga. This is not an anomaly. Seeing an old friend from camp takes you back to what I believe are some of the best years of my life. I tried to come up with some specific memories...maybe beating Menomonee or Circus Day or being in one of the Agawak/Kawaga musicals...but what I think about most when looking back are the late night games of Risk in the Pineneedle with a few counselors, or watching the Sunset on Miracle Dock, or having a counselor read the Hobbit to us in Cabin 2, or experiencing the fear of a tapping ceremony for the first time. It is the smaller moments and impressions that have stayed with me the most.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

Kawaga was an extremely formative time in my life. I developed my love of drama and the theater at camp and took all the way to getting a Masters of Fine Art in Theater at the University of Southern California. While I don't perform anymore, these skills have helped in my current career. I had never shot a bow in my life before arriving at Kawaga but ended up becoming a very good archer. While not the best athlete, Kawaga allowed me to find an activity where I excelled and gave me the confidence to be the best. More importantly, I feel like I grew up at camp and learned how to be on my own and get along with other people. I still keep the Ideal in my wallet and try to live my life by the principles outlined in the Kawaga Ideal both in my personal and professional life. Living a life of integrity, honesty, empathy, and humility all began at camp, and are what I try to do to this day.





Doug "Woogie" Heilbrun 1974...2000s

Started in 1974, was there 5 summers in the '70s, 6 in the '80s, one summer in the '90s, and 2 in the 2000s.



What are you up to now?

Living in Centerville, OH where I work for a Salesforce consulting firm.

Looking back, what are you best memories from Kawaga?

So, so many. Getting to play every role in a tapping ceremony from camper to counselor to chiefs to canoeing and singing to being the runner at the tapping ceremonies - simply tremendous. The excitement of Menominee competition and the thrill of victory as a camper and coach. The things that are with me the most when I close my eyes are the little things: the creak and slam of a cabin door, the smell of the pines, the love/hate relationship with freezing lake water, the cool crisp air and stars at night. So many memories both large and small that make up the indelible impressions of my time at Kawaga - most all of them amazing.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

I don't carry the Kawaga Ideal in my wallet because I carry it in my head and heart. Every line is meaningful and timeless despite our ever-changing world. Be it in business, personal relationships, or alone with my own thoughts, the philosophies I learned at Kawaga serve as my barometer of right and wrong. Many friendships formed decades ago at a summer camp in the Northwoods of Wisconsin are still some of my closest relationships today. Kawaga's future has never seemed brighter and I couldn't be more thrilled. I look forward to socking away a few more memories in 2021.



Tim Heindl 1991-1995

What are you up to now?

I live outside of Pasadena and am coming up on 15 years in entertainment marketing & research, at Lionsgate most recently. Love the job and the people. In these interesting/bonkers times we're living through, I'm loving the challenge of being in the middle of trying to figure out a different way of doing thing in the new normal, at least until movie theaters fully open until sometime in 2021 - fingers crossed. Working from home hasn't been all bad, my dogs are thrilled and not commuting is a blessing. For my 50th birthday, I went back to the Boundary Waters for the first time since the '92 CIT trip and while those portages were a little harder this time, the magic of that special place hasn't faded.

Looking back, what are you best memories from Kawaga?

Pulling skiers on that beautiful, glassy water of Kawaguesaga (also warming up the Mc & Baja in the early morning with Brad Sorock). Gabe Korach eating an insane amount of marshmallows on the Chip Trip (and Chip Trips in general were joyful mayhem). 1992 CIT Boundary Waters trip - and the bear attack on Joey Shaewitz's tent. The anticipation of the buses arriving and the looks on the campers' faces when they stepped off and took in their new home. Hanging in the Miracle boat house listening to the wisdom of Kiwi & Kidd. Singing Big10 fight songs in the mess hall during Blue/Golds. The quiet that came over camp in preparation for tribal council and the looks on campers' faces sitting around the fire. Playing Day O in Chip 1 to inspire a thorough cabin cleanup and hopefully score some Alexander's pizza. Simu - my brother.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

The Ideal has been a constant companion of mine on this winding journey and with every year that passes its timeless wisdom and relevance deepens. I come back to this section in particular "...a touch of humility so that he may always remember the true simplicity of greatness, the open mind of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength". That mindset has shaped who I am and I'm eternally grateful. I still vividly remember walking into the camp staff recruitment fair at UW Stevens Point in 1991 and heading straight over to Duke - knowing nothing about Kawaga and having no idea how that chance encounter would impact my life.





Ken Melton 1980 – 1992

What are you up to now?

I'm happily married, we have four children, three girls and a boy. We have been living both here in the states (Deerfield, IL) and in Israel. I work in the pipe & steel fabrication industry specializing in the design and manufacturing of heat transfer equipment for industrial applications.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

Waterskiing! I spent almost every waking hour of my summers on Lake Kawagagesaga at Miracle Dock. I also loved the camping trips. Canoeing the boundary waters, Isle Royale, The Wolf River, The Brule River and hiking the UP aren't just memories, they are still a part of my life. I'm still an avid camper but the adventures began at Kawaga.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

Answering this question could fill more pages than a Tolstoy novel as my priceless memories of Kawaga are countless, but I can sum it all up in two words, "Kawaga Ideal". The Kawaga Ideal, which is an instruction guide to life, was given to me as a Chip and I carry the words with me to this day. I even carry a plastic business card sized copy of the "Ideal" with me at all times that dates back to the Lou Ehrenreich era, and I also have a copy of the original poem "When A Father Prays" from Tony's Scrapbook 1932 edition, from which the Kawaga Ideal originated. Hopefully, (many moons from now) I too can whisper "I have not lived in vain."



Randy Korach 1978-1991

What are you up to now?

Living in Atlanta running a commercial roofing contracting business.

Looking back, what are you best memories from Kawaga?

My many summers at Kawaga left me with some of my life's happiest memories and great, life-long friends. As a bonus, I get to relive it all through the eyes and experiences of my son Quinn, who is now on staff at Kawaga and is a third generation Brave.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

My years on staff were hugely formative for me. I was trusted with real responsibility and to make meaningful decisions at a very young age and it instilled in me a great deal of confidence and pride in accomplishment. No other "first job" could have better prepared me for roles to come or could have been more fun.



David Israel 1988-1990, 1993-1998

Camper: 88-90; 92 CIT; Counselor: 93 - 98 Loyal Star

What are you up to now?

I'm living in Highland Park, IL with my wife and three kids. Working for Mesirow Financial as a wealth manager for the last 21 years.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

Mud wars on D1 the last day of camp 1988. The entire camp coming into cabin 22 to wake us up and make us go to polar bears before Menominee competition in 1989. Being on staff with my two older brothers in 1993. Winning the Spectacular as the coach of Wisconsin in '96. Open A's. Whispering Pines. Council ring and tapping ceremonies. All camp capture the flag. Counselor hunt. Hill Wars. Nights out with my co-counselors. Merv, Joe, Greg, Matt, Pete, Jason, Nugget, Larry, Justin, Weber, Alpo, Berg, Taz, Sal, Brad, Yenta, Gendy, Norton, Trizzy.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

Kawaga has had a huge influence instilling within me the qualities I value. Comradery, self-reliance, competitiveness, friendship and the list goes on. I've tried to instill those same qualities into my children. I met life-long friends at camp that I still see today. A more tangible example of how Kawaga has shaped my life is my work at Mesirow Financial. My last few years as a counselor, Kawaga began hosting alumni weekend. That's where I met Richard "Murray" Korengold. He was working at Mesirow and told me about a job opening on his advisory team. I interviewed, got the job and have been working there ever since.





Andy White 1990-1998

What are you up to now?

Senior Associate -Colliers International, practicing commercial leasing and sales; primarily in the retail sector.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

The bus rides up, most notably, the build-up when we turn left down Kawaga Road. Miracle sunsets, all night treasure hunts, tapping ceremonies, the crackling of the fires during Sunday pow wows, and the intense competitions whether within Camp or against Menominee. More specifically, when I first swam the bay with Mark Herrell, the deep thrill and eventual pride of receiving my sachem name, incidentally throwing Roberto Balandrano's arm out of socket on an 0-2 moon-ball pitch at the 97' Senior/ Counselor ballgame, Jerry's famous rendition of "The Weight" during Counselor night, and befriending Ty Simpson on his very first day at camp along the south stairwell of Bid-a-wee.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

The values of Camp Kawaga has taught me to be strong, confident and resourceful in business. The connections I've made over the years have proven invaluable to my career. But in life, it's taught me the importance of sincerity, sportsmanship, fellowship and the power of true friendships. I am constantly striving to live by the Kawaga Ideal and it's something I often refer to. Kawaga has undeniably made me a better husband, a better father, and overall, a better person; and I'm forever grateful for all it's given me. It's not something I'll ever take for granted.

Mark Herrell 1975-1976, 1981-1982, 1985-1987, 1990-1992, 2003

As a camper: 1975-76; 81-82. Staff: 1985-87, 1990-1992, 2003.

What are you up to now?

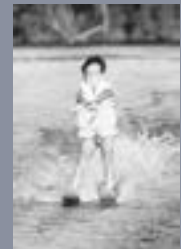
I currently live in Door County Wisconsin with my wife, 2 kids, and a Golden Retriever. I am a teacher at our local school district.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

Who remembers drinking out of cone paper cups placed in the metal cup holders? Or the metal water and milk containers? How about having to walk through the chicken coop to get to the showers? That is a humorous sentence on its own without having to explain that the showers were in a building built over the lake where you walked past the life jackets, canoe paddles, and rowboat oars; all kept in a room with chicken wire. And, were you ever the unlucky counselor assigned to the chicken coop? I was fortunate to have parents that worked at camp. I spent each summer until I was eight at Kawaga 1968 - 1976. After that, I participated at Kawaga in each decade as a camper or counselor until 2003. By the time I was five I participated in Chip plays directed by Tom Jagggers, learned to waterski, taught by the Loewenstein brothers, and jumped off the high dive as instructed by Larry Gold. Eventually, I was able to fill the counselor roles of waterfront director, program director, and the epitome of camp positions - Water Ski Director. Kawaga changes slowly. People come and go. Programming styles evolve. Even iconic structures are rebuilt over the passage of time. The old rec hall with the soda machine and canteen in the basement is but a memory. And now, that legendary chicken coop/ shower/fishing wharf is now an aluminum pier. While people and structures come and go, Kawaga's lessons and ideals stand the test of time. Kawaga's experiences continue past the shores in those of us who have skipped up the root covered hill into camp.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

For me, the lessons are not so much a part of my job as a teacher; although one may see reflections of Greg Jenks in the delivery of my lessons. But the lessons learned at Kawaga have proven to be most valuable in my role as a father. Learning to waterski, then how to teach waterskiing, to driving the 125 horse powered canoe, the mighty Baja (while pale in esteem to today's standard, it was a champion in its day) were training grounds for teaching my children. Not just skiing but in all open area activities (riflery, sailing, fishing, and even flicker-ball). To them, it seems that dads just know how to drive a ski boat. But it took many hours of driving Kawaga braves in circles around Miracle Bay. Those summer days on Lake Kawaguesaga I thought were for me. In actuality, they were for my kids. Fried baloney & corn fritters anyone?





Chuck Mesh 1968–1974, 1975–1976, 1980, 1990s, 2000s

Camper 1968–74, Counselor 1975,76,80; Camp Doc 1990s and early 2000s

What are you up to now?

Living in Chicago. Vascular Surgeon for 28yrs – winding down career. Swim 3–4 miles each week and still answer to Swift Waters. Trade tall stories with fellow Braves from the 70’s Bill Fisch, Rob Wallack (founder of Miracle Ski Team), times. It is all right there. Bob Sklar, Dave Roth, Jeff Heilbrun, and Rick Loewenstein in Snowmass each year at annual ski get-away.

Looking back, what are you best memories from Kawaga?

The friends and personalities. Making Sachem. Ron walking into the Mess Hall with gigantic, lit cigar after we beat Menominee. Good sleeping weather. Sunset off Miracle Dock. Movie Announcements. Great Out Doors

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

The Kawaga Ideal says it all. Good times, bad times. It is all right there.



Landon Krantz 1998–2009

What are you up to now?

Living in Deerfield, IL and working as a general pediatrician in Kenosha, WI for Children’s Wisconsin. Outside of work I’m mostly spending time with my wife, 18 month-old daughter, and dog Comiskey. Before COVID, I also enjoyed being an average to above-average athlete in adult soccer and basketball leagues.

Looking back, what are you best memories from Kawaga?

I see Kawaga as two separate experiences--camper and staff member. As a camper, some of my best memories are from the all-night treasure hunts. It’s such a unique event that is hard to recreate or match anywhere besides camp. Beating Menominee and being “tapped” for the first time are also up there, as moments of great achievement that still make me feel proud today. As a counselor, I got to do so much. Planning EP’s with Harrison Leibow and watching them play out was awesome. The best memory, though, is receiving the Annual Pineneedle dedication with Jeff Kaplan. It was a perfect closing moment to my 12-year tenure. Other than that, I still smile thinking about my Spectacular teams’ song-and-skits and Michael Simon being lifted up like Simba in the Alabama skit. And while the best part of being on staff was getting to run programs and be with the campers, the nights out on town with my fellow staff members were unforgettable--in a good way.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

In my life, Kawaga’s Ideal still sticks with me. I have kept it in my wallet for years, and sometimes give it as a gift to people outside of Kawaga who are important in my life. The “Stand up in the storm” line sticks out the most, as when I’ve had a few tough moments, those 2 sentences always brought me comfort. Through my own hardships and failures, I’ve learned compassion for others who fail and have seen the struggle as a learning opportunity. The Ideal has come in handy in my work life as well. But on a lighter note, camp made me a more creative person, which lends itself well to both my social and work lives. This creativity stems from many song and skit, coming up with new EP’s, theme day, and even the creation of Voccer. Kawaga lets you think outside the box and make the most of whatever you have in front of you. There’s a lot of freedom and a lot of support to have fun. At camp, people quickly rally around you and support your games, or better yet improve them (thanks Harry) so they can be better enjoyed.





Greg Jenks 1980–1990, 2001–2002

What are you up to now?

I retired in June 2017 after 32 years working as a school psychologist in Franklin, WI. I have become a home brewer of beer & wine and just planted a small vineyard in the backyard that hopefully will produce its first crop for bottling in 2022. I've also done a bit of acting—was in my first play a year ago and just filmed my first commercial. I also am part of a group called the Waukesha Senior Players that puts on variety shows for senior living communities. I have to trace the performing back to my first counselor show in 1980.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

It's very hard to come up with single events because I look back at all my camp years with such overwhelmingly wonderful memories. I was never in a fraternity, or in the armed forces, but I suspect it's a similar experience in that living and working together in an environment that is seemingly so removed from the rest of the world helps form such tight bonds with people that last forever. So I'd have to say it is all the great fellow Kawagians that I got to know and hang out with over the years that are a part of all my best memories but specifically, paddling the canoe with my buddy Don Glassel and John Halperin (with Woogie as the Big Runner) as part of the tapping ceremony has got to be near the top. But, so are Menominee competitions, pow wows, doing rounds with Ron, getting a camper up on skis for the first time . . . I could go on. Like I said, so many great memories!

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

As I was approaching retirement, it was remarkable to look back and take note of just how much camp affected my life. When I came to camp that first year, I was floundering in college with no clue what I wanted to do “when I grew up”. After that first summer, all I knew was that I loved working at Kawaga and whatever I was going to do in life, it had to allow me to keep coming back. So it was that realization that steered me into the world of education where I could continue to work with kids and more importantly, have the summers off. I got lucky in that I ended up really enjoying what I did in the “off-season” of camp. Forty years later, many of the best friends I have are those that I met at camp, including my wife Deb who I met in the summer of 1983 when she was the camp nurse. Beyond that, while it may sound corny, I have to say that the values so well stated in the Kawaga Ideal guideposts for my life. I've always strived to have a heart that is clean, master myself before I try to master others, and carry myself in a humble and gentle manner.



Evan Miller 1991 – 2003

What are you up to now?

I live in Minneapolis (my brother Andy - '95 CIT - does too) and have been here for 12 years. I have a 7 year old son and 4 year old daughter. I work for Weber Shandwick, the largest PR firm in the world, and I lead the agency's healthcare practice where we provide strategic communications counsel to some of the largest and most influential pharmaceutical, hospital/health system, medical device, biotech, health insurance and professional healthcare association clients around the world.

Looking back, what are you best memories from Kawaga?

Where to start. Woogie lighting his chest hair on fire. Tex hitting 16" balls from D1 to the OD shed. Pow-wows. Hill wars. Whispering Pines. Editing the Weekly Pineneedle for almost 10 years. Skiing (as a camper) then driving/staffing Miracle Dock hour, after hour, after hour. Multi hour cheer sessions in the mess hall on rainy days. Rest Hour. Late night tapping ceremonies. All night treasure hunts. The list could go on for pages.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

I learned what responsibility, independence, hard work, tenacity, competition, values, and appreciation mean. Kawaga also helped me hone my table setting/clearing, bed making, sweeping, fire building, and manual labor skills.





Jeff Kaplan 1998 – 2013

What are you up to now?

I recently moved with my wife Bridget and kids Teddy (4.5) and Audrey (3) from Lincoln Square in Chicago up to Highland Park. I am an Instructional Coach at Jane Stenson Elementary School which means I work alongside K-5 teachers on their instructional practice.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

It is challenging to sum up 15 years of amazing memories from camp. Each stage at camp had its own special memories. As a camper I loved all sports activities- leagues, competition, ski tournaments, Blue Gold Cup, etc. Also, growing closer with my age group and counselors each year, and building lifelong friendships culminating in an incredible CIT summer that somehow topped my impossibly high expectations. Getting gifted my prized "I'm not fat I'm fluffy" shirt from Fred Geraci in the mess hall was unforgettable. Being on staff was such a different experience than being a camper but equally amazing. I was fortunate to be a counselor for the same group of campers for 6 summers and I loved every second of trying to make their camp experience as special as mine had been. Getting to spend time with my best friends on staff led to some of the best stories and memories that get retold to this day. Receiving the Pineneedle dedication with Landon Krantz was so humbling. Most importantly, I met my wife Bridget in 2008 while I was on staff and she was working as one of the camp nurses. We got married at Kawaga in 2013. Getting married at my favorite place in the world and hosting all of our friends and family at a place that they had heard so much about, but many had never been to, was surreal.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

As a camper Kawaga was the place I felt most comfortable being my true self. I learned to value constant improvement, goal setting, and self-reflection. I feel that Kawaga played an enormous role in shaping my personality during my most formative years. Being on staff provided opportunities to take on greater responsibilities at a young age than I would have experienced in any other job. As an Oneida and my early years on staff I gained an appreciation for working with children that put me on the path to become an educator. Being a cabin counselor and later a chief taught me lessons that prepared me both to be a teacher and eventually a parent. Being an assistant director provided me with leadership experience on a greater scale that led to new challenges and growth. As I always say to anyone that will listen, sending your son to Kawaga is the absolute best gift that you can give them. It has changed my life in so many ways and I can't wait to experience camp again as a parent when Teddy begins his camping career.

Jason Rosenthal 1982-1988

What are you up to now?

I've spent my entire career as litigation attorney representing corporate clients in business disputes, and also served as the managing partner of a boutique business litigation firm for ten of those years. After living in Chicago (Bucktown) for over 12 years, a few years ago my family (which includes two kids and a fox-red labrador) moved to Evanston, Illinois, a few blocks from Lake Michigan (beautiful views, but not quite as pretty as the sun setting over Lake Kawaguesaga), where my wife/architect and I have been slowly rehabbing our historic 1890 home.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

For me, it's mostly the smaller moments, such as being "tapped" for Sachem, cheers in the mess hall, and the comradery shared with cabinmates. Although it would be hard not to throw onto this list casino nights, our CIT trip, and numerous other experiences that were likely documented in the Whispering Pines. When I return for parents weekend each summer (this summer excluded, of course) and open the car door, the smell of the pine trees immediately brings back a flood of memories.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

My teenage son (Little Silver Feather) just spent his sixth summer on the Shores (thanks again Kawaga for making that happen!). The Kawaga experience has largely remained unchanged since the last generation, both in terms of the character building and values it teaches, as well as participating in many of the same traditions, programs, and other activities. It's one of the few things a 15-year old boy never has a problem talking about, and it's a true gift to be able to share this common experience with my son, albeit decades apart.





Harris Klein 1977 to 1987

What are you up to now?

After 30 years as a floor trader on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, I have recently transitioned into trucking logistics. I live in Deerfield, IL. Proud father of Jacob (Fuzz, Little Sunshine) Klein, Assistant Director at Kawaga, who just finished his 15th year and counting; and a daughter who just graduated from the University of Chicago and now getting a masters at Northwestern.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

I remember getting off the bus on my first day and walking up the hill past Egypt, and meeting the Ohio and Michigan braves that were at camp already, and then my Kawaga experience just took off. Flicker ball, hounds and hares, movie night, movie announcements, Menominee competition, swimming the bay, dropping a ski, cheering in the mess hall, polar bears, moving up to the hill, beach days, casino night, carnival, meeting so many diverse but like minded people, extended rest hours, socials, trips to town, a rough game of H2O basketball, shooting trap, horse flies, pow wows, camping trips, Sachem, whispering pines, loons, eagles, the bear skin trail and by far the best time at camp; after dinner when it cooled down and there was a new energy in camp and kids really came out and participated in open areas and camp really came together with the excitement of that nights evening program, and the beautiful sunset that finished the day.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

Kawaga did so many things that shaped my personality and growth. It motivated me to be a people person. I enjoyed being with a large group of like minded people experiencing life together; from sports teams, to fraternity life, to working in a job with lots of people in close proximity. It taught me responsibility, as it was my first job as a counselor. I had to be accountable to a boss with the responsibility of safety, and helping to mold the next generation of campers. That maturing process helped me in college, jobs, and fatherhood. I thank my parents to this day for letting big Ron come into my house and selling me the dream of Kawaga. I was able to do the same for my son, who fell in love with camp also, and I am so lucky to have a close connection to this day because of Jacob's involvement. I thrive off of all the common stories, experiences, photos, traditions, songs, struggles and the major transformation that camp and Minocqua have gone through since that day in 1977. When you see a Kawaga bumper sticker, or a t shirt on someone there is such a sense of brotherhood and pride that you were part of a real special place. When you run into a fellow Kawagian somewhere in life, no matter the age, you are flooded by these memories and common experiences. People in the know of camp life have always singled out Kawaga as a special place, where the people that went over that bridge by the swamp and into that beautiful world came out a notch above as a person, even compared to all of the other camps. This was never more evident when camp opened up for Covid summer. I have Menominee and Ojibwa friends that were so envious of our accomplishment, and were so happy for the Kawaga Nation. Thank you Kawaga for being part of my life and the pride I have to always be part of the Kawaga nation. I think about some aspect of KAWAGA every single day.





Joey Roth 1996–2004

What are you up to now?

Live in New York, married, 3 daughters, work in finance, still very close with Kawaga crew.

Looking back, what are you best memories from Kawaga?

Collection of memories over so many years with the same people, basically growing up at camp from the age of 10 to ~18. So many specific memories come to mind but a recurring theme is the people that I spent so much time with during those years (and also today). Building the KAWAGA sign above the waterfront, which is still there today, was a great team activity. I think 90% of us watched while 10% actually built the sign, but it was a good team effort and a great outcome!

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

I spent some of my most important developmental years at Kawaga and it helped me become who I am today based on a combination of the people and the values. The values of teamwork, setting and achieving goals, working hard and having structure and discipline have helped me develop in my life and career. At Kawaga, I learned the power that a well respected organization can have on its members. We all share a common bond of mutual respect for Kawaga's history and future. Some of the relationships that I developed at camp will last my entire life and have helped guide me in my life and career.



Joey Shaewitz 1988–1997

I was a camper from 1988-1992 and then a counselor from 1993-1997

What are you up to now?

After spending 7 years living in San Diego, CA, I'm now back home in Chicago. I live with my wife and 2 sons, 13 and 9. My younger son is signed up to go to Kawaga for the first time in 2021.

Looking back, what are you best memories from Kawaga?

My best memories from camp are waterskiing, CIT Boundary Waters trip, Senior Ball, pow wows, counselor shows, Inlaws, Murtaugh's and the lifelong friendships I made over my 10 summers there.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

Learning the importance of honesty, knowledge, humility, compassion and humor, all values mentioned in the Kawaga Ideal and fostered at camp, continue to help me in my life today, both personally and professionally. Those friendships that began to take shape at Kawaga 30 years ago, continue to be an important part of my life to this day.

Bill Fisch 1969–1981

What are you up to now?

Running my own business, importing textiles mainly from China, where we have offices in Shanghai, and pre-pandemic spend about 4 months a year there.

Looking back, what are you best memories from Kawaga?

Some of my best memories of Kawaga come down to the basic routine. I loved knowing that the day for the most part was planned, 7:30 revile, 8 breakfast, than cabin clean up, clubs, activities, instructional swims, with open areas, lunch, rest hour, activities, open areas, dinner, open areas, evening program, taps. I even remember what meals we had on which days. Second is the beauty of the place, and being in the lake.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

Well, my first years at camp were not great, I wasn't a team player and was a trouble maker. Camp not only taught me the importance of getting along, learning skills, and discovering myself, it had a huge impact on me, building my character, my moral compass, and building my future, based on the words of the Kawaga ideal. I credit camp for a lot of what I am today, as well as the 50 year plus friendships I still have and hold dear to my heart.





Brad Sorock 1980–89, 1992

What are you up to now?

I've been an entrepreneur my whole life, mostly online. Lived in Crested Butte, CO for 10 years then settled down raising 2 kids South Minneapolis. I live with my girlfriend Kerry and her 2 boys who go to Kawaga and love it. My son did various camps in Hawaii and Costa Rica and played sports. Part of me wishes he did Kawaga but he was on his own journey. I just survived 10 days in the hospital with Covid and sitting here now full of gratitude for my support and life itself.

Looking back, what are you best memories from Kawaga?

I was a Miracle dock junkie. I have ben blessed to have very close friends in life from different periods. A few of those are from Kawaga friends that has bonded us for life. During my Covid experience, Kawaga boys popped out of the woods to check in on me. It's a brotherhood.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

Quite honestly, I still refer to the Kawaga Ideal as guidance and wisdom in my life as a man and as a parent. I work hard and smart, but also prioritize fun. The smell of the Northwoods has always stayed with me with a nostalgic feeling of home. About 3 years ago I was at a dinner party on Longboat Key, FL and sat next to a guy who went to Kawaga, about 8 years older than me and we didn't know each other. We had a blast talking of a shared past. I love that bond.



Eric Simon 1982–1993

(Camper 1982–1989, Counselor 1990–1993, Chief of Chippewa 1990–1992, Chief of Sachem 1993)

What are you up to now?

Spent 20 years in Colorado living and working in the resort and recreation industry, married and had 2 daughters there, moved back to Chicago in 2015 and joined Big Simu and the family business. My kids and wife are actively working on our plans for world domination.

Looking back, what are your best memories from Kawaga?

Too many to list, I still literally dream of Kawaga regularly and I haven't spent a summer there in over 27 years. Some of the best memories: Competitions, Spectacular, little pow wows (loved the big ones too but something special about the little ones), rest hour shenanigans, mess hall hype, thunderstorms, quiet evening sailing on the lake, boundary waters, steak ums, smeggs, pontoon or ski boat ride every year with the cabin to Alexanders for my birthday, my co-counselors stealing the pamphlet rack at the Minocqua police station during my brief incarceration ("What to do if you are lost in the woods"), and by far the most important, all the legendary humans I had the privilege to spend time with. The place is magic.

In what ways has Kawaga helped you in your life and career?

With due respect to my amazing parents, almost everything I learned about Leadership I learned at camp. I can't think of a better training ground for the importance of communication and relationships, how to read people, earning respect versus demanding it, the benefit of hard work, learning from mistakes and much more - all of this is instrumental in my family and work - it laid the foundation that I still tap into everyday. No book, nor the hundreds of hours of professional development work over my career has had even close to the impact that Camp Kawaga does. Love and respect of the outdoors started at Kawaga too which is and always has been a big part of my life. Kawaga Braves are gentlemen and leaders and that isn't by coincidence.





CONGRATULATIONS

2020 Announcements



Engagement: 2005 CIT Lee Zucker and Fiance Whitney



Newborn: 2006 CIT Joey Roberts and wife Jessica



Engagement: 2006 CIT Brett Mandel and fiance Christie



Newborn: 2002 CIT Michael Ruder and wife Erica



Newborn: Longtime staff David and Amy Martin



Engagement: 2008 CIT Brett Weiss and fiance Aynsley



Engagement: 2005 CIT Max Roberts and fiance Mearyl



Engagement: 2008 CIT Matt Loewy and fiance Liz

Don't forget to share your big announcements and special moments with the Kawaga Nation!





Message From the Owners

Fellow Alumni! Hoping this newsletter finds you and your families doing well in these crazy times. It brings a smile to all of our faces when we talk Camp, run into a fellow Brave, or see the smiling faces of our Campers on the Kawaga Instagram or Facebook page. We are delighted and so appreciative of the revival of The Kawaga Spirit, our time-honored Alumni Newsletter, and its ability to keep us connected with each other. Special thanks to Mighty Chief for spearheading this initiative. As you all know, despite significant difficulties and challenges, Kawaga was one of a very few Camps in North America to open this Summer. We had a remarkably successful summer, filled with amazing activities and lifelong memories for our campers and counselors. Our fabulous Directors, Ty and Lauren Simpson are not only outstanding leaders for Camp, they are role models for our entire community, and we couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments. Additionally, we have made (and will continue to make in the years to come) a number of significant enhancements to our physical facility that improve the quality of our programming, enhance the beauty of our Camp, and build upon the outstanding experience we provide to our Campers. Some of these include a brand-new Mess Hall, a beautiful new and winterized Chip Lodge, a complete Paddle-Tennis Facility (join us for a weekend next Fall!), and more! Under the leadership of Ty and Lauren, Kawaga is poised to continue its standing as the premier summer camp in the country! On behalf of the Fisher and Daube families, we wish you and your families a meaningful Thanksgiving and safe and happy holiday season.

