

# VALKAZON



## Karen's Corner

### **Hello Camp Nakanawa Alumnae and friends!**

This month, we gathered around the table with friends and family to express gratitude for the blessings of the year. Here at Camp we extend our heartfelt thanks to each member of our community.

The chill of winter is settling in, bringing with it a season of reflection and anticipation. The vibrant hues of fall leaves are gracefully making way for the serene beauty of winter. It's a time of change, a reminder that each season holds its own unique charm. As we embraced the warmth of Thanksgiving, we now turn to welcome the crisp air and the promise of a new year.

We're delighted to share that our enrollment numbers are strong! Equally as exciting, counselor applications continue to roll in. Summer 2024 is going to be spectacular.

Our staff has been hard at work completing repairs to the Pavillion. Thanks to their efforts, we're ready for many more days of indoor climbing, table tennis, rainy day activities, and team party decoration painting.

We continue to be overwhelmed with gratitude for the generosity displayed on Giving Tuesday and throughout the year. Your donations make a meaningful impact on our community, enabling us to continue providing enriching experiences and opportunities for all. Thank you for your support and commitment to our shared vision.

As we approach the end of the year, let's carry the spirit of giving thanks into the coming months and support The Nakanawa Fund so Camp may continue to soar. Together, we look forward to a bright and promising 2024.

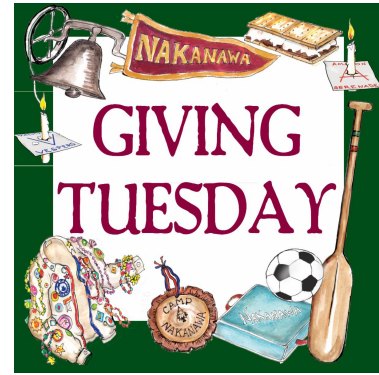
In the Spirit of Nakanawa,  
Karen

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## Challenge Complete!

**Our Nakanawa community showed up BIG** for our Giving Tuesday 2023 campaign. A special donor pledged \$10,000 if we received 105 donations by November 28. In typical fashion, we exceeded our goal with 155 donors participating!

Thanks to everyone from near and far for helping us secure the future of the Camp we hold so dear.



Ruby and her granddaughter, Hailey.

## Ruby Mathias named Nakanawa Food Service Manager

**Not new to camp but new to this position**, Ruby is bringing fresh ideas and recipes for success to our Dining Hall tables.

“I cook from the heart,” Mathias said about her new role at Nakanawa. “It’s important for

me to serve children who are excited to eat together.”

### what's cooking

Ruby's mission is to introduce more fresh fruit and vegetable offerings and reduce canned goods each summer. She's also making plans to bring all food ordering and management online and work with parents to build alternative menus that are accessible, straightforward, and easier for all involved.

She is working on new menu items for next summer including chicken parmesan, homemade tomato soup, and meatloaf with, you guessed it, Ruby's special sauce.

### serving up memories

Last summer, Ruby was busy trying out new ideas, like frozen grapes and fresh oranges at milk break. She also added a barbecue mid-season to spice up the cookout offering. Campers and counselors alike are still talking about Ruby's secret sauce.

Other new additions last season included:

- more fruit into hearty breakfasts
- salads every day at lunch
- more broccoli, squash, and fresh carrots

### quality from the kitchen

Ruby is also dedicated to a healthy staff in the kitchen. She works with her team at the beginning of each summer to prepare the food just right and ensure quality presentation. She also thrives on feedback from the aides, counselors and campers who wander back to say hello most days.

“We want the food to look delicious and appetizing,” she said. “I want The Dining Hall time to feel special.”

### background

Prior to her role at Camp, Ruby ran the kitchen at Pleasant Hill Elementary School for 20 years. She joined the Nakanawa staff in 1999 and was fortunate to spend many years working with the legendary Leon.

Originally from Crossville, Ruby is the youngest of seven children. She has four boys of her own and ten grandkids she loves spending time with as much as possible. She is also a talented quilter and loves to sew in her free time.

“I really love how Camp grows young girls into young women. It's a great place. I tell everyone about it.”

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## Counselor Recruitment Update

**Recruitment is in full swing** with new applications coming in weekly and a team of over 40 counselors prepared and excited about coming to Camp for the 2024 season! We have loved talking to applicants during the interview process and know that campers will love the enthusiasm that this year's staff will bring.

Campers will recognize lots of familiar faces with new counselors from recent TRs, and their favorite counselors and ERs returning for another exciting summer of fun.

Interested applicants should apply online soon to receive an early sign-up bonus before December 1st. Don't forget to bring a friend for a referral bonus, too! Please spread the word about counselor recruitment.

Contact Blair Rissing [blair@campnakanawa.org](mailto:blair@campnakanawa.org) to find out how to host a Counselor



apply today

## Wo-He-Lo Holiday Gift Guide

**Looking for a perfect gift** for the Nakanawa girl in your life? Here are some ideas that will unwrap plenty of smiles this season.



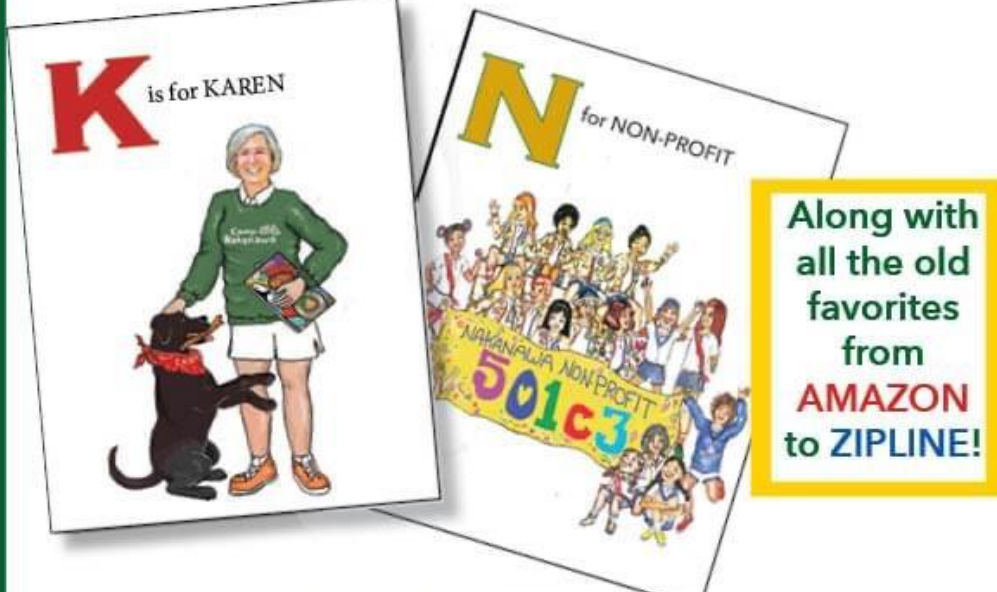
### To "Dye" For Fashion

**Bundle up!** Our popular tie-dye hoodies are on sale! Strut your stuff for the holidays in this cozy, brightly colored Camp swag. Adult and kid sizes are available, so you can be "twinsies" with your favorite camper. Each hoodie is priced at \$35. Order two! - perfect for a mother/daughter combo - for just \$60. Who wouldn't want to be twinsies with their favorite camper?

**Don't be left out in the cold!** The last day to order for on-time Christmas delivery is December 11.

cozy up with your hoodie

# WHAT'S NEW IN THE NAKANAWA ALPHABET?



Along with all the old favorites from **AMAZON** to **ZIPLINE!**

The revised “NAKANAWA A to Z” is available! 64 pages of fun camp illustrations. Order now for Christmas.

A percentage of the proceeds from book sales is **DONATED to CAMP.**

## How Do You Spell Nakanawa?

**We love how much** Camp Nakanawa stays the same, but a few things have changed. Our REVISED, autographed, fully illustrated book, *Nakanawa A to Z*, is available now for order via Etsy. It's a perfect stocking stuffer for the camper young or old in your life.

order yours today

## Support Nakanawa in your Year-End End Giving

**Our transition** from a privately-owned business to a non-profit organization has been a lengthy process, but well worth the wait. The future of Nakanawa is bright, but we still have work to do.

A robust [Nakanawa Fund](#) will allow us to properly plan improvements, pay our counselors and staff competitively, and maintain Camp's beautiful facilities. Your financial participation is vital to our mission.

give now

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**Reunion Reminders**  
Plan Now for 2024



**Be like TR '72! (pictured above). Join TRs '68 & '69 who are already planning their May Reunion at Camp!**

Contact your TR to see if reuniting at Camp **May 17-19, 2024** will work for your group. The weekend includes lodging at Camp, five meals, two Happy-Am-I Hours, and lots of activity options -- including canoeing, hiking, visiting your Rocks, and s'mores at Council Ring. Open to all TR groups.

Contact Margaret Matens at [margaretmatens@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmatens@gmail.com) for more details or to let us know your group would like to be added to our May weekend list.

[visit the alumnae page](#)

**Special Anniversary Reunions** are scheduled for these TRs on July 19-21, 2024. Listed below are the Reunion Chairs we have on record:

- 50th: TR '74 Libba Bushnell Williams
- 40th: TR '84 Lucille Hodges
- 30th: TR '94 Anne Bracken McGraw
- 25th: TR '99 Emily Eason
- 20th: TR '04 Diana Darling
- 10th: TR '14 Stokes Dunavan
- 1st: TR '23 volunteer needed



Please let us know if you are willing to continue as the contact point for your group or want to volunteer. Email Donya Rose at [donya@gmail.com](mailto:donya@gmail.com).

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## Alumnae Announcements

Setting Suns





**Lina Small Matthews Bowyer**, age 90, passed away in her sleep on Sunday, October 22, 2023, at home in Jackson, TN. Lina, a longtime camp representative and close friend of Mitch and Eloise, was the mother of Lina Bowyer Ellis (TR '82) and grandmother of Addie Ellis (TR 22). Read more about her beautiful, life [here](#).

### Out and About

### Friendships Last Our Whole Lives Through

**When Camp life** intersects with your professional life, magic truly happens!

Alex Seblatnigg (TR '88) was recently keynote speaker for a service club at The Westminster School in Atlanta, GA. She crossed paths with Lina Bowyer Ellis (TR '82) who is the school sponsor.



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### The Spirit of Friendship

#### Gifts made in honor of:

Reilly Cizik, TR '14  
Cameron Cizik, TR '17 Dolphin!  
Keach Hagey Harris  
Lucy McDaniel, Margot Kepper Berry, Patsy King Hosman  
Barbara Keith & Susanna Payne  
Nan Chamberlain Smith  
Tent Row 1981  
Tent Row 2027

#### Gifts made in memory of:

Lina Small Matthews Bowyer  
Leigh Sellers, Nancy Sellers, and Virginia Sellers Davis  
Jesse Graham  
Lillis Lott Lewis  
Lou Lloveras  
Suzanne Smith Tubb

**Honor someone you love with a gift to the Nakanawa Fund**

donate here

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## Sharing is Caring

**Have you celebrated** a wedding, welcomed a child, launched a new business, led a conference keynote, or have any big and exciting news to share, please [email us](#) a photo along with details about your big event. We'd love to help you announce it far and wide to our Nakanawa community.

**Do you know Nakanawa alumnae** who would love to receive *The Valkazon* each month, but might not be in our email database yet? Encourage them to join our fun. It's easy peasy! In just a few clicks, they can update contact information, share details of their time at Camp, and sign up for alerts about city parties or camp get-togethers nearby.

sign up here

### After completing registration:

- Follow the Login link to our extended profile page.
- Look for My Account in the top, right-hand corner of the Login page.
- Share additional information about your years as a camper or counselor. This will help link you to others who had similar experiences!

Any questions about the directory? Email us at [campnak@campnakanawa.org](mailto:campnak@campnakanawa.org) or call (931) 277-3711. We're open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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## Corrections

A big thank you to Junior Camp playground donors Helen and Wayne Bafford. Apologies for the incorrect spelling seen in our last issue.



[campnakanawa.org](http://campnakanawa.org)

**Camp Nakanawa's regular business hours are Monday–Friday, from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Central Time. Messages received outside of those hours will be answered on the next business day.**





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