

VALKAZON



KAREN'S CORNER

May Musings

They say April showers bring May flowers... but around here, May brings rakes, paintbrushes, pruners — and an enthusiastic band of volunteers. Service Weekend was a big success! A huge thanks to everyone who came out to help get camp looking sharp. We were especially thrilled to be joined by the reunion crew from TR '77. Let's just say: they still know their way around a broom and a good camp story.

Camp is getting itself in tip-top form for the arrival of our campers — and we've got more of them than last year! Enrollment is up 6%, which tells us one thing loud and clear: the great outdoors still beats great Wi-Fi. Time spent in nature, screen-free, is something families are truly valuing — and we're thrilled to be part of that unplugged magic.

We've also begun welcoming our international staff, bringing a whole world of energy and new perspectives. Each day, more of our summer team arrives, and every new face makes it feel more real: camp is happening.

I can't wait until it all comes together with the laughter of campers and counselors! Until then, here's a chuckle for you:

What did the graham cracker say to the marshmallow at the campfire?
"You make me feel all warm and gooey inside!"

Until next month — keep your sunscreen handy and your bug spray closer.

Campfully yours,
Karen

Service Weekend 2025

A Successful Service Weekend is in the Books! Almost 65 women - former campers, counselors, and "friends of camp" - came together for a weekend of



work and fun to prepare Nakanawa for the upcoming summer sessions. Tent Rows from the 1960s-2010s were represented, creating a wonderful opportunity to make new friends across decades and deepen ties [...]

[click here to read more and see photos & videos](#)

TR 77 Reunion: Cherishing Tradition and Embracing Change at Camp Nakanawa

TR 77 celebrated their **48th anniversary** at Camp Nakanawa! During Service Weekend, they rekindled their camper days, connected with generations of Nakanawa girls, and helped camp prepare for the 2025 season. Interested in hearing more about their reunion in their own words? Click below.

[read more](#)



(Left to Right) Danna English, Charlotte Robinson, Allison Horan Wiltison, Charlotte Cunningham Burton, Frances Robinson Snipes, Elizabeth Lewis Sankovitch, Kathy Glover Carrington, Pride Forney




Join Us for Mother Daughter Weekend
September 12-15
 Registration is now officially open!

Mother Daughter Weekend '25 Registration Now Open

We are delighted to announce that registration is open for our beloved Mother Daughter Weekend, scheduled **September 12-14, 2025!** This special event is the perfect way to introduce girls aged 5-11 to the magic of Camp, as they experience a fun-filled weekend alongside their mother, grandmother, or another cherished adult friend.

[details and registration](#)

Thank you Ruby and Hello Upper Crust

It is with grateful hearts and full tummies that we say thanks to Ruby for **25 years in the Nakanawa dining halls**. Ruby is stepping away from the stove to spend time with her husband but will still walk amongst the pine trees of Camp in other ways, so we won't say goodbye.

We are thrilled to announce our new partner in the kitchen: **Upper Crust**. Campers and Counselors can look forward to our traditional Camp recipes, enhanced accommodations of dietary needs, and some fresh new flavors at the table.



Counselor Update

Positions are filled for all sessions, and counselors are already training and getting prepared for the 2025 season. Counselors from all over the world are currently arriving to begin readying Camp for our campers. The full counselor team will report on June 9th for PreCamp training, which will include a week of workshops, round tables and discussions, certifying counselors in their activity areas, and of course a ton of games, shenanigans, and team building fun! We are so excited about this hand-picked team, and know that our counselors will lead campers through an amazing summer experience. If you missed

getting your application in this summer, please contact Blair Rissing to get on this summer's waitlist or to put your name on this list to be contacted for the 2026 Summer session! It's never too early to plan! Blair@campnakanawa.org



Reunion Weekend is July 18-20 and registration is now open!!

Weekend highlights include: Varsity Soccer Game, War Canoe Race, Rock Meetings with alumnae invited, Council Ring in Jr., Sunday Church Service, Reunion Luncheon in Honor of TR 2024, evening program on the Crow's Nest with Gold Carson Crosses presented to the 50th Reunion, Valkyrie Vespers, and musical presentations by all TR groups.

We are already expecting groups from **TR85, TR90, TR00, TR05, TR15, and TR24**. These groups have identified a chairperson and organization for the weekend is under way. If you are in another TR group that would like to join us, please drop an email to Donya Rose, and she'll be in touch to answer questions and provide details (to.donya@gmail.com). And if you just want to come and join the fun without the rest of your TR, know that you are welcome and please register!

Total fees are \$52.99 for all but TR24. TR24 total fees are \$31.80. Please register so we can plan for the right number of guests. And if you need to cancel later, that's ok - life

happens - we'll happily refund your fees up to two weeks before the event.

learn more about and register for July Reunions

A Correction and Credit to TR 1971

The "Howdy Doody" TR song was created by Tent Row 1971 (not '74, as previously published in the newsletter). Thanks to Mary Loveless who sent the correction and shared "*our TR loved that song, and was proud to have created it!*"

Alumnae Announcements

Out & About

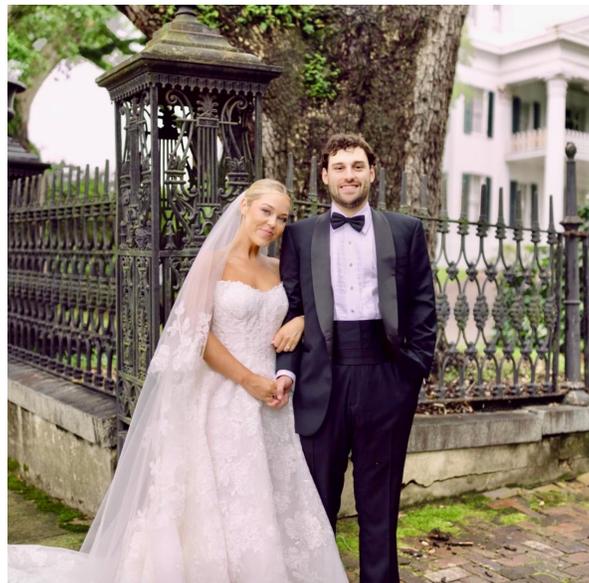
Tent Row 1974 - Who Could Ask for Anything More?

Because not everyone could be together last year during Service Weekend, TR 74 decided to have a **"do-over"**! Our hostess with the mostest, Ellie Bryan Billington, invited us to her lovely cottage in the Monteagle Assembly. What a charming place! There was much laughter, a lot of catching up, long walks and delicious meals. Tent Row 1974 still has "it" after 50 plus years! We even sang some of the songs that we created way back then. "Friends are friends forever" rings true! We are so grateful!



(Left to Right) FRONT ROW: Susan Hurlburt Coop, Nabors Cabiness Johnson, Maria Kain Matthews, Ellie Bryan Billington; SECOND ROW: Holly Gearhart Pierce, Shelly Duer Landau, Mimi Ward Benoist, Marlene Partlow Willings; THIRD ROW: Tiny Lott McPhillips, Amanda Hicks Wallin, Libba Bushnell Williams

Day Lilies & Sunshine



Best wishes to **Lucy Ragsdale** (Tent Row 2015) and Parker Bethea who married on May 10 in Natchez, MS.

Dancing Flames



Katheryn Stephens (Tent Row 2011) and Mark Welle welcomed baby Virginia Eleanor on May 5, 2025. The proud grandparents include Elizabeth Bowyer (Tent Row 1981) and Bob Stephens.



Cameron Perry Estes (Tent Row 2005) and her husband welcomed Claude Hugh Estes VI on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025. He is their third child.

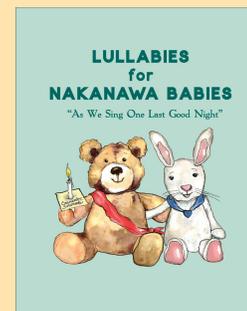


Molly Claybrook Newell (Tent Row 2011) and her husband, John Newell, gave birth to Carson Camille Newell on May 25, shown here with big sis, Callen.

Do you know someone with a new baby?

[Send us their info](#) so we can include it in the Valkazon.

Also, author/illustrator Margaret Matens will mail them a copy of **Lullabies for Nakanawa Babies**.





Alumnae Giving

Consider a monthly gift to the Nakanawa Fund.

May donations were given in honor of Carolyn Thomas Rogers and Tent Row 1975

[give now](#)



Nakanawa in the Know

[2-Week Session: June 15–27, 2025](#)

[4-Week Session: June 30–July 26, 2025](#)

[Reunion Weekend: July 18–20, 2025](#)

[Mother/Daughter Weekend: September 12-14, 2025](#)



Camp Nakanawa's summer business hours are Monday–Friday, from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Central Time. Messages received outside of those hours will be answered within twenty-four hours.

Camp Nakanawa | 1084 Camp Nakanawa Rd | Crossville, TN 38571 US

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