

Quest West News

The Newsletter for Camp Quest West

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Registrar's corner

We are once again looking forward to registrations from campers coming from California and many other States across the West, even from Canada. This creates a widespread community for our children and will enable them to truly see how far our community reaches and make lifelong friendships.

THANK YOU to those who already registered their child and thereby took advantage of the Early Bird price. Your Welcome letter is on its way.

Summer camp is an expensive endeavor for parents and we hope that all parents are taking advantage of our Early Bird pricing.

Please contact me at RajaShanti@comcast.net if you should have any problems/questions with the registration process. We hope to see you back this summer for another fabulous and exciting Camp Quest West! Looking forward to all your registrations!
--Gloria Kaczmariski, Registrar

New Treasurer on board!



Jonathan is a lover of camping and scientifically inquiring minds, two interests united at Camp Quest West. He regularly reads Scientific American, the Skeptical Inquirer, and reports of National Center for

Science Education, the leading anti-creationist organization of the USA. He has been sighted hanging out with Unitarians, Buddhists, atheists, and liberal Christians. He strives to synthesize the skeptic motto of taking things with a grain of salt with Jesus' saying "Ye are the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13)

One must still have chaos in oneself, to give birth to a dancing star.

-- Friedrich Nietzsche in "Thus Spake Zarathustra"

Who is Janie Charamuga?

Janie Charamuga was CQW's Operations Assistant last year and now this year she is also on the board.

"I have greatly enjoyed my involvement with CQW families and taking a position on the board was another way for me to support a great organization!"

-Janie Charamuga

Program Team Highlights

Program team has already commenced planning for 2010! Inspired by the 2010 camp theme: Question Detective, they've been busy creating activities. Here's just a few to whet your appetite:

- * Investigating Famous Hoaxes!
- * Darwin's 20 Questions
- * Paper Trail
- * Mock Crime Scene
- * Become a Psychic - easy steps to your first cold reading

Stay tuned. There's more to come!

This just in!!!

Helen Kagin was co-founder of the original Camp Quest. She passed away just last week and the national board is establishing a Memorial Campership fund in her honor to support campers to all the camp quests. Here's a snippet. (We can probably find a picture online somewhere).

As many of you are aware, Helen Kagin, the co-founder of the original Camp Quest, died on February 17th, 2010 at age 76 from complications following lung surgery. Helen was an amazing woman, and she will be greatly missed by the entire Camp Quest community. Through her work with Camp Quest, Helen gave children from nontheistic families a place to belong. In honor of Helen's legacy we are establishing the Helen Kagin Memorial Campership Fund. The Kagin Fund will provide free or reduced registration fees at any Camp Quest camp for campers with financial need.

Edwin Kagin, co-founder of Camp Quest, wrote of his wife Helen, "If you would honor her accomplishments and memory, do not send flowers; do not send money to some charity. Help send a kid to Camp Quest."


You can donate to the Helen Kagin Memorial Campership Fund through paypal at www.camp-quest.org.

Here's one staffers remembrance of Helen: "Helen was so kind and enthusiastically invited me to be on the staff of Camp Quest. My decision to join the staff has been one of the most rewarding and satisfying of my life. In all the years I have known Helen I have always been overwhelmed by her generosity and need to nurture and care for everyone who she loved and loved her. The children of Camp Quest adored her and her life was unbelievably enriched by them. As we all find ways to move past our sadness, I know that Helen would be most gratified by those who cared about her taking action to make the world we share better and honor her memory by contributing to the project she loved the very most, Camp Quest. - From Katie Hladky, Secretary of the Camp Quest, Inc. Board of Directors

Fundraising Goal, Almost there!!

When the board made the budget last December, we balanced a lot of different needs. We wanted to keep the price down for young families while not sacrificing critical features like FUN! Prices of camps





vary widely. Most religious camps are subsidized by their religious communities. Our children deserve the same opportunities. We figure it costs about \$600 to send a child to camp but we are charging \$450 because we want to fill the place up and enable as many families as possible to take advantage of our program. We also want families to know that they're not alone. There is an entire community supporting them - that's us! We are an all volunteer organization. Your donations do not pay directors or officers or staff. Every dollar you donate goes to the programs children enjoy. Remember that camp can be a powerful experience in a young person's life because it gets them out of the usual surroundings and can jump-start some learning and help build independence.

Anyway - our goal for 2010 is to raise, drum roll please.... \$10,000! We can do it. We're already a bit past the 1/3 mark. And we're a fully transparent organization. You can see our 2009 financial statement and our budget online or just call us and we'll be happy to send you a copy courtesy of US Postal Service.

Every little bit helps. Here are some examples of what donations might pay for:

- \$50 - Supplies for an art project
- \$70 - Price for a staffer to ride to camp from So. Cal
- \$100 - A lifeguard for a day - it's hot out there!
- \$260 - Staffer. They're volunteers but we pay their room and board.
- \$350 - Booth rental at a camp fair where we talk directly to parents looking for camps
- \$400 - Bus to camp from Sacramento. We'll use two this year!

- \$450 - Full campership for family with financial need
- \$800 - Bus for field trip including service project and swim in the Yuba river
- \$1200 - Disaster insurance - remember those fires from 2008?

You can donate online at <http://west.camp-quest.org/donate.htm> or just send a check to Camp Quest West, 50 W Edith Ave #2, Los Altos, CA 94022

For those of you who really want to be Camp Quest Superstars - sign up to be an e-fundraiser! Here's how it works. First, you register to try to raise some amount of money for camp Quest West online at <https://campquestwest.wufoo.com/forms/welcome-to-camp-quest-west-fundraising/>

Once you register, a personalized fundraising page is automatically created for you. All you need to do is send this link to friends and family you think might be interested in Camp Quest West. Your personalized page has your name on it, the amount you're trying to raise, a list of folks who've already donated to your campaign and a link for folks to use to make a donation. Here's an example of what a personalized page looks like: <http://west.camp-quest.org/scripts/fundraising.pl?id=1>

Join the team!

Who is Brian?



Brian Parra is a technical consultant and audio engineer who lives in Oxnard, CA with his wife and three kids. He

serves on the Board of Directors for Atheists United, a non-profit organization dedicated to building a community of atheists in Southern California and he edits the organization's newsletter, Rational Alternative. Brian worked as a Boy Scout summer camp counselor for eight years in his youth and wants to make sure that his own kids and freethinking children everywhere have access to the same outdoor adventure and camaraderie that only comes with a great summer camp experience.

one way - since we expect most parents to want to come to Parent Afternoon and see the camper skits but this makes it easier for families since they only need to make that drive one weekend.

We're sponsoring a Taste of Camp Quest at the American Humanist Association's annual convention in San Jose on June 5th. It's an all day event with activities from swimming to the tech museum culminating in a pizza/movie night extravaganza. This is a great opportunity for folks to check out Camp Quest West without having to go to the wilderness. Do YOU know the way to San Jose?

We've got a Facebook page. Search for Camp Quest West and become a fan. Share your favorite camp games and memories and enjoy the fun!

As always, suggestions/ideas/concerns welcome. Send them to west@camp-quest.org

Camp Director's Corner



Wow! I can't believe how well things are going right now - it's crazy hectic but it's going great. We've got 4 campers already registered. We're expecting 60 campers and 20 staff this

summer - tell a friend!

There's a lot going on, but one of the things I most want folks to know about is our commitment to the "Bus to Camp". We're sponsoring a couple of buses from Sacramento to camp and one charter bus from Los Angeles to camp. This is only