

MAKING FAMILY LIFE MORE FUN

Thinking About A Family Reunion? Three Innkeepers Share Success Strategies

(NAPSA)—Despite the growing use of e-mail, the need to stay connected is at an all time high, encouraging family reunions. Today's families are leaving behind summer BBQs and traveling to places that offer a creative way for generations to build relationships.

"There's no family reunion "season" anymore. Folks are into making memories year round," explained David Cammer, Director of Lodging at Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort in the Berkshires of Massachusetts. "What's key is to plan early. Put someone in charge, but allow family members to pitch in—it's part of the fun."

Once a date is set, it's not just choosing a location that's easily accessible and affordable that's key. "The most successful family reunions offer organized activities that interest all ages and can be pursued at varying paces," noted Tom Plunkett, General Manager of Sturbridge Host Hotel, conveniently located near the outdoor history museum, Old Sturbridge Village in central Massachusetts.

"Don't forget to incorporate plenty of free time, by the poolside or over a clambake. That's where



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Masland

With planning, family reunions can be a "day at the beach" no matter the season.

the real catching-up takes place," relayed Bill Catania, V.P. and General Manager of the John Carver Inn in Plymouth, Mass., whose Pilgrim-themed pool features a slide that winds through the "Mayflower" and a hot tub in "Plymouth Rock."

But most importantly, remember to leave the "family baggage" at home! Forget settling old scores; family reunions are a celebration of heritage and a time for bonding.

For a FREE Family Reunion Planning Checklist, a list of great family reunion sites in Massachusetts or to order your FREE Massachusetts Getaway Guide, log on to www.massvacation.com/family_reunion.