



# Camp Linden Summer Views

May 2014

## COME TO OUR PICNIC

For many years the Philadelphia Ethical Society has held its annual picnic at Camp Linden. This year they asked the Camp Linden Committee to take charge of the event. We are inviting you, our friends and supporters, to join in the festivities.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 1, NOON to 4:00 PM**  
**At CAMP LINDEN, 1521 CAMP LINDEN RD**  
**WEST CHESTER PA 19382**

If you have never been to Camp Linden, this is an excellent opportunity to see our bucolic campus bordering the Brandywine Creek in the rolling hills of Chester County. If you have a history with Camp Linden, come and relive happy memories.

We have games and activities planned for children and adults, including duck races, bean bag, ball games and kayaking on the Brandywine. Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader of the Ethical Society, will be playing his guitar and leading us in song.

For lunch we will be serving grilled hamburgers, veggie-burgers and hot dogs, and a wide variety of salads and side dishes, soft drinks and beer.

The cost is \$15.00 per person, no charge for children age 12 and under. Proceeds support Camp Linden's Children's Summer Program.

Please RSVP email to [camplinden2013@gmail.com](mailto:camplinden2013@gmail.com). If you do not have access to email, leave a message on our voicemail at (610) 793-1121. State the number of adults and children in your party, and each person's choice of hamburger, veggie-burger or hot dog.

For driving directions to Camp Linden see [philly-ethics.org/cl-directions.php](http://philly-ethics.org/cl-directions.php). We will be carpooling from the Ethical Society building at 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square at 11 AM. If you need a ride, or can offer a ride, please include that information in your RSVP.



## OUR MISSION AND PROGRAM

Owned and operated by the Philadelphia Ethical Society, Camp Linden provides a day camp for inner city children that promotes appreciation of the natural world, acknowledges the intrinsic worth of all human beings, and encourages campers to develop self-reliance and integrity.

Each day again this summer we will serve a different group of 40 to 50 children from Philadelphia who return the same day each week for six weeks.

These children, mostly ages 7 and 8, will plant, cultivate and sample vegetables grown in our garden, and receive education about plants and nutrition. Our counselors will lead the children on nature walks and in an exploration of the Brandywine Creek. Chief Shelley DePaul of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania will be at camp again to provide her unique program (See OUR TREATY WITH THE LENA'PE). In addition to a period of free swim, campers receive swimming lessons each day.

Camp Linden is able to give over 250 children this experience each summer only because of the support given by friends like you. THANK YOU SO MUCH. I hope you enjoy these articles by members of the Camp Linden Committee.

- Leonard Weeks, Committee Chair

# STUDIES SHOW CAMPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN CHILDREN'S LIVES

In addition to providing fun and games, summer camps deliver enriching experiences that make a difference in children's lives.

In 2012, researchers at the University of Waterloo conducted a survey of 1,405 parents of children who attended one of 110 Canadian summer camps. The researchers found that parents reported many positive changes in children's behavior, which were maintained after camp.

Specifically, parents reported that their children practiced more environmentally-friendly behaviors and showed more interest in outdoor activities. They also participated in more physical activities at home and at school. Campers also showed more self-confidence and independence. They were able to do more things on their own and they expressed more interest in trying new things. Children who camped also showed more empathy and could better relate to others on an emotional level.



Another notable study surveyed 2,300 parents of campers in 2007 and found that parents reported summer camp had significant effects on a number of outcomes. This study, published in the *Journal of Family Issues*, concluded that summer camp had the largest effect on children's sense of adventure and exploration. The study also found that summer camp promoted decision making and positive values in campers. For instance, children who returned from camp wanted to help other children more and more often thought about the consequences of their actions before they made decisions.

Hence, there is empirical research based evidence that summer camps increase independence and confidence, encourage environmentally-friendly behaviors, and promote adventure in children.

- Leslie Williams



*Newsletter layout and editing by Ruth Dubb*

Camp Linden is located at 1521 Camp Linden Rd., West Chester, PA 19382. It is administered by the Camp Linden Committee of the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia ([www.phillyethics.org](http://www.phillyethics.org)).

# OUR TREATY WITH THE LENA'PE

Chief Shelly DePaul of the Lena'pe Nation of Pennsylvania will be in residence at Camp Linden July 14 through 18. This will be her third summer at Camp Linden, introducing our campers (a different group each day of the week) to Lena'pe culture and values. The campers learn Lena'pe songs, dances, games and crafts, and a few words of the Lena'pe language. Most important, Chief DePaul teaches them the Lena'pe tradition of reverence for nature and respect for every person and every living thing.

The Lena'pe people are the original inhabitants of Eastern Pennsylvania, as well as Delaware, New Jersey and Southern New York. They made their homes here for over 10,000 years before the land was "discovered" by Europeans. Although William Penn treated his Lena'pe neighbors with friendship and respect, his example was not carried on by future generations. Over a period of 250 years, Lena'pe people were removed from their homeland and dispersed throughout the country. Many of the families who remained continued to practice the traditions of their ancestors in secret, for fear of being dispossessed.

More recently, the Lena'pe people of Pennsylvania have emerged from hiding, and come together to reclaim their heritage, and revitalize their communities. On August 24, 2002 an historic event took place at the Pennsbury Manor, the former estate of William Penn. A Treaty of Renewed Friendship was signed by the Lena'pe and a number of organiza-

tions: environmental groups, churches, historical societies, and sincerely committed individuals, who wish to actively support the Lena'pe culture and to help sustain their people, language, and way of life. The signing was prefaced by an equally historic and monumental three-week canoe journey, which began at the top of the Delaware River in Hancock, N.Y. and culminated in Cape May, NJ. It was agreed that the re-signing of the Treaty, as well as the River Journey, would take place every four years.

When the Treaty is signed for the fourth time in August, 2014, the Philadelphia Ethical Society, parent organization of Camp Linden, will be among the signors. As a Treaty signor the Ethical Society will commit itself, for a term of four years, to "recognize the Lena'pe Indian tribe as the original inhabitants of eastern Pennsylvania", "acknowledge the Lena'pe people as the indigenous stewards of their homelands and also as the spiritual keepers of the Lena'pe Sippu, or Delaware River", and actively support "our Lena'pe sisters and brothers in whatever way we are able to."

One of the ways the Treaty suggests its signors may carry out this commitment is by hosting Lena'pe cultural/educational programs. We are already carrying out that commitment through the Lena'pe program at Camp Linden. The Philadelphia Ethical Society also featured Chief DePaul as a speaker at its Platform on April 13, 2014.

We urge you to join in this effort by supporting Camp Linden, so that we can continue to expose inner-city children to the wonders of nature, including the Lena'pe tradition of reverence for the natural world. We also encourage you to learn more about the Lena'pe people, their history, and their aspirations. For further information about Shelley DePaul and the Lena'pe Nation of Pennsylvania, see [www.lenapenation.org](http://www.lenapenation.org).

- Sharon Wallis



# HOW WE GOT TO WHERE WE ARE - OR HISTORY REVISITED

I know we have many new supporters so I thought I'd review the Camp's history. Purchased in the 20s, the second rural site purchased by some of our wealthier members, it was for the people of the Southwark Neighborhood, many of whom were new immigrants - often Irish. Efforts were made by the Philadelphia Society for Ethical Culture to culture some ethics in these folk. Women were taught sewing and other household skills and the camp provided the children - and during family week, whole families - with clean air and sunshine - and a place to swim. I believe efforts were also made to reduce alcoholism in the community.

Southwark ran the camp for many years and the re-named Philadelphia Ethical Society came to camp once a year - first Sunday in June - as we do to this day - to celebrate the the beginning of summer.

Southwark departed and after a few years I sold part of the camp to get funds to re-open the camp. Richard Kiniry - eventually to become our Leader

in 1989 - worked diligently to partition the land and the old house and barn and assure the local Board of Commissioners we would never divide the land again.

The Society was thinking of selling the property in 1984 but at a membership meeting a small group of us agreed to recreate the Camp. We formed the Camp Linden Board and decided our mission was to use the land as a kids' camp as envisioned by the early members of the Society. We went out on many weekends in good weather to renovate the bathhouse and pool, put electric, water, and phone back in order and rebuild the main cabin. We started to bring children to the Camp for day trips in 1988 while we continued rebuilding the camp. Today we have a full camp program for 4-6 groups every summer. We are always looking for others who, like us, enjoy visiting our personal private country estate and supporting an effort which brings children out for an amazing experience of nature and of ethical humanism in action.

- Carol Love

## ODE TO THE BRANDYWINE

Some of my best childhood memories are of wading in streams trying to capture tadpoles, collect pretty rocks, or race handmade boats downstream. I hope that for children who attend Camp Linden, the Brandywine River offers similar memories. The small waterfront abutting our property allows easy entry for eager young campers, some experiencing a stream exploration for the first time.

Years ago up the Lenape drew fish from its 20 miles of waters. Swedes settled near its mouth at Fort Christina. Patriot and Redcoat blood mixed in its waters near Chadds Ford during the revolutionary "Battle of the Brandywine."

In peacetime, the river powered mills for companies that produced bread, paper, and gunpowder. Artists like Howard Pyle and the Wythe family - collectively called the Brandywine School of painters - drew inspiration from its waters. And today, the Brandywine Conservancy protects more than 59,000 acres of the watershed through study and advocacy.

The river's idyllic nature is captured in a century-old book, *Down the Eastern and Up the Black Brandywine*. The author, Wilmer W. MacElree,

shares how its beauty taps his imagination. He writes, "At the water's edge rises a big bolder surmounted by firs, the roots of which wrap themselves about the top of the rock like gigantic snakes, and force you to take a second glance before you feel quite comfortable. Having done this, you are prepared to enjoy the scene. What delight there is in watching the silvery water round the bend, shimmer in the sunlight, dash against the rock and send its spray up toward the firs' dark green. What charm in listening to its sweet lullabies! Some come here to fish. I come here to dream."

I hope that most of the campers who splash in its waters will dream of the Brandywine when they return to the city. The Camp Linden experience may open for them a world of nature that inspires exploration of nature, art, literature and history. Let's keep these possibilities alive by supporting our summer camp experience for children!

- Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader, Philadelphia Ethical Society