



Camp Linden Summer Views

July, 2017

**Come to Our Picnic
Sunday, July 16,
Noon to 5:00 PM
at Camp Linden
1521 Camp Linden Rd
West Bradford, PA**

\$15 per person includes lunch. Free for children 12 and under.

And/Or SPEND THE WEEKEND CAMPING OUT
\$20 per campsite includes dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

On Sunday, July 16 (raindate July 30) the Camp Linden Committee will host an annual picnic for members and friends of the Philadelphia Ethical Society, as well as supporters of Camp Linden. We hope that you will join us.

The picnic takes the place of the Philadelphia Ethical Society's weekly Platform on July 16. In the event of inclement weather a Platform will be scheduled on that date and the picnic will be held on July 30.

Meet at the Ethical Society building at 1906 S. Rittenhouse Square at 11 AM to carpool, or you can travel on your own and meet us at Camp Linden at noon.

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

Swim in our recently refurbished pool. We will also have games and activities planned for children and adults, including a duck pond, bean bag toss, ball games and croquet. Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader of the Philadelphia Ethical Society, will be playing his guitar and leading us in song.

Overnight campers will have an opportunity for family swim (with lifeguard) Saturday afternoon, and kayaking on the Brandywine.

Please RSVP to Henry at hpashkow@gmail.com. State whether you will participate in the picnic and/or the overnight camping, and the number of adults and children in your party. For driving directions to Camp Linden see <http://www.philly-ethics.org/cl-directions.php>. If you need a ride, or can offer a ride, please include that information in your RSVP.



Matching Grant for Swimming Pool Repair

Each day at Camp Linden campers spend the morning or afternoon in the pool, and the other half of the day in our environmental education program. This issue of Summer Views will focus on the swimming program because of the immediate need for funds to pay for repainting the pool and other pool maintenance expenses.



Swimming has always been an essential aspect of the Camp Linden program. Most of our campers identify swimming as their favorite activity at Camp Linden. We instruct beginners in basic swimming skills and teach more advanced swimmers at their own level. We also provide time for free swim every day.

We are fortunate to have a 30 by 75 foot swimming pool to accommodate our aquatic program. However, the size of the pool makes it expensive to maintain. This summer the pool required repainting, restoration of the tile, and an automatic pool cleaner. A new pool cover will be needed in the fall. The cost totals approximately ten thousand dollars.

Philanthropist Chase Lenfest is helping us to raise the necessary funds by offering to match every contribution to the pool restoration fund on a dollar for dollar basis, up to five thousand dollars. That means that if we raise five thousand dollars, Lenfest will contribute five thousand dollars, and we will have met our \$10,000 fundraising goal. We have already raised over two thousand dollars of our share, and hope to reach the goal through this newsletter solicitation. The response form to this issue of Summer Views offers you the opportunity to direct your gift to general support of the Camp Linden Children's Summer Program, or direct all or part of it to the Pool Restoration Fund, in which event your contribution will be matched by Lenfest.

Pool repainting was completed last month.



Camp Linden pool showing pool house with boys' and girls' bathrooms

Our 2017 Partners

Camp Linden pool showing landscaping and separate dressing tents for boys and girls

Camp Linden partners with agencies which run summer day camps serving low income inner-city children. Our partners bring campers to Camp Linden one day a week during our summer season, and return on the same weekday for five or six weeks.

This summer we have two new partners. The Netter Center is the community outreach program of the University of Pennsylvania. Its mission is: "bringing to bear the broad range of human knowledge needed to solve the complex, comprehensive, and interconnected problems of the American city so that West Philadelphia (Penn's local geographic community), Philadelphia, the University itself, and society benefit." The Netter Center provides after school and summer academic enrichment activities for students at Lea Elementary School in West Philadelphia. Thirty children enrolled in the Lea Summer Day Camp will attend Camp Linden this summer.

We will also be serving ten children who reside at the Governor Terry Children's Shelter, the only temporary shelter for children and youth in Delaware. It offers a temporary sanctuary to dependent, neglected and/or abused children and youth by providing emergency shelter, food, clothing and age-appropriate counseling to children ages nine through seventeen. These children are in the care or custody of the State of Delaware, Division of Family Services. The shelter is operated by Child, Inc., a foster care agency.

Six of our seven partners from last summer will be returning. The returning partners from Philadelphia are: The Cambodian Association summer day camp, which will bring all 36 children it serves, who range in age from 5 through 12; Community Concern 13, a North Philadelphia day care center, bringing 24 children ages 6 through 12; Spring Garden Academy, a day camp operated by a private Christian school serving North Philadelphia, bringing 30 children ages 6 through 12; United Communities of Southeast Philadelphia, a day camp operated by a South Philadelphia community center, bringing 30 children ages 12 through 15. Returning partners from Wilmington, Delaware are Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center, a multi-service non-profit program serving a low income neighborhood, bringing 30 children, ages 7 and 8, and William "Hicks" Anderson Recreation Center, a recreation center operated by the City of Wilmington, which will be bringing 30 children ages 7 through 10.



How We Help Our Partners Comply with DPW Regulations

The Philadelphia day camps who bring inner-city children to Camp Linden are regarded as “child care providers” subject to regulation by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (“DPW”). In 2014 the DPW adopted a regulation requiring child care providers to employ their own lifeguard to supervise children when they are swimming, in addition to the lifeguard(s) employed by the pool or recreational facility they visit. The person serving as the provider’s lifeguard must hold a current Red Cross or equivalent lifeguard certification, and in addition: (1) be at least 16 years of age; (2) have clearances for the Pennsylvania Child Abuse Registry, Pennsylvania state police criminal history check and results for FBI fingerprinting (3) have a current staff health assessment, including TB test results; and (4) have two written references from persons other than family members. The provider is required to have a complete file verifying this information in addition to their certification as a lifeguard.

The effect has been to prevent most inner-city summer camps from taking their campers swimming during the summer, because they were unable to employ lifeguards, much less individuals with lifeguard certification who would also comply with the additional requirements. Not swimming at camp reduces the risk of drowning while at camp, but not learning to swim also puts the child at greater risk of drowning when they are not in a supervised setting. It also deprives the child of an enjoyable form of summer recreation.

We ask one of our lifeguards to comply with all of the additional requirements mandated by DPW and offer to contract with our partners for the services that lifeguard. Partner agencies which opt to participate receive all of the required documentation for their file, and are charged a nominal rate of \$12 per hour for lifeguard services while their campers are actually in the water. Our Wilmington, Delaware partners, who are not subject to the DPW regulations, are not charged for lifeguard services.

Newsletter layout and editing by Ruth Dubb

Meet Lifeguards Chris & Katherine O’Keefe

Our lifeguards Chris and Katherine O’Keefe are brother and sister. Chris worked at Camp Linden as a lifeguard last summer. He is going into his sophomore year at Christendom College.



Chris is our contract lifeguard. (See How We Help Our Partners Comply with DPW Regulations, left) Katherine is going into her senior year at Sacred Heart High School. Chris and Katherine are the oldest of the five O’Keefe siblings. Younger sister Chiara, age 15, will be employed at Camp Linden this summer as a junior counselor.

Meet Joe Dubb

Joe Dubb is the son of Dr. Jeffrey Dubb, Chair of Friends of Camp Linden. Joe teaches third grade at Friends Central. This summer he is volunteering as Nature Instructor at Camp Linden. Joe will be in charge of the instructional aspects of our program, and provide leadership to our staff. Joe says he looks forward to spending the summer once again working with inner-city children from low income families, as he did early in his teaching career.



Joe Dubb with son Isaac, 11, & daughter Phoebe, 13