



Camp Linden Summer Views

June 2021

Thank You!

Camp Linden is back! The 2021 Children's Summer Program starts July 6. We will be serving approximately one hundred and sixty children from five inner-city summer camps.

Your contributions to Camp Linden through 2020, when our Summer Children's Program was closed because of COVID, enabled us to keep up with our basic operating expenses during this difficult time. As a result of your gifts to the Kiniry Fund, which supports capital improvements, Camp Linden will reopen with a renovated bath house, new kitchen and improvements to the garden, pool and grounds. See Kiniry Fund on page 4.

This year the traditional Camp Linden Picnic will include dedication of the Waters Rose Garden and the Kiniry Cabin. Please join us in person, or participate in the dedications on Zoom. See opposite side of this page for details.

Camp Linden would not exist without your support. On behalf of all of the children who have benefitted from our program; and those who will benefit this summer and in the future: "Thank you."

Jeffrey Dubb, M.D.
Chair, Friends of Camp Linden.

You Are Invited to the Camp Linden Picnic and Dedication of the Waters Rose Garden and the Richard Kiniry Cabin

July 18, 2021, Noon to 5:00 PM
1521 Camp Linden Road
West Chester PA 19382
Contribution \$15 per person
Free for children age 12 and under
Raindate July 25, 2021



PES Leader Hugh Taft Morales will lead folk singing at the picnic.

MENU

Hamburgers, veggieburgers, hotdogs, rolls, fixings, potluck side dishes, desserts, beer and lemonade

SCHEDULE

Noon to 5:00 PM:
Eating and socializing
1:30 PM:
Dedication of Waters Rose Garden
2:00 PM:
Dedication of the Kiniry Cabin
2:00 to 5:00 PM:
Swimming; Lawn games
2:30 to 3:30 PM:
Singing led by Hugh Taft Morales

RSVP to camplinden@phillyethics.org to attend in person or receive a link to join either or both dedications on Zoom. If you are unable to communicate by email you may leave a message at (215) 735-3456.

Looking Forward to Summer, 2021

This summer we are scheduled to serve approximately one hundred and sixty children coming from five summer camps in different Philadelphia neighborhoods. This is lower than usual because most of our Partners have fewer children in their programs this summer due to COVID.

We welcome a new partner, Diversified Community Services (DCS), a multi-service organization focused on the Point Breeze area of South Philadelphia. DCS operates two nationally recognized early childhood education centers: Western Learning Center (WLC) and Dixon Learning Academy (DLA). WLC and DLA will each be sending their school age summer campers to Camp Linden on Mondays and Tuesdays, respectively. Our returning Partner The Lenfest Center, a community center serving the Huntingpark neighborhood of North Philadelphia, will bring campers on Wednesdays. Thursdays we will be serving children from Community Concern 13, a North Philadelphia child care program which has been attending Camp Linden for over twenty-five years. On Fridays we will be serving West Philadelphia children enrolled in a summer enrichment program operated by the Netter Center, the community outreach program of the University of Pennsylvania.

We continue to conduct a six week program of environmental education and swimming. As in



Newsletter layout and design by Ruth Dubb

past years the swimming program will include swimming instruction, and the environmental curriculum will include gardening, exploration of our woods and the Brandywine, bug catching and lessons about the life cycle of plants and the creatures campers encounter on our property. This year, for the first time, we are offering our Partners a list of Resources they can use in the city to enhance the children's experience at Camp Linden. See "Camp Linden Resources" below.

Camp Linden Resources

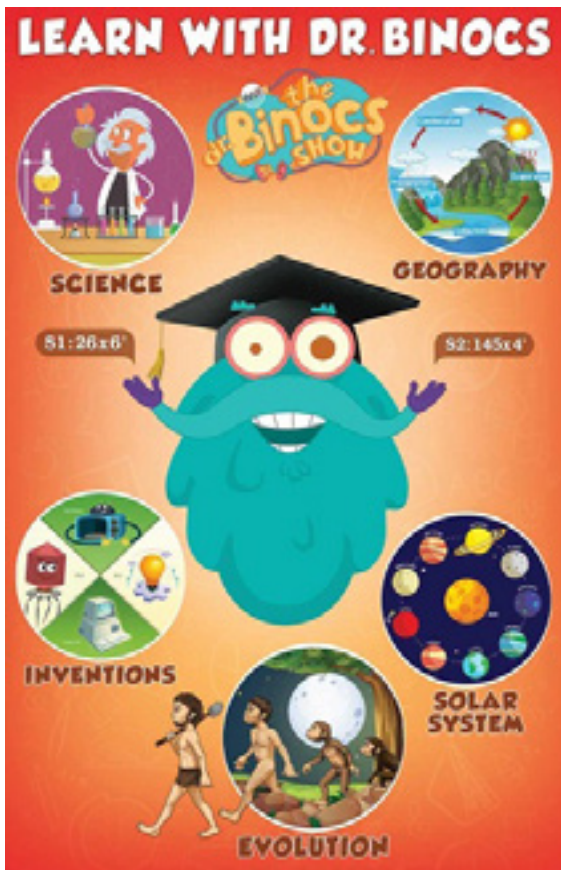
The mission of Camp Linden is to introduce inner-city children to the wonders of nature. These wonders begin with the sights, sounds and smells of our rural campus, with its woods, open fields and Brandywine waterfront. In the garden campers witness a miracle of nature as the seeds they plant germinate and grow.

The way nature works is amazing and wonderful. It is amazing that plants can use the energy of the sun to make their own food out of air and water. It is equally amazing that this process gives off the oxygen animals need to breathe. At Camp Linden campers learn the function of each part of a plant, and how the leaves perform photosynthesis. They learn about pollination and seed dispersal. They also learn about the insects and animals they encounter at camp, and they are taught to love and respect Planet Earth. We believe these lessons enhance campers' direct experience of nature. However, we recognize that they also compete for the very limited time campers have to explore and enjoy the natural environment.

This year we are trying something new. We have prepared a list of Resources our partners can use at their home facilities to prepare campers for the theme of each weekly visit to Camp Linden. All of these Resources are available for free on the internet. Most of them are episodes of the Dr Binocs Show produced by Rajshri Entertainment.

The Dr. Binocs Show, which is designed for children age 5 through 12, explores science, geography, and other important topics through engaging animation. Each video covers a single subject, and is three to eight minutes long. The narrator is a cartoon character composed of a set of binoculars perched on a blue beard and handlebar mustache with tiny hands at the ends of the mustache.

We found videos in the Dr. Binocs collection 2 covering most of the subjects we wanted to



It is up to our partners to decide whether to use any or all of these Resources in their in-city programs. We only ask that they inform us when they use any of the Resources, and let us know how their campers responded.

This is an experiment. We intend to use our Partner's feedback to determine whether to continue to encourage in-city preparation for the Camp Linden program, and to improve the list of Resources. We will also be observing the campers to determine how this preparation impacts their response to the natural environment and the creatures they encounter at camp.

We are also using the Resources to prepare our own staff with the information they need to lead the instructional components of our program, and answer questions from campers. The complete list of Camp Linden Resources, with links to the cited materials, is available at <http://camplinden.org/resources.html>. You might want to check it out.



Camp Linden Values

1. Value yourself - Keep yourself safe and open to experience and learning.
2. Value other people (especially your fellow campers) - Keep them safe and help them learn.
3. Value the Earth and all living things (especially those you encounter at Camp Linden). Learn from observing nature, and leave things as you found them.

share in our Resources, including: parts of a plant, seed germination, photosynthesis, pollination, bees, butterflies, spiders, frogs, fossil fuel, solar energy, the water cycle, bodies of water, water pollution, plastic pollution, the history and geography of Planet Earth, and global warming.

The Resources also reference materials from other sources. They include a recording of "The Garden Song" sung by Pete Seeger; animations such as "Mussels in the Wild" from Fairmount Water Works and the "Three Sisters Legend" from Widdifield Courtyard; two children's books which are available in print or read on youtube: "Corn is Maize" by Alikei and George Washington Carver by Carter & Saller; and an article about Greta Thunberg from National Geographic Kids Magazine. Some of these Resources cover subject matter which has been a part of the Camp Linden curriculum for many years. Others provide information about topics we do not have time to include in the camp schedule.

The Resources are arranged for two or three separate sessions for each week, a total of thirty to forty minutes of video per week. Of course, additional time needs to be allowed for instruction and discussion. In addition to the material related to the themes of the Camp Linden program, the Resources include collections on Healthy Eating and Wildlife in the City.

The Richard Kiniry Fund

Richard Kiniry, Leader Emeritus of the Philadelphia Ethical Society, passed away December 18, 2019. Summer Views 2020 includes a profile of Richard and an article detailing the accomplishments of the volunteers who, under Richard's leadership, reconstructed the camp infrastructure and established the current Children's Summer Program (<http://camplinden.org/summerviews'20finalweb.pdf>). The Main Cabin at Camp Linden is being dedicated to Richard Kiniry. See Picnic Schedule on page 1.

In June 2020 we established the Richard Kiniry Fund to finance improvements to the camp facilities. To date we have received over \$19,000 in contributions to the Fund.

Of the fourteen projects approved by the Camp Linden Committee, seven of the most pressing have been completed or are expected to be completed before camp opens, at the cost of approximately \$18,000. They are: renovation of the bath house; enlarging the garden and replacing its fence; removal of several large dead trees which posed a danger to camp buildings; replacing one of the changing tents at the pool; installing a kitchen in the camp office; and replacing the water heater in the pool house.

We hope that you will continue to support the Kiniry Fund so that we can continue to address needed projects.



Camp Linden: My Favorite Place

by Sharon Wallis

"The place where we meet to seek the highest is holy ground."* For me, that place is Camp Linden.

As often as Leonard and I travel to Camp Linden, I am always surprised and delighted by the beauty of the rolling hills, and the meandering Brandywine. The spacious estates along the road present a bucolic vision of horses peacefully grazing in fields dotted with gracious residences. As we approach Camp Linden Road I see the Meister farmhouse, surrounded by open fields, with the blue sky and clouds in the background. It looks so much like the picture from a jigsaw puzzle, I have to marvel that it is real.

As we turn into the Camp Linden driveway I feel a sense of elation reading the sign: "Camp Linden, Philadelphia Ethical Society." This little piece of the planet belongs to our community. It is the place where we conduct a summer program to introduce inner-city children to the wonders of nature. It is also the place where the Society has held its annual picnic for almost a century. Its woods reduce our carbon imprint. Its buildings embody the commitment of a generation that refused to give up on Camp Linden when its future was most bleak. Its history is an important aspect of our communal heritage.

Every inch of the property resonates with memories. Richard's spirit still stalks the trails. In my imagination, he inhabits the cabin we have named in his honor. Bertha Waters' beautiful character lives in the Rose Garden she funded through a legacy in her will. Over the years thousands of children and staff have visited Camp Linden and been impacted by the experience. Their memories also enrich this "holy ground".

**This language is inscribed above the stage of the Philadelphia Ethical Society Auditorium. It is based upon a quotation from Felix Adler: "The place where men meet to seek the highest is holy ground"*