



Camp Linden

A Program of the Philadelphia Ethical Society

Winter Views

December 2022

Message from Dr. Dubb

This issue of Winter Views includes a report on the 2022 Children's Summer Program, an article detailing the background and current status of our leadership transition, and information about our mutually supportive relationship with local scout troops.

In the twelve years I have been raising contributions for Camp Linden I have seen major improvements in the camp program and facilities. Leonard Weeks and Sharon Wallis, who have been responsible for the day to day operation of the camp property and program since 2012, deserve much of the credit for our success. They are now joined by Amy Johnston and Paul Lucot in a Leadership Team which will ensure a smooth transition when Leonard and Sharon are no longer available. Read more about Amy and Paul and our new Leadership Team in this newsletter.

Last summer over two hundred children from Philadelphia low income neighborhoods participated in our program of environmental education, swimming and character education. That would not have been possible without your financial support. We are counting on your continued generosity to enable us to carry on the Camp Linden tradition next summer and into the future. A donation form and return envelope are enclosed. Please remember Camp Linden when you make your end of the year charitable contributions.

Jeffrey Dubb MD
Chair, Friends of Camp Linden



Report on Summer 2022

Camp Linden served approximately 200 children from summer day camps operated by our partners in low income neighborhoods of Philadelphia: Each agency visited one day a week for a four to six week program of environmental education and swimming. Our 2022 partners were: The Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia (South Philadelphia East of Broad); Diversified Community Services (South Philadelphia West of Broad); Community Concern 13 (North Central Philadelphia); North 10 (aka "The Lenfest Center") (Hunting Park / Tioga); and The Netter Center for Community Partnerships of the University of Pennsylvania (West Philadelphia).

Environmental Education

The Environmental Education program followed our established curriculum: Week 1 Gardening and Nature Walk; Week 2 Pollination and Bugs; Week 3 Earth and Energy; Week 4 Natural Water; Week 5 Native American and Organic Gardening; Week 6 Celebration of the Earth. See phillyethics.org/camp-linden/camp-linden-curriculum for a more detailed summary of the environmental education curriculum.

Last summer we offered an enhanced lesson on water quality, which included a demonstration of how watersheds work. Using a model of the Camp Linden watershed and a sprayer to simulate a rain storm, Amy showed the campers that coffee grounds, representing pollutants, washed down into the Brandywine. Campers collected macroinvertebrates in the Brandywine, and viewed them with the digital microscope. Identifying the macroinvertebrates in a stream reveals the quality of the water. The Brandywine proved to be relatively free of pollutants.



Week 5 usually includes hiking to a local commercial corn field and comparing the modern single crop planting, which relies heavily upon chemicals with the Native American method of planting corn, beans and squash together, demonstrated in our “Three Sisters” garden bed. Last summer the hike was eliminated because there were no corn fields within walking distance. Amy used the time to provide a more extensive lesson on Native American culture.

Swimming Instruction

A highlight of the 2022 summer program was the introduction of a highly successful group swimming instruction curriculum. We were extremely fortunate that Blake Scott chose Camp Linden for his unpaid internship, and he selected our aquatic program as his project. Sharon was approved as Blake’s Internship Supervisor through the West Chester University Business Department.

The swimming curriculum identifies a series of discrete skills leading up to the front crawl. Campers are awarded a different color wrist band when they master a new skill. Games and contests are included in the curriculum to reinforce skills and

inspire enthusiasm. While not all of the campers succeeded in reaching the final goal, they were all motivated to do their best. The colored wrist bands contributed to this motivation. Blake’s clarity in instruction, encouragement, and his sensitivity to their individual needs, was also an important factor in the success of the program. Virtually all of the campers identified swimming as their favorite part of the Camp Linden program, and they all adored Blake. The best proof of his success occurred during free swim, when the campers were practicing their skills and asking to be retested, instead of jumping into the pool again and again.

Aquatic Director Blake Scott with Junior Lifeguard Brianna Rossi



Character Education

As in past summers, each day included a lesson on Camp Linden Values, which are: (1) value yourself - keep yourself safe and open to learning from new experiences; (2) value other people (especially your fellow campers) - keep them safe and help them to learn; and (3) value the Earth and all living creatures (especially those you encounter at Camp Linden), learn from them and leave things as you found them.

Our Partnership with Local Scouts

Boy Scouts of America has changed the name of its flagship program from "Boy Scouts" to "Scouts BSA" and started allowing the formation of troops for girls. Marshallton United Methodist Church (MUM) sponsored one of the first female troops, named "Troop 19" after the 19 Amendment. Troop 19 has been an important resource for recruiting Camp Linden staff. We employed Brianna Rossi, a member of Troop 19, as a Junior Lifeguard. She introduced us to Amy Johnston. Denali Lucot is also a member of Troop 19. Denali and her father, Paul, volunteered at Camp Linden last summer. Amy Johnson and Paul Lucot are now members of the Camp Linden Leadership Team.

MUM also sponsors the pre-existing all-male Troop 52, and Cub Scout Pack 152, which includes both boys and girls. Troop 52 had been holding camp-outs on the next-door property for many years. They were directed to Camp Linden this year because the new owner refused to permit them to camp on his property. When the adult leaders visited Camp Linden, they were amazed to find everything they could hope for: a bath house with flush toilets; plenty of open space for pitching tents; hiking trails; fire wood; a fire ring; and suggestions for projects they could perform during their visit. When the scouts held their camp-out in late April they found one more attraction on the property - a friendly orange cat.

*Scouts sit
around a
campfire
with Camp
Linden cat
Orange.*



Camp Linden hosted the MUM Cub Scouts for a family camp-out in October. A few weeks later they repaid the favor by volunteering to put the Camp Linden garden to bed for the winter. Cub scouts, parents, and even a younger sibling, worked together with other volunteers.

Leadership in Transition

Camp Linden is a program of the Philadelphia Ethical Society. Governance and oversight is vested in the Society's Camp Linden Committee, which reports to its Board of Trustees. Fundraising is conducted primarily through Friends of Camp Linden. Jeffrey Dubb M.D. has served as Chair of Friends of Camp Linden since 2010. Jeffrey has also chaired the Camp Linden Committee.

Leonard Weeks, retired Executive Director of a social agency, and his wife, Sharon Wallis, an attorney, have taken responsibility for the day to day operation of the camp since 2012. Leonard serves as Manager. He coordinates with the resident caretaker, assures compliance with applicable licencing requirements, and handles payroll and accounting of income and expenses. Sharon is the Program Director of the Children's Summer Program. In addition to establishing the curriculum for the summer camp, she plans and leads volunteers in planting a garden designed to support the camp program. Together they hire and supervise the summer staff, develop a proposed camp budget for approval by the Camp Linden Committee, and communicate with the partner agencies that bring children to the camp. Sharon also drafts semi-annual newsletters (Summer Views and Winter Views) which are formatted and produced by Jeffrey's daughter Ruth Dubb.

In the past, various possibilities for leadership transition have arisen. None has worked out, for one reason or another, until this year. The proposed subdivision of the adjacent property brought camp leadership into contact with local activists, who succeeded in preventing the development. That led to a relationship with local scout troops, which resulted in Amy Johnston and Paul Lucot joining the camp staff this past summer. Both have now become members of the Camp Linden Leadership Team.

Amy Johnston is an environmental educator who has worked at Brandywine Red Clay Environmental Center for the last twelve years. Her hobbies include hiking, kayaking, gardening, and raising monarch butterflies. She is inspired by Native American culture, and is currently learning the Lenape language in a zoom class given by Chief Shelly DePaul. Amy and her husband Cliff, a

tenured professor of mathematics at West Chester University, have lived in the West Chester area for over thirty years. Both are active in the local community, including the scouts.

Amy is passionate about introducing children to the wonders of nature. Camp Linden's focus on extending this experience to urban children from low income families also appeals to her ethical and religious values. She was thrilled with the opportunity to join Camp Linden's summer staff as Assistant Program Director, and we were thrilled to employ a person with her background and expertise. At the end of the summer Amy was promoted to Co-Program Director, a newly created year round part time paid position, sharing with Sharon responsibility for preparation and planning, as well as implementing, the Summer Children's Program.

Paul Lucot has a degree in Environmental Resource Management with a focus on Watershed Management and fifteen years experience as an environmental consultant. His work experience includes managing field operations on projects for the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and several industrial and commercial clients. He is a member of the Environmental Advisory Council of East Bradford Township, and has served on the boards of Friends of Natick Trails and the Town of Natick Recycling /Sustainability Committee.

Paul's fourteen year old daughter Denali volunteered to work at Camp Linden this summer as an Environmental Educator In Training. Paul initially agreed to help out the first week of camp, when Denali was in scout camp. He was so impressed with our program he remained for the entire summer, and he has volunteered to be a member of the Leadership Team, focusing on management and administration.

Leonard and Sharon intend to continue volunteering at Camp Linden as long as they are able to make a positive contribution. They will be working with Amy and Paul, transferring their knowledge and experience to assure a smooth leadership transition when the time comes.

Including local residents in the Leadership Team has inherent advantages. It is more convenient for



Paul Lucot and daughter Denali

Amy or Paul to visit the property when the need arises. Their contacts will also help promote local community support for Camp Linden.

The new Leadership Team will not alter Camp Linden's place within the Philadelphia Ethical Society, which remains essential. Amy has become a member of the Philadelphia Ethical Society. Both Amy and Paul have joined the Society's Camp Linden Committee. Ann Nicholas, the Director of Community Concern 13, a day care program in North Philadelphia which has been sending its school age children to Camp Linden for at least 25 years, also joined the Camp Linden Committee. Although the Committee regularly meets on zoom, it held an in-person meeting at the Society's Rittenhouse Square building in October to welcome the three new members.



The Camp Linden Committee meeting October, 2022. From lower left Sharon Wallis, Leonard Weeks, Nick Sanders, Kate Esposito, Jeffrey Dubb, Carol Love, Ann Nicholas, Paul Lucot, Sally Redlener, and Amy Johnston. Leader Hugh Taft Morales (not shown) is the photographer.