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The Valookie

Lake Delaware Alumni Association, Inc.

Spring 2024

2023 Plaque Scores:

Aco 53.5

Bco 45.5

Save the Dates:

July 20-21: Parents/Grads Weekend

August 3-4: Closing Weekend

The Valookie

Lake Delaware Alumni Association, Inc.

Spring 2024

A letter from your camp directors:

It gives us pleasure to send greetings to the Lake Delaware Boys' Camp Family, and to report on happenings at camp.

2023 was a truly outstanding year at LDBC. Every year at LDBC has special and often unforeseen blessings and challenges. When we reflect on LDBC 2023 we think of outstanding leadership. Our staff was led by three Majors, each of whom had spent just about their entire lives growing up at camp. Mitchell Burrall, Kaitlin McQuade and Lauren Lamberson were a fantastic leadership team.

Our grad class at camp were dedicated to giving all of themselves to be leaders and role models for the younger campers. Frankie Caravita and James McGovern had also spent their entire lives growing up at LDBC.

We couldn't be more excited about the camp season about to begin. This year we will have twenty-one boys in our graduating class, one of the larger classes in camp history. Our campers will come from many different backgrounds, yet we know that as the weeks unfold at camp they will form a deep and strong brotherhood that they will cherish throughout their lifetimes.

Our counsellors and kitchen staff hail from the USA, England, New Zealand, Hungary, Mexico, Germany, Turkey, Poland, Romania, Spain, Laos and Pakistan. We hope to see you at LDBC this summer.

In the words of the camp song: Stand Up and Cheer! Stand up and cheer for Dear Ole Delaware!

We ask your prayers for the safety of each of our campers and staff this summer.

Faithfully,
Sue and Jim Adams
(The General and The Colonel)

LDAA Board of Directors

President: Joseph Scalero '84

JRS2002@optonline.net

Vice President: Ronald Frigenti '79

rfrigenti@outlook.com

Secretary: Geoffrey Dunham '79

gedunham4@gmail.com

Treasurer: Frank Enders '62

fenders25@verizon.net

Chris Burdett '99

Michael Cole '73

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Thomas Gardella '81

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Robert Mondello '72

David Roberts '77

Eric Schubert '03



***Congratulations to Jim and Sue Adams,
Colonel and General, on your retirement
from St. Peter's Church!!!***

Congratulations are due for Colonel and General, Jim and Sue Adams, on their retirement after 43 years at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Geneva, N.Y.

Father Jim's final service at St. Peter's will be on June 30, when he will be joined by the 2024 camp staff on their annual trip before they head back up to LDBC and welcome campers for the summer.

A recent profile in Geneva's local newspaper, the Finger Lakes Times, was tastefully headlined: "AMAZING LEGACY."

"It's the right time," Jim was quoted as saying in the article, which ran on the front page. "The Bible says, 'to everything there is a season.' We've had a wonderful time and a wonderful season. But nothing lasts forever in this world."

In addition to regular Sunday services, the Adams' impacted the community with the creation of the St. Peter's Community Arts Academy and Neighbor's Night, which provided local children with a night of fun (no bugle calls or military formations) and a meal at the church, among MANY other initiatives.

Father Jim and Sue will be greatly missed at St. Peter's!



The Rookie – Graduate

*A Poem by longtime nurse Miss Cecilia Morrison
(camp nurse 1943-1966)*

I wander through the tents at night and wonder as I wander
Between two rows of sleeping boys I oft times pause to ponder;
What happened to that rookie-boy who came to camp when nine?
Was he a tall one or a short one? Was he home sick part of the time?
I think he now wears sergent's stripes on spaghetti on his shoulder.
Both are indications that the boy has not grown older.
Oh, there's that one time rookie lad now sleeping at one end.
His cot is too small or is he too big this grown up little friend?
As I wander through the tents at night and look at all those treasures.
I wonder what will be revealed in our 'book of weights and measures?'





Tim Fischer

Help recruit new campers!

Help keep LDBC strong by recruiting campers!

We especially welcome ALL grad kids or grand-kids to attend LDBC – and their friends!

Refer any potential camper family to the camp website (www.lakedelawareboyscamp.com) where they can find the camper application.

For new camp brochures that you can hand out to potential camper families, please contact Camp Secretary Laurie Gullow at:
lakedelawareboyscamp@yahoo.com (new email)
 or (607) 832-4451.

Join the Emblem Society

As with the generous grads named below, we hope you will reflect on the impact LDBC has had on your life and consider leaving a bequest for Camp in your will.

Your generosity will help make the camp experience possible for future generations. If you have made this commitment and your name does not appear on this list, please contact Camp Secretary Laurie Gullow at (607) 832-4451 or email lakedelawareboyscamp@yahoo.com so we can recognize your generosity.

Emblem Society Members:

Robert Aguilar '35
 Doug Amzler '76
 Alfred Anderson '38
 Richard Clarke '60
 Guy DeFeis '70
 Geoffrey Dunham '79
 George Deecken '38
 Clint Graffam '50
 Fred Holzkamp '55
 William '55 and Barbara Holzkamp

Hank Huestis '42
 Kevin Lamberson '86
 Vinnie and Nancy Licata '87
 JoAnn Martin
 Craig McGovern '87
 Warren '62 and Corethia Oates
 John Sage '41
 William Stenger '39
 Frank Strup Jr. '39
 James Smith

Snippets from Staff Reports

Photos by Joe Arruda

Major Mitchell Burrall

“Dear General and Colonel,

...Ever since I was a 9 year old rookie camper, the two of you have always taken a chance on me. I’ve been given countless opportunities and through those have grown into the man I am today. I cannot thank you enough. There are so many words that I can use to describe what camp and the two of you mean to me.

Two that I would choose are: Beauty and Love. This is a beautiful place, and you two are beautiful people. I love the both of you, and I love camp with all my heart. Forever.

Although the mist has lifted on my time here at LDBC, this place will live on thanks to you – which makes me smile. I am proud to have been a part of this family, and it has been a privilege and an honor serving here.

No matter what is said about my legacy, or what the future holds, one thing holds true – my time here was beautiful, and I will not soon forget it.”



Capt. Michaella Parcell

“Dear General and Colonel,

...I love that the campers come from many different backgrounds, and they are all equal at camp, nobody is better than another! It is nice to see friendships flourish here and knowing that these are going to continue into the adulthood is so touching!

I’ve had an amazing time with the best people! Would like to thank you both for the amazing opportunities and being so kind and loving! I’m very upset to be leaving my camp family behind. I do hope our paths meet again and if there is any way possible that I can come back to volunteer for a week so, I will.”

Capt. Macario Costa

“I’m not an emotional person but so many moments brought tears to my eyes. For me there’s nothing better than watching young people grow into adults or as Colonel would say --- good Christian gentlemen.

The chapel services are heaven on earth. The drill shows leadership, unison and the evening games show passion and true sportsmanship. It’s almost crazy how spending a month here makes you feel that you should never leave.”

Major Lauren Lamberson

“Dear General and Colonel,

...Campers are what make camp so special. Watching these boys grow up and become young men is truly wonderful. Witnessing kids like James and Frankie, who I’ve known long before they were campers, grow up at camp and become the people they are today has been so special for me. I’m so glad I was able to come back and watch them graduate and have a successful season. In general, the boys are the reason for the magic here. It’s the little moments like the roar of cheers in the Mess Hall when a Stand in the Gap T-shirt award is given out that makes all the hard work worth it. Sending kids home safe at the end of the summer is the most rewarding feeling because I know the few hours of sleep and long hours of work paid off. I’m sure I will never have a job like it ever again. I’m so thankful to the boys for pushing me to my limits but also allowing me to grow and become a better person.

I look forward to chapel each day, especially Evenson on Sunday nights. I might go as far to say it’s my favorite part of camp. There is something so magical about 100 boys singing together at the top of their lungs, it gives me the chills every time.

Capt. Kyle Lamberson

“Dear General and Colonel,

...It is unusual situations at camp that bring out the most personal growth in boys and that continues on for the staff. The lifestyle at camp is what brings out the love in people and what continues to bring us back together.

Chapel, parade, crack platoon, ranks, grad hikes, and boys being relied on for attendance, are just a few that make camp unique. However, those things that are unique about this camp is what I have realized is what allows boys to grow into men like no other place on Earth. This place is the country’s best kept secret and the uniqueness, grittiness and love this camp produces is something that cannot be replicated.

I have always considered camp a second home to me. Camp has always been but now more than ever is my safe place. It is the place that brings out the absolute best in me, and proves to myself I can do things I never thought I was capable of.”

Capt. Devin Fosu

“When I reflect back on this year, there is a lot to be grateful for. Firstly, I have to be grateful to be here. Thanks to the Gerrys’ generosity, as well as Colonel and General’s hard work and dedication I was able to come back to camp for my 7th straight summer (excluding covid). While the reasons I am grateful to be here are too numerous to count. I can list off a few. The first obviously being the opportunity for my brother (Reese Fosu) to go to Proctor Academy on scholarship. I cannot be grateful enough for this opportunity for my family as it’s an opportunity that other kids could only dream of. The next being the opportunity to be given a space to grow, and do difficult things and fail and learn from my mistakes. This is an invaluable part of life that everyone needs to go through and I’m happy I am able to do that around people that love me. The third thing I am grateful for is the chapel.”



Old LDBC Haunt in NYC Disappears: The Hotel Pennsylvania



Beginning around 1920, Camp alumni and staff would gather each year at the Hotel Pennsylvania for an annual dinner and presentations. The hotel, built by the Pennsylvania Railroad and across from Pennsylvania Station, opened in 1919 with 22 stories holding 2000 guest rooms.

It was a giant hotel with a giant ballroom filled each year by LDBC. A typical menu from our archives reveals a hearty meal: mock turtle soup, celery and pickles, roast turkey, pumpkin pie and demi tasse! The hotel's phone number was 6-5000 which made music history with the song Pennsylvania 6-5000.

Alas, the hotel is no more. It was demolished in 2023 to make way for more office towers (just what midtown Manhattan needs!).

– Geoff Dunham '79

TRIVIA – How much do you know about LDBC?

1. The sanctus bell in St. Joseph's Chapel is a brake drum from one of Robert L. Gerry's cars. What type of car?
2. What medal preceded the Founders Medal?
3. What do these words from the Camp Flag and Seal mean?
 - a) Spes
 - b) Veritas
 - c) Caritas
4. What three Catskill peaks are scaled on the senior hike?
5. Charles Dodsley Walker was organist at LDBC for fifty years (1940-1990). For 38 of those years, at which parish church was he organist?

ANSWERS: 1. Pierce Arrow car, 2. Masters Medal, 3. Spes (Hope), Veritas (Truth), Caritas (Charity or Love), 4. Cornell, Wittenberg and Slide mountains, 5. Church of the Heavenly Rest

A Day in the Life of Rev. Richard Sloan '61

Fr. Sloan came to LDBC on the recommendation of Charlie Walker, a family friend. Though he served as a chorister in Camp's choir, his current path has taken him away from choirs and towards the sea.

Fr. Sloan's ministry these days is not a parish church, but the docks of Port Newark. And his parishioners are not townsfolk but the crews of every ship that docks at the Port. The mariners could be from Peru,

Greece, Denmark or the Philippines, Serbia and Panama, or anywhere else.

After having retired from parish ministry and being most recently the Episcopal chaplain at Columbia University, Fr. Sloan is now the chaplain associate at the Seaman's Church Institute, an Episcopal ministry to mariners since 1834. He ministers to the mariners by helping them with their needs while at the Port. This could mean contacting their families or getting SIM cards or providing much needed fellowship, as they are at sea for many months at a time.

Though the floating chapels of old are long gone, Fr. Sloan continues an essential ministry much needed by mariners doing one of the toughest jobs in the world.



– Geoff Dunham '79

Camp Prayer

O God, who hast made and preserved this camp and sent us here
to learn thy will: accept and sanctify our prayers by the
inspiration of thy Holy Spirit.

Teach us to live together in comradeship, joy and peace.

In our camp lives, give us the spirit of honor, understanding and
perserverance; in our prayers the power to draw nigh to thee, and
in our games true sportsmanship.

Bless the founders and benefactors of our camp,
Robert and Cornelia Gerry, for all they have given us
and recompense them with the riches of thine
everlasting kingdom, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

Grads of 2023

Photos by Joe Arruda



James McGovern (left) and Kaiden Palacios (right)



Matt Efodili



Frankie Caravita (center)



Matt Efodili (right)



Felix Rodriguez



Kevin Wegner



Sala Curl (back right)



Frankie Caaravita

Dues!!!

Please take a moment of your time to pay your dues today. Every contribution helps with the long term success of LDBC. Please take a few minutes and mail your \$40 dues TODAY! Your generosity is appreciated. Thank you!

Interested in giving more to LDBC? Consider sending a small donation each month when you pay your bills. \$10/month be less impactful on your budget than giving \$100+ all at once. Just address 12 envelopes to LDAA, insert a check into each in the amount you want to give per month and mail with your monthly bills.

General Sue Adams will also accept dues and donations through Venmo at Sue-Adams-9 (or scan the above QR code).

Also - check to see if your company does a match to charitable organizations. Sometimes they will match each dollar or more. If you need specific information like the Tax ID number or type of charity LDBC is, please contact the camp office at lakedelawareboyscamp@yahoo.com. Thank you all for your continued support of LDBC.



16th Annual Golf Outing

When: July 19, 2024

Where: The College Golf Course at Delhi

Who is invited: All Grads, Parents and Supporters of LDBC

What is included: Lunch (12:15 p.m.), Golf (tee times will start at about 1:30 p.m., scramble format), appetizers and a cash bar (after golf, around 6 p.m.)

Cost: \$100 --- includes lunch, golf with cart, appetizers following golf and prizes

If you can't make it for golf but would like to join us at the golf course for lunch before, or appetizers after, let us know. The cost to join for either is \$20. Reach out to Cliff Sporn with any questions: doccliff.s@gmail.com.



Passings

Wayne Drummond '62

Roland Skip Hepburn '60








Thomas Roberts '65

May they Rest in Peace...






AWARDS:

Founder's Medal Recipients

STAFF – Bronze

-  Capt. Devin Fosu
-  Capt. Guarldiard Mentor
-  Capt. Jeromos Nagy
-  Capt. Kyle Lamberson
-  Capt. Macario Costa
-  Capt. Simon Cerney Black
-  Capt. Tomas Dulson
-  Capt. Nolan Maul

STAFF – Silver

-  Mjr. Kaitlin McQuade
-  Mjr. Lauren Lamberson
-  Mjr. Mitchell Burrall
-  Capt. Thomas Cowan
-  Nurse Inger Rothpearl



CAMPERS – Bronze

- Capt. James McGovern
- Capt. Matt Effodili

CAMPERS – Silver

- Major Frankie Caravita

Charles Dodsley Walker Music Award

- Malachi Robinson
- Jack Cunningham
- Kweku Arthur-Mensah

Best Tent: Tent 5



Monogram

- Kaiden Palacios
- Kevin Wegner
- Sala Curl
- Felix Rodriguez

100% Pin

- Ugo Ukochukwu
- Eman Whitley
- Jimmy McQuade
- Hayden Spies
- Somto Ndukwe

Commandant's Cup

- Frankie Caravita

Elbridge T. Gerry Band Award

- Tim Fischer
- Somto Ndukwe
- Malachi Robinson

Edward H. Gerry A Co. Award

- Matt Efodili

Robert L. Gerry Jr. B Co. Award

- James McGovern

Thank you for your support!

140 donors gave \$155,803 in 2023

**List of donors from January 1, 2023
through December 31, 2023. Does not
include members of the Gerry family.*

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