

## **New Mess Hall is complete**

The new state of the art Mess Hall was completed before the 2021 camp season. What a facility! This new building was designed and built to serve multiple functions. Upstairs is the dining facilities and kitchen, designed to carry on all the camp traditions while increasing efficiencies and comfort. Though camp “looks different with the old mess hall gone and the Armory gone, Lake Delaware Boys Camp is still everything we remember.

This project could never have been accomplished without the dedication of the Gerry Family, the Alumni Association and all the people and organizations who contributed to meeting the fundraising goal. Thank you! Here’s to another 100 plus years of memories that this building will bring to young men each summer.









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## New Board Member Nick Frigenti

LDBC has been a part of Nick's life ever since his first trip up to camp during the summer of 1989, only a few short months after he was born. Nick's father Ron Frigenti, who graduated Major of the Battalion in 1979, instilled the traditions and values of camp into his family from the start of Nick's life. Nick's grandfather Martin Johnsen, also graduated Major of the Battalion in 1946. Nick was fortunate enough to attend many Grad's and Work weekends as a young child with his family, even before becoming a camper himself. In 2001, he began his own camp career as a rookie in B Company, Tent 5. Nick spent the next five summers making lifelong memories with his friends, tacs, Jim and Sue Adams, and of course Father D. He graduated Major of the Battalion in the summer of 2005. He is honored to join his fellow Alumni, as well as his father Ron, on the Board of Directors. He is very excited about the opportunity to contribute to LDBC for many years to come!

## FROM THE EDITOR-My last edition

Thank you to all who contribute to the Valookie. Special thanks to Joe Scalaero, Geoff Dunham, Frank Enders and Colonel and General Adams. After 19 years, I am passing along the Valookie Editor responsibilities to Joe Arruda, G16. Joe's Bio is on the next page and I encourage you all to send in memories, pictures and anything you would like in the Valookie to Joe. Below is Joe's contact information. Thank you all for the support and contributions over the years.

Kevin Lamberson G86

### Valookie Editor

Joe Arruda, G16

*Please direct all submissions, questions, suggestions, etc. by email or mail to :*

Joe.arruda.joe@gmail.com

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

Like all of us individually, Lake Delaware Boys' Camp has been profoundly affected by the global COVID pandemic. COVID forced us to suspend our 2020 season, like most camps in New York, but we were able to rebound in 2021 to an incredibly successful season. As many of us will remember, when Camp closed for several years after the passing of Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge Gerry, Sr., our future was in doubt. When we reopened, it took several years to reestablish our recruitment and stagger our age classes. (I'm often reminded that, in those first few years after reopening, we were a "camp full of Midgets"!).

I cannot express how important it was to reopen in 2021 after a lost season, even if it meant a somewhat shortened season at slightly less than full Battalion strength. Our Camp Directors, Jim and Sue Adams, worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that we had as many returning campers as possible, and were adequately staffed — made even more difficult by international hiring limitations and COVID testing requirements. Despite this, Jim and Sue were able to recruit campers, hire TAC's, kitchen, and nursing staff, and ensure that our Camp program and LDBC traditions were continued. This also allowed those campers who would have graduated in 2020 to return for a final camp season to graduate, preventing a gap in our Alumni ranks. We all owe Jim and Sue a tremendous debt of gratitude. Thank you both.

One of the highpoints of the season was the ability to use our brand new, state of the art Mess Hall. As we've said throughout the project, the new Mess Hall was expected to have a transformative effect on Camp, and it certainly did. Combining the Mess Hall with a recreational space beneath that replaced the decaying Armory, allowed campers not only better meals, but it also enabled us to expand our programming options and activities, especially on dreaded rainy days. Thank you to all who so generously contributed to making this project a reality.

This is my first President's Letter and I want to end on a couple of personal notes. First, I want to thank my predecessor, Geoff Dunham, for his support and continued contributions to Camp. As I said at our annual meeting this summer, Geoff gave of himself to serve LDAA and LDBC for over 20 years. During that time, he shepherded several major projects such as a new swimming pool, restoration of our treasured organ in St. Joseph's Chapel and, finally, the new Mess Hall. During his tenure, he also ensured Camp's finances were stable, instituted long term planning for Camp's future, and has helped grow our Alumni Association. While it is impossible to fill Geoff's shoes, I would not even be able to begin to try were it not for his continuing service as Secretary, and, especially for our longtime friendship that began as campers. I want to especially thank Geoff's family for so generously sharing Geoff with us these past 20+ years and allowing him to serve as our President. Thank you Carol, Paul, and Olivia (who's often COVID-delayed wedding to former TAC Cormac Magnon I was blessed to attend this summer — another great Camp marriage!)

Finally, this issue of the Valookie will be Kevin Lamberson's last as our Valookie editor. Like so many of us before him, Kevin reluctantly accepted the job to fill a void and ensure our Alumni continue to keep in touch. In doing so however, Kevin made the job his own, increased the quality of the Valookie, and did so while continuing to contribute to Camp in so many other ways, too. In working together to pass the torch to our new editor, Joe Aruda, Kevin has ensured that the Valookie will continue uninterrupted. Thank you Kevin! As COVID restrictions continue to ease, we are planning a full, normal Camp season for 2022. I hope we will all plan to visit Camp this year to reconnect and to see firsthand the success Lake Delaware continues to be for so many boys. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Joe Scalero '83

President





# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Friends of Lake Delaware Boys' Camp,

It gives us pleasure to send our warm greetings to the LDBC family, and especially to report on the wonderful 2021 camp season.

The summer of 2021 was an important year for LDBC, and it turned out to be a special one. In 2020, New York State did not permit any residential summer camps to open due to Covid. At LDBC we knew how important it was for us to open in 2021, since two consecutive years of being closed would have had a significant negative impact on camp. Although we spent the months leading up to camp in 2021 making every plan to open, none of our plans, including even being allowed by the State to open were guaranteed. In fact, New York State did not finally issue the operating guidelines for camps until June 15, 2021.

Like other camps, LDBC relies on a portion of its staff positions being filled with the outstanding international university students who come to us through Camp America. In 2021 the US border remained closed to the countries - Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand – where we have traditionally recruited staff. However, we were able to put together a staff with a core of outstanding recent LDBC grads, some new American college students, and Camp America staff from countries we had never hired from before. The staff accepted our challenge to give their all for the goal of having a superb season for our campers at LDBC, and they delivered.

We welcomed two new excellent staff members, Nicole Brewer and George Murphy (LDBC grad) to the key positions of Camp Nurse and Handyman, and we are very happy they will both be returning this summer.

We are especially grateful to Fr. Andrew and Becca VanBuren for their wonderful work at camp. St. Joseph's Chapel is the heart of LDBC. In addition to their commitment to excellence in the worship and music of the Chapel Andrew and Becca find gracious ways to support our campers and staff in the challenges they face.

Of course, the most important part of LDBC is the campers. This year's campers were an outstanding group of young men and boys. The battalion officers were trustworthy, mature, and exemplified the ideals of Lake Delaware Boys' Camp. Our campers bring talent, character, and a love of camp to LDBC. The spirit at camp is overwhelmingly positive, and joyful.

The 2021 camp season was the first year of use for the amazing new mess hall. This fantastic new building transformed the experience of our campers. It was all that we had hoped for, and will be a centerpiece of LDBC for the next 100 years.

Lake Delaware Boys' Camp was able to face immense challenges in 2021, and produce a safe and lifechanging experience for our boys.

We are grateful to the friends and benefactors of Lake Delaware Boys' Camp; the Gerry family, loyal alumni, parents of our campers, and other friends of camp whose continued generosity has enabled this great story to continue for 113 years.

The founders of LDBC had a dream - of building the physical, intellectual and spiritual values of its campers – which has inspired people from generation to generation. LDBC has a distinguished history and a bright future.

We could not be more excited as we look forward to LDBC 2022!

With our warm regards,  
Jim and Sue Adams, Camp Directors

## Meet your new Valookie Editor Joe Arruda

**Personal Bio** – Hi everyone, I am an award-winning multimedia journalist from Geneva, New York, who plans on graduating from Springfield College (Mass.) in May, 2022, with a degree in Communication/Sports Journalism, Sports Analytics and English. Throughout my four years at Springfield, I served as Editor in-Chief of our student newspaper while also completing internships with MassLive.com and The Daily Hampshire Gazette. I was also part of a partnership with the Basketball Hall of Fame in which I led a content team to cover two Hoophall Classic events – a premiere high school basketball showcase.

**Camp Bio** – My first time at camp was in 2005 when my mom, Sue Arruda, served as camp nurse. Then, as a young shadow of the General, I eventually turned into a kid who was dying to become a camper. I recruited several of my friends from Geneva, and we all came to camp as rookies in 2011. I graduated from camp in 2016 as Captain of A Company in one of the largest – and greatest – grad classes in LDBC history. After my first year of college in 2019, I became a counselor and I planned on returning in 2020 before the camp season was canceled. Heartbroken, I knew I needed to return for at least one more summer on the staff. In 2021, thanks to an extraordinary amount of hard work from the Colonel and the General, I was blessed to be one of the Majors of the staff. Like so many others, LDBC has truly shaped me into the person I am today, and I am tremendously grateful for all of the opportunities and experiences that camp has provided me. Joe A



# Staff Reports 2021

## 2021 STAFF REPORT --- Major Joe Arruda (grad of 2016 USA)

Dear Colonel and General,

As I thought about what I was *supposed to* say in my speech at the Colonel's Bridge, I couldn't think of anything other than gratitude. I am beyond thankful for the amount of work you both put in to make this summer possible, and for your unwavering energy and support as it went on. I am grateful for all of the other members of the staff who were supportive and lifted me up when I was feeling stressed, and for the kids who made this summer special.

I wanted the kids to get the message that we are all so lucky to have this place in our lives, and that we shouldn't take anything for granted. But, as I began to speak my camp story overwhelmed me. Thinking about how I first came to camp, a year after losing my dad, before most of the kids were born, not only made me feel incredibly old, but reminded me that LDBC has raised me into who I am today. I do my best to live by camp's values and standards, and I am so grateful that they have become engrained so deeply into my life. As I sat in the van, driving after the slowest walker on the run, my camp life flashed through my mind. I remembered being a rookie, terrified to sleep in the tents even though I had already been at the place for years. As I sat by the soccer field I remembered driving through that gate for the first time as a child, getting out of Sean Cunningham's way as we played in the World Cup and then playing in my final World Cup Day with a tent of amazing young men. All I wanted to do in my Colonel's Bridge speech is open some eyes to the wonders of LDBC and share some of the love that I have for this place.

On the final day of camp, after the chapel service, Kojo Arthur-Mensah came up to me and gave me a massive hug. He whispered in my ear between tears, 'Thank you so much for everything you have taught me.' He said, 'I wouldn't be here without you and I love you for that.' His words meant more to me than he would think as I stood there, arms wrapped around him in tears, quiet because talking and crying are not included my multitasking skills.

When we had our meeting in the St. Peter's office earlier this summer, I was really hesitant about camp happening this year. I had already applied to more summer internships in anticipation of yet another devastating announcement that camp wouldn't be able to happen this summer. I remember the feeling of my face lighting up when you told me the plans to open, that another group of tacs was being hired and that I would be Major of the staff. At the time I was elated because being Major was something I always wanted to do, but I had really no idea what it actually entailed. Still, I remember saying that this summer would be the happiest summer ever for these kids.

After a year that couldn't have been any worse, LDBC came to the rescue. We managed to pitch the tents and prepare the new mess hall, building the space for what was a summer of several unknowns. It was different – the composition of the staff, the composition of the campers and even the length of the camp season – but the energy did not disappoint.

This season could have easily been chalked up as a 'rebuilding year' or just 'the year after COVID,' but instead, memories were made and lives were changed – just like any 'normal' year.



The staff put in 100 percent and the campers did the same. The level of commitment and devotion to camp traditions was commendable and most of the credit should go to the first-year former-camper tacs – Mitch, Ethan, Chris and James. I honestly didn't expect any of them to be as wonderful as they were. We were truly stretched thin, the thinnest I will hopefully ever be, but enough people pulled their weight in order for this season to be special.

It was special to see the tremendous amount of growth in the kids, but especially in the staff. In my first year, I didn't really notice how the rest of the staff worked or how they changed because I was so focused on successfully crossing Company Street myself. This year, however, that all changed in my role as Major. Scheduling – which was an unpleasant beast of a job – changed as my confidence in some of our tacs grew over the year. Learning to work with people that were different than me was a lot different than in 2019. I had to lead the group alongside Major Kentner and the experience fulfilled me in more ways than one. My year wasn't easy – I struggled with COVID, isolation and emptiness. But camp was there, as it always is, to fill the void like nothing else could. It was truly a blessing – and in Captain Taylor's words, 'a privilege – to be here'.

As we sat in the cottage on the last night, we went around and said some of our favorite memories from the year, and for me they just kept coming. As everyone went around, I couldn't just settle on one. From the very first day of camp, the pride I had wearing a name tag with 'Mjr. Arruda' on it, checking all of my wonderful children into my tent and speaking with parents, I knew this summer would be great. I was so worried about how we'd do it with such a little staff but we got it done. In some ways this was my favorite summer at camp. Obviously nothing will top my grad year or being a tac in a normal year, but the significance of this season was great.

I love LDBC with all of my heart. All of the people, the kids and the staff, and especially the traditions. But most of all, I love you both for all that you have given me since I was little. Remembering the trips into Oneonta with Sue and my sisters, buying an endless amount of reading glasses for Colonel and visiting the gum ball machines outside of Price Chopper. Camp has blessed me for almost my entire life, and has granted me with a lifetime worth of love and memories. I really wouldn't be the person I am without camp, and I thank you both for that. Weronika said it perfectly – in broken English – at the golf course dinner. The staff was inspired all year to work hard and to love the kids because of your love and devotion to us and the camp. You kept us going, and everything we did was to make you proud. I truthfully hope we accomplished that.

I am grateful that I have an opportunity to stay involved with camp through the Alumni Association, but I hope my time on Company Street isn't over yet. I will be in a completely new stage in my life at this time next year, but I know that camp will come calling. I am meant to be here and camp is meant to be in my life. I was truly sent here, and this place has been a gift from God for so long. I will do all I can to make it back at some point next year, even if it is in a small role. But I know that wherever I am, that is where I am meant to be.


Thank you for everything.

Love, Joe (Major) Arruda

## School Essay by camper Kojo Arthur-Mensah

Hi my name is Kojo Arthur-Mensah and this Sunday I've had the chance to reflect. While reflecting I decided to think about where I am and how I have developed a person. When people think about pivotal moments in their lives they can often point to a single or string of tragedies that helped make them the person they are today. I myself can say I have been through a lot. I lost my grandmother, lost the uncle I was closest to and lived through a pandemic. People could also attribute their growth in character to key decisions they made in life. However, the biggest decision of my life was not made by me. In the spring of 2015 I was watching tv and my mother asked me if I wanted to go to a sleep away camp. I told her "I'm not sure" and she said "You should go, it will be fun" and due to the fact I wanted to get back to my show I agreed. Then June comes around and my mom brings in a trunk from the garage and says lets go to the store we have to start packing. I asked what for then realized she had tricked me into going away for a sleep away military camp. My mom tricking me is the greatest thing to happen to me. This camp has allowed me to grow and flourish as a young man and a leader. I Would like to acknowledge some specific people and moments that taught me valuable life lessons and skills.

Two people that I can say have taught me alot are two people that go by the name of Mr and Mrs. VanBuren but I know them as Mr and Mrs.VB. As a kid growing up, especially at this camp I was able to do what I was comfortable with, stand sharp in the Battalion and play sports. Two things I knew I could excel at. I was happy with my role and didn't plan on expanding it any time soon. Then on one rainy day in the field house during the summer of 2021 Father VB approached me. He asked me if I would like to sing a solo in the chapel that day. I was for obvious reasons hesitant and said I would think about and get back to him. I had no intentions on following that question up but then he approached me again asking me if I had made a decision and I didn't want to let him down so I couldn't say no. The day of the solo came and I was so nervous. That evensong came and that solo I dreaded couldn't have come up quicker. I would be lying if I didn't say I failed miserably. I had kids coming up to me cracking jokes and even my best friends cracked a few jokes. However I soon learned that I didn't care. I learned so what if I fail. The only person that can truly affect me is me. The VB's taught me that you should never pass up an opportunity because of a what if. I am so glad I took that opportunity and never have to wonder if I could have done more. After I did that solo I decided to learn how to be a server in a chapel and found out there's nothing greater than serving in Saint Joseph's chapel in front of your peers.



One of the greatest skills LDBC teaches kids is the skill of leadership. One of my favorite stances on being a leader is the idea of being a “servant leader”. Someone who leads by example. The perfect example of a servant leader is Jesus Christ himself. Jesus would do things such as clean his disciples' feet at the last supper to show how much he cared for them. I am a believer that as a leader you shouldn't expect things from others that you yourself would do. Due to this when I was younger I would aim for the lesser roles because I didn't want to be counted on and potentially let my friends or teammates down. The director of LDBC who I call Colonel was one of the first people who gave me the opportunity to step up. The base drummer had just gone home for the camp season and without a base drummer the whole battalion couldn't march. So the Colonel asked me if I could play the bass drum for the parade that was in 4 days. Again it was one of those situations where I felt like I just could not say no. So the next day I went down to the armory and asked older camper Kyle Lamberson to teach me how to be in band during the parade. He taught me how to play the bass drum and the order of the parade for the band. After spending hours practicing, the parade came and I was able to play all the songs on beat and remember all the movements. That was my proudest moment as a camper because I was called upon and I succeeded. That moment from Colonel taught me that I want to be a guy that can be counted on. I always want to be the guy that will step up no matter how hard or unwanted the job is. That moment was a big turning point in my life. I decided to join the crack platoon and choir. After that I made a goal to one day become a leader of the camp and hopefully be able to become the major of the Battalion.

The person from camp who has impacted me the most in my personal life without a doubt is General. General is the mother of the camp and has always been there for every single camper. I remember the nights where I was crying because I missed my brothers or when camp was cancelled due to covid and she called to check on me and my family. Weirdly though those are not the most impactful moments she's had on me. I remember during my second year when I was getting candy for the canteen and I forgot to say please. She said “No please, what happened to the sweet and polite Kojo I know”. Even though that was obviously a joke I took it heart in the sense that I am going to make that a part of me. I am always going to try and be a class act and polite no matter how I am feeling or how my day is going. Every time I see General working hard in the Field House or in the Mess Hall it is just a reminder for me to try and be the best person I can be.

(Continued on the next page)



## School Essay by camper Kojo Arthur-Mensah (continued)

Lake Delaware Boys camp is such a special place. Every single boy there can relate to you no matter how tough things are at camp. Race and money have no importance; everybody is equal. It's just kids bonding and growing together. I am lucky enough to call every single one of these kids over the years my brothers. Two kids I would especially thank are James McGovern and Frankie Caravita. When I was a little nine year old kid star struck by Laquan McKeever yelling commands they helped learn how things go at camp. They introduced me to everyone at camp and without them I wouldn't have made as many friends as I did. A quote that the chaplain when I first got to camp Father D said that always stuck with me was "He drew a circle that shut me out, heretic, rebel, a thing to flout, but love and I had the will to win, we drew a circle that took him in". This quote means alot to me now because the more and more I think about it that is what Frankie and James did. They drew a circle that took me in and I am so thankful for them. Camp has overall made me a better person and leader. To compare life to boxing due the impact camp has had on me no matter how many hits I take in the boxing ring that is life I'll always get up and take on the next challenge with a smile on my face. Words can't describe how grateful I am for all those at LDBC that made me into the man I'm into today.

## HELP RECRUIT NEW CAMPERS

Help keep LDBC strong by recruiting campers...we especially welcome ALL grad kids or grandkids to attend LDBC...and their friends! Refer any potential camper family to the new camp website where they can find the camper application [www.lakedelawareboyscamp.com](http://www.lakedelawareboyscamp.com). For new camp brochures to hand out to potential camper families, please contact Camp Secretary Laurie Gullow at [ldbc@delhitel.net](mailto:ldbc@delhitel.net) or (607) 832-4451.

## MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW FOR GRADS WEEKEND

Camp Begins	July 6th
13th Annual Golf Outing	July 22nd
Grads-Parents Weekend	July 22-24
Final Weekend	August 6-7

Don't wait to the last minute to make reservations....The Catskills have been discovered! Though the towns look the same as they always have, Bovina boasts an excellent restaurant and Andes has two and a hard cider distillery & brewery. Organic farms and heritage breed beef cattle farms have replaced many old dairy farms. With the Catskills now a destination for summer weddings, the few B&B's, inns and hotels fill up quickly. Don't forget if every place is booked, you are always welcome to camp out in the parking lot!

## 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 [ldbc@delhitel.net](mailto:ldbc@delhitel.net) 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

## Alumni News

-Congratulations to Alumni David Barrere who was recently promoted to Chief of Patrol for the NYPD, putting him in charge of 27,000 police officers.

-Ron Frigenti, G 79, sent in this story about his daughter Karly:

My daughter took her Bronx Charter School AP history class (25 juniors and seniors) on a class trip down to Philadelphia. While in the museum, she ran into a statue of Elbridge T. Gerry, the signer of the Declaration of Independence. She took a picture with him, not realizing when she left the school or when she left her house that morning that she had on the hundredth anniversary LDBC sweatshirt!



# Camp Memoir-by camper Frankie Caravita

Name: Frank Caravita  
Mr. DeWolfe

Date: 10-4-21  
PT 4 - Memoir

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In the Catskill mountains is a small town called Delhi, NY. In the woods just outside the town is a summer camp named Lake Delaware Boys Camp (LDBC). LDBC is a military, Christian, sports camp that hosts boys for 32 days and nights. At this camp, boys learn important leadership skills. There are ranks, and the higher rank you are the more responsibilities you have. When you are a younger boy you learn to respect the older boys. This helps teach young boys who sometimes might not have the best home life, to respect people older than them and to learn that most people just want the best for you and eventually you will be that older man, and you will expect the same respect you treated the people older than you. Another important part of LDBC is the sports. Every day there are 4 periods with a different sport being played in each, these are the games that make camp fun and help build cooperation between the boys. The most important part of LDBC is the chapel and god in general. Every morning all the boys camp go to a chapel service, on Sundays it's twice a day.

For many years the chaplain of St. Joseph's Chapel was a man by the name of Father Ray Donahue. Father Donahue (Father D). He was a very wise man who loved to tell all his stories, real or a fable. In chapel he would share his homily every morning. These stories always came with a lesson about life. There was the story of the boy in the crash. A boy is driving with his family when they veer off the road and crash. His whole family is killed and the boy is left paralyzed from the waist down. One physical therapist decides to make it her mission to teach the boy to walk again. in a few weeks he can stand on his own. In a few months he can walk with assistance and in only a couple years he can walk on his own normally. It is a miracle and the therapist is praised. But then, years later, it is found out that the boy was arrested after he robbed a bank. When the therapist is asked what happened she says that she “taught him how to walk, but she didn’t teach him where to walk.” This story teaches the importance of temperantia, or self control.

A famous saying of Father D’s was a poem written by Edwin Markham and it teaches about inclusion. The poem goes, “He drew a circle that shut me out, heretic, rebel, a thing to flout, but love and I had the wit to win, we drew a circle and took him in” The poem teaches about inclusion and that if someone treats you with hate, you should give them love to help them change.

My first year at LDBC was 2016. This year held the biggest grad class in the history of camp with 20+ graduates. A lot of those boys were from Geneva so I knew many of them plus, two of my cousins,



Sean and Catherine Cunningham, were counsellors that year. I remember for the first week of that season I was pretty homesick, but I managed to push through it and ended up having a really great time.

The next summer was the start of my career in band. I had just learned to play the trumpet in school so now playing the bugle was pretty easy. I wasn't very good but it was still fun. 2018 was a very fun year but it came with a sad conclusion. On the last night of camp, Father D fell down the steps. He was fine but we knew his health was suffering. In October we learned he had suffered a stroke and was being flown to a hospital in Binghamton. Then on thanksgiving night we got the news that he had passed away peacefully. His passing was a huge loss.

Then comes 2019, one of my favorite summers at camp. Now I was getting older and was starting to respect camp in a different way. I realized it wasn't just a place to play sports all summer, it was a place to learn leadership skills and a place to grow, physically, mentally, and spiritually.

In 2020 I still had hope that camp would happen despite COVID. Except it didn't for the first time since 1998 camp would have to close for a season. Everyone was devastated but they were all excited for the next year. In 2021 camp still almost didn't happen. It was a struggle to find enough staff to work but we did and had a great summer. This was my first year leading the band and though we were rusty at first I grew as a leader and the band improved immensely. My tent, tent 1, had the best tent scores and ended up winning best tent for the first time in my camp career. Now there is excitement for 2022 and the new challenges I will have to overcome as a leader at LDBC. I believe it will be a great summer and it couldn't come sooner.

Because of Lake Delaware Boys Camp I have matured into a much stronger leader, and a more spiritual Christian. LDBC has taught me to love all people in the world no matter how nice or bad they are. In the words of Father Edward Flannagan, founder of Boys Town, Nebraska, "There is no such thing as a bad boy." Which means to me that no matter how badly a boy behaves or how "bad" he might act, there is always hope for him. Camp has taught me how to lead a group of people that are my age or younger and has taught me all the skills I need to survive in the real world. Without the words of Father Donahue in the chapel I would not love going to church as much as I do today, and I would not know as much as I know now. I believe that Lake Delaware Boys Camp is not just a place but a way of life, and without it many boys would still be lost, because LDBC does not just teach you how to walk, it also teaches you where to walk.

# LDBC 2021





# LDBC 2021





## WORK WEEKEND– 2021

Work weekend is scheduled for May 20-22, 2022, with a second smaller one planned for June 4-5. Please come join us for a weekend of storytelling, bonding and camp beautification with your fellow alumni. No carpentry skill or craftsmanship abilities necessary. Please contact Rick Hilbert if you are interested in learning more.



## AMAZON SMILES

Thank you to Richard Burdett for arranging for donations to LDBC under the Amazon Smiles program. Please REMEMBER LDBC when purchasing items on Amazon.com Every donation helps us meet our annual expenses, no matter how small!

## DUES-WE NEED YOUR HELP ALUMNI !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



### REMINDER:

**Dues Reminder!!!** Please help us reach our goal. Remember, you can also pay your dues online at [www.lakedelawareboyscamp.com](http://www.lakedelawareboyscamp.com).

Please take a moment of your time to pay your dues today. As of this publication we only have 84 dues paying members which is down considerably from several hundred 10 years ago. We can certainly do better than that! 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 in a small donation each month when you pay your bills. \$10 each month will have less impact on your budget than giving \$100 or more all at once. Just address 12 envelopes to LDAA, insert a check into each envelope in the amount you want to give each month and mail with your bills you pay each month. Also check to see if your company does a match to charitable organizations. Sometimes they will match dollar for 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 [ldbc@delhitel.net](mailto:ldbc@delhitel.net). Thank you all for your continued support of LDBC.

## Elbridge Gerry Jr. Honored for Harness Racing Leadership

The extended Gerry family has been associated with harness racing since at least the 1890's when E.H. Harriman raced trotters on the historic track in Goshen. As the sport needed more structure to secure its future, his son E. Roland Harriman founded the US Trotters Assn. and helped found the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame. Mr. Harriman soon interested his nephew, Elbridge Gerry, Sr. in the sport and he succeeded Mr. Harriman to lead the Goshen racetrack and Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame. His decades long leadership in the sport was recognized in 1996 when the famed Hambletonian Oaks was named in his honor.

One generation later, in recognition of Elbridge Gerry, Jr. being 'one of the most respected individuals in racing', the \$400,000 Hambletonian Maturity race for 4 year olds is now named the E.T. Gerry, Jr. Hambletonian Maturity. It was noted that Mr. Gerry had a perfect attendance record, not having missed a Hambletonian in 50 years!

Mr. Gerry began his driving career in 1951 and together with brother, and LDBC president Peter Gerry and sister Didi Ryland, operates Arden Homestead Stable, the oldest harness racing stable. In 2001, the stable was voted Stable of the Century by Hoof Beats. Mr. Gerry served as an officer and board member of the Hambletonian Society for over 50 years and was inducted into the Living Hall of Fame in 1994. As president of the Harness Racing Museum, he oversaw the expansion of its beautiful home in downtown Goshen. LDAA offers CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. Gerry for the recognition of his long dedicated service to the sport of harness racing.



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## 2019 Donors to LDBC\* THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Jim and Sue Adams  
Marjorie Adams  
Ade Adedeji  
Mary Adjepong  
E.R. Ahlborn  
Amazon Smiles  
American Camp Association  
Glen Amzler, in memory of Doug Amzler  
Andrew Van Buren  
Beth Andrews  
Andrew Antwi  
K Arthur-Mensah  
Anna Asante  
Bruce Barkus  
Gary Beck  
Christine Bradley  
Thomas Burkard  
Linda Lou Butler  
Keenan Casey  
Fawn Cater  
Winifred Chafey  
Jerry Chan  
Oluchi Chilaka  
Joseph Collins  
Richard Coriasco  
Rebecca Cristino  
Alabanelis Cruz  
William Dassler  
Guy DeFeis  
Naomie Dorilas  
Mark Drummond  
Kevin Duggins  
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Milton Robinson  
Helen Ross Hundley  
Walter Rowe  
Joseph Scalero  
Eric Schubert  
Nicholas Schubert  
Regan Silvestri  
Arthur and Susan Smith  
Gordon Smith  
James Smith  
William Snell  
Clifford Sporn  
Edward Sullivan  
Tyler Tatusko  
Ubong Udofia

## Mess Hall Fundraising: THANK YOU!

The LDBC Board of Directors and Lake Delaware Alumni Association extend a sincere and hearty THANK YOU to everyone who so generously contributed to the Mess Hall project. Over 175 individuals donated to this project, exceeding our goal of \$300,000 from grads and over \$1.5 million from the Gerry family. So much was raised that the camp endowment got a boost! The new Mess Hall has already transformed the camp experience and it was very moving to watch campers enjoy their first meal in the new Mess Hall last summer. The chanting and foot stomping were as loud as ever, but the building did not shake to the rafters!

The grads would not have been able to reach our goal without the extraordinary generosity of two grads, who passed away during our campaign: Hank Huestis and Herb McGrail. Each bequeathed \$50,000 to the campaign. Their generous gifts inspired others to make sacrificial gifts. Hank and Herb have supported Camp in transformative ways throughout the years. Hank started our Emblem Society, which has led to Camp receiving over \$800,000 in bequests from grads. That money built our pool and increased our endowment. Herb served on the LDAA board for decades and brought Camp into the computer age. He digitized our mailing list, which connected LDAA to its membership.

To everyone who donated, to the fundraising committee of James McQuade, Joe Scalero, Geoff Dunham, Kevin Lamberson, Rick Corbett and Hal Burrall, and especially to Ebby Gerry III who led fundraising among the Gerrys, and to the Gerry Family for making the project possible, we say THANK YOU!!!





# **A Letter from Robert J. Stumpf G64**

## **Lake Delaware Boy's Camp**

**You Know the saying; you can't go home again.**

**In most cases that's probably true.**

**Maybe the one exception was being a camper at Lake Delaware Boy's Camp.**

**When we come back to camp we do go home again.**

**For me it's the only place that hasn't changed. It is a place frozen in time. A place and a home that we can go back to and visit our childhood friends and reminisce about our experiences.**

**When I stand in front of the bulletin board and look down the company street I see and hear all the young men and boys that were in camp over the decades. I can hear the bugle calls, the sounds of formation, the commands, marching up to the parade grounds. The wonderful band performing echoing throughout. The crack platoon focused and disciplined. As the mist moves over camp, I can hear the cannon going off, reveille played. The beautiful and haunting sound of Echo Taps when day is done.**

**In Saint James Chapel I can feel the presence of Father Donahue our dear friend and spiritual leader whom we will always cherish. I can close my eyes and hear Charlie Walker on the organ with the angelic singing of our choir.**

**In our mess hall I can hear the words of wisdom and guidance from Colonel Reopel. I can see our wonderful Miss Morrison sitting near. The camp cheers from A Co and B Co reverberating throughout the building.**

**So yes, we can go home again, especially if you were fortunate enough to spend summers at Lake Delaware Boy's Camp.**

**Robert J. Stumpf**

**A Co 1964**

## **For the 2020 Grad class**

Due to COVID-19, there was no camp in 2020 and therefore no graduating class. Those grads who were not able to come back in 2021 to graduate will be voted into the Alumni Association as Honorary Grads this coming summer at the Alumni meeting on Grads/Parents Weekend. If you are able to attend in person, we would love to recognize you at that time.

## **For Recent LDBC Grads**

Remember, for three years following graduation from Camp, LDAA annual dues are waived and the picnic is free! This past year, we saw more young alumni attend the Grad's Picnic than ever before. We hope to see more of you in the coming years at the picnic and at Grads weekend.

# 14th ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

## *Lake Delaware Boys' Camp* **Golf Outing & Grads/Parents Weekend Kick-off Gathering**

**Where:** The College Golf Course at Delhi  
85 Scotch Mountain Road, Delhi, NY

**Who is invited:** All Grads, Parents and Supporters of LDBC.  
Players of all skill levels are invited and encouraged to participate!

**When:** Friday, July 22, 2022

**What's Included:** Lunch: 12:00 Noon  
Golf – Tee times will start at 1:15 PM  
Scramble Format

**What's the Cost:** \$100.00  
Includes lunch, golf with cart, appetizers after golf & prizes.

**What if I can't make it for golf?** If you would like to join us for Lunch before or appetizers after the golf at the golf course, let us know. The cost for joining in on these activities is \$20.00 pp

*Thank You for your Support*  
**Lake Delaware Alumni Association**



# LDBC END OF YEAR AWARDS 2021

## Campers Founders Silver Medal Award

**Kyle Lamberson**

## Campers Founders Bronze Medal Awards

**Leopold Dorilas,  
James Langston  
Devin Fosu**

## Staff Founders Bronze Medal Award

## Staff Founders Silver Medal Award

## 100% Pin Awards

Kojo Arthur-Mensah, Giovanni Faulkner, Dylan Gravina, Eluziyah Pierre, Erik Maldonado, Lewis VanNess, Frankie Caravita, Chris Brown and James McGovern

## MONOGRAMS

Ethan Lou, Nick Maldonado, Nolan Matos and Nolan Maul

**COMMANDANTS CUP** = Kyle Lamberson

**Aco CUP** = Leopold Dorilas

**Bco CUP** = James Langston

**Band CUP** = Frankie Caravita, Kweku Arthur-Mensah and Brian Cunningham

## PASSINGS.....

**Arnold Rauscher**, Honorary Grad– father of grads James and Mark Rauscher, grandfather of grad Aaron Palm and great grandfather of Erik and Alexander Palm

**Roger Siebert** Grad 47

**Godfrey Woolsey** Grad 43

**George Holzkamp** Grad 56

**William Griffiths** Grad 55

**Scott Clair** Grad 83

**Mike Hom** Grad 78

**Bruce Huffine** Grad 54

## 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 life, give us the spirit of honor, understanding and perseverance; 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 that they have given us, and recompense them with the riches of Thine everlasting Kingdom, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*



# 2021 GRADS

Leopold Dorilas (Capt. Aco)  
Devin Fosu (Capt. Sacristan)  
Kyle Lamberson (Major)  
James Langston (Capt. Bco)  
Ethan Lou (1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Quartermaster)  
Nick Maldonado (1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Colors)  
Nolan Matos (1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Quartermaster)  
Nolan Maul (1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Bco)







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# *The VALOOKIE*

Lake Delaware Alumni Association, Inc.

Spring 2022

## 2021 Plaque Scores:

**Aco 6.5**

**Bco 6.6**

**Bco wins the plaque**

**Save the Dates:**

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**Work Weekend–May 20-22, June 4-5**  
**Parents/Grads Weekend– July 22-24**

