

# LUETHI-PETERSON CAMPS, INC.

PO Box 82  
Wakefield, Rhode Island USA 02880  
Email: board@lpcinc.org  
Website: lpcinc.org

Founded in 1949, the Luethi Peterson Camps are nonprofit co-ed summer camps in different countries whose aim is to foster international understanding by bringing together young people from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

November 2018

Changes I want to see  
in the world  
Cambiamenti che  
vogliamo vedere  
Veranderen die ik wil  
zien in de wereld

ملاحظاتي في اف هاراً نأ دواً تاري يعث

## ORIOLO, Italy: Awareness Day

The words above were the headlines on the blank posters hanging around the room in preparation for the upcoming Awareness Day.

The staff knew we wanted a day dedicated to topics LPC (at the Christmas Conference for Directors and during Pre-Camp Training Conferences for staffs) is currently working on. These topics include gender, immigration/migration, and consent, but we also wanted to know what the campers were thinking and experiencing so we could incorporate their ideas.

During the planning of Awareness Day every participant of Oriolo was given a few post-it notes with the instruction to write or draw whatever you feel about any, or all, of these headings. We turned on the music LPC style—Marta began to play a soothing tune on the guitar—as campers and counselors wrote and drew and wrote again. There was no holding back! Everyone had something to add.

The notes related to many different topics, such as LGBTQ+, Sustainability, Freedom of Migration /Immigration, Caring for Each Other, Mental Health, Respect, Stereotypes, Equality, Class, Women's Rights, and Peace.



I wonder why, when, how, if ...  
Mi chiedo perché come quando se  
Ik vraag me af waarom, wanneer, hoe, of...

ول - فيك - يت م - اذا مل لئاستأ

It is unfair when...  
È ingiusto quando  
Het is onrechtvaardig als

امدنع الدع سيل هنا

Oriolo  
by Paul Musso

Then, at bedtime before Awareness Day, we discovered that the posters of organized ideas had additional notes attached. They read “NO GAY”, and “GAY NO NO NO” and 4 other similar quotes.

The counselors had a long conference ahead of them. We had to figure out how to handle these additional notes. It was an emotional but productive conference with great care given to how to address this with our whole community without placing blame and how to allow healing time while still having an awareness day with attention to all topics.

It was decided we would have our morning activity (morning sport) with the 6 offensive notes in the middle of our circle. Every counselor, one by one, stepped forward stating “This hurts me because...” and filling in the many ways it hurt each one. This hurts me because a member of my family is gay, this hurts me because this is LPC—a place of acceptance, this hurts me because this is me, this hurts me because everyone deserves to express who they are, this hurts me because it shows no respect for diversity, ....because, because, because....

After the last counselor spoke not a second went by before the first camper spoke: This hurts me because my friends in this circle are hurt, because my classmate is gay, because we are all people ... The comments continued until everyone who wanted to speak did.

Later that morning, the campers who had written the notes stepped forward. They had not realized their comments would have such an impact on people. Others listened while they explained it was not their intention to hurt anyone. Everyone also recognized that any comment can impact different people in different ways.

It was such a powerful morning, with people sharing, listening, accepting, and developing a greater understanding. There was so much trust, openness, and honesty. The conversations continued and later that day we returned to the Awareness Day activities we had originally planned.

It felt like LPC.

Andrea Place, Director, USA



## KLINO—Czech Republic

It's high noon and the whole camp is on the road, trekking to Radomysl. The sky is stained with beautiful white clouds and a warm summer breeze blows through the fields of wheat that surround the road. Sam, playing the ukulele, and I are tailing the group and writing this song:

*Walking down the road,  
don't know where it goes.*

*And I'm trying to forget,  
all the times we've hedged our bets.*

*The grain is ripe and so are you.  
Forest green and fruits you grew.*

*Those eyes I'm trying to forget,  
that time our eyes never met.*

*Time is cheap and we trudge through.  
Sticky air on the avenue.*

*Harvest's done, the summer's past,  
the time our eyes never met.*

Filippo Ricci, Italy | Sam Cowen, USA



Klino by Julia Fiebig

## Host Family Program

This summer the Host Family Program was another success! Eight campers from Freedom and Birch Point were hosted over a weekend by Rhode Island and Massachusetts families. When we spoke to some of the campers after the program, they were so grateful for the opportunity to spend time with families in the US. We are planning on running the program again next summer based on the Freedom and Birch Point camp dates! Please let us know if you are interested in hosting an LPC camper for an incredible opportunity to share cultures and get to know more about our LPC community. Please contact [hostfamily@lpcinc.org](mailto:hostfamily@lpcinc.org) for more information and we will get back to you.

**Thanks to all for a great program this year!  
We can't wait for next summer!**



Birch Point  
by Rachel Taylor

## BIRCH POINT, Maine—USA

### Camp Daily Book

*Throughout camp, we kept a camp daily book where we would record what we did during that day. Some entries were like journal entries while others were pictures.*

**July 13** - Today was the second “normal” day of camp (still pretty crazy!). It was very nice and we were getting more adjusted to the daily schedule. Evening Program was very, very special though, because Tim Moorhouse came to jam with us! He played some songs, such as No Surprises by Radiohead and Wish You Were Here by Pink Floyd, and then jammed with Pietro on the violin and Julius, Olek & Davide on guitar. It was wonderful! Especially with the beautiful sunset over the river as a backdrop! *Cato van Paddenburgh, the Netherlands*

**July 15** - We shower with buckets  
We have no electricity  
Because here at Birch Point  
We embrace simplicity.

*Julius Philip, USA*

**July 31** - Today was the day we'd been waiting for - the day the Birch Point campers ran a full day in Freedom! We all looked like pirates to protect ourselves from lice but the campers steered the ship all by themselves. Suddenly Birch Point consisted of 24 counselors for a day. Both the Freedom staff and the Birch Point staff felt comfortable stepping back and letting the campers do their thing. We also enjoyed the luxuries of Freedom, such as hot showers, flushing toilets, and very few mosquitoes.

*Magda Beckman, Sweden*

## KIIDI—Estonia

*Where We Were*—We spent our summer on an Estonian farm. We lived in three beautiful old buildings surrounded by tall green forests of pine and birch trees and separated by lawns perfect for folk dancing and football games. We enjoyed many saunas (an important Estonian tradition), gorgeous lakes, and the company of chickens, rabbits, and a horse named Armanda. We had a hot and sunny summer, with the only true rain falling on us while we were hiking through the countryside.

*Who We Were*—Our group was large, with ten counselors and thirty campers aging from 10 to 13. We came from thirteen countries and spoke fourteen languages, most of which were heard regularly during camp. Our group was eager to discover camp rhythms and community values like fairness, consensus, and self-government.

*What We Did*—We followed a daily schedule that included singing, folk dancing, cooking, cleaning, games, and creative course times. We also had different special days. For example, we celebrated the 69th birthday of LPC by inviting our Estonian hosts and other visitors to share in singing, dancing, and cultural sharing, teaching each other LPC history, and finishing off the evening with a party in the dining room. We held the Kiidi Olympics, where each family completed many wacky tasks and competed in creative activities. We also did lots of hiking this summer, walking through the rather flat, but beautiful, Estonian countryside! We bonded as we each explored different lakes, lookout towers, country roads and campfires, and met many charming Estonians along the way.

The Kiidi staff

## PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO LPC INC.

for camperships and maintaining the Freedom house

Send checks made out to "LPC Inc." to  
LPC Inc., PO Box 82, Wakefield, RI 02880

You can also donate via PayPal  
Go to our website's donation page for the link.  
<http://lpcinc.org/donations/>

## HEGGNES—Norway

### *Fabeldag*

Another year at LPC Heggnes means another trip to the nearest town, Dale i Sunnfjord, for this camp's traditional "*Fabeldag*" performance. Every year, Heggnes reaches out to the people of Dale to share a little bit of what we do in camp. During the week before the performance, the campers chose to join a "set course" they enjoy in preparation for the big day. This year's performance list included: Extreme Singing, Dance, Beatbox Band and Theatre.

The excursion began with a rainy, yet breath-taking fjord-side hike, full of waterfalls and edible berries. In Dale, we were greeted by former LPCers and townspeople. Though our numbers seemed to drastically exceed the population of Dale, the day was still special and exciting.

The *Fabeldag* performance began with three perfectly harmonized LPC songs by the Extreme Singing group. Proud smiles stretched across the entire staff as we realized this day was going to be a special one. Next up was a group of campers who joyfully shared a choreographed dance to the song "Praying" by Kesha. The movement filled the air with life and energy. The campers continued to amaze us with the proceeding mash-up of songs by the Beatbox Band. Creativity and spirit blossomed from the unique group. Last up, the Theatre group presented a comical, educational skit with a message of acceptance and cultural understanding. The well-thought-out silliness sent smiles and laughter into the crowd. When the small group performances finished, everyone shared an LPC folkdance and a song.

Each well-rehearsed performance made for a very special *Fabeldag*. The love and creativity at Heggnes continued (as did the rain)!

The Heggnes staff

## FREEDOM, New Hampshire—USA



Freedom's Friendly  
Trash Monster

### *The Friendly Trash Monsters*

This year saw an old friend at Freedom's good, old 'Old Home Week'. The camp of international peace joined the town of Freedom for the annual parade and an evening of contra dancing.

If you know anything about the big, white house at 103 Moulton Road, you'll know it's a home by its fading white paint siding and its big lawn lovingly littered with shoes and towels and ping pong paddles, but you might not know exactly what/who is doing all that littering. Turns out, it's a bunch of trash monsters!

Every year, the campers participate in Freedom's Old Home Week Parade, and every year they wow everyone with their costumes, but this year we really saw through the facade. They shed their playful costumes of yesteryear and built out their real selves to proudly display their truth. The truth is, LPCers recycle, and the children got super creative and decided to become the coolest bunch of Trash Monsters that Freedom has ever seen. They marched in the rain, sang LPC songs and chattered to each other about everything and nothing, as folks do. Afterwards they went back to the house to shed their trash costumes, have lunch and enjoy a rest at home before getting fancy and going contra dancing at the town hall.

Natalie Cowen, USA

## WORLD GATHERING 2018

In July almost 200 people from many countries came together for four days at the Ecole d'Humanité in Switzerland to celebrate LPC's 70th birthday. Camps from the early 1950s were represented, there were babies and young children, and LPCers of all ages in between.

We sang, we folk danced, we hiked, we took all kinds of courses (among them juggling, woodcarving, yoga and Scottish dancing) and had discussions about how to ensure LPC stays relevant and meets the needs of all.

It was heartwarming to witness old friends catching up over meals and activities, and exciting to see new friendships being made. The inclusive spirit of LPC is alive and well—we had a lot of fun! (If you're on Facebook, you can see photos on the Luethi-Peterson Camps page.)

We expect the next LPC World Gathering to be in early July of 2023, so mark your calendars!

Sara Bartholomew, counselor in the 70s, USA

World Gathering folk dancing  
by Markus Hug

# Freedom FUN Weekend—USA

The second annual Freedom House Fun Weekend, a fundraiser to support the upkeep of this beautiful house, was held over Columbus Day weekend in October. Despite the traffic we all arrived Friday evening and enjoyed hanging out in the cozy kitchen. Some people hadn't seen each other since last year and there was much catching up while munching on fresh brick oven pizza. Others were new to LPC and enjoyed a tour of the Freedom House history frieze while hearing about the camps. The kitchen was warm, with people sitting around the island chatting, drinking, and eating. This is what makes Friday nights in the Freedom kitchen magical.

Saturday morning was slow and lazy, perfect for taking in the vibrant foliage. We ate scones and granola, and talked about hiking plans for the day. One group headed out to hike a loop near Conway. Another drove to Maine, taking in the turning trees and having lunch by a beautiful lake. When everyone piled home we had hors d'oeuvres of fresh bread from the pizza oven and other treats. In classic LPC tradition, we sang before dinner. We all ended up in cozy room, piled on the couches around the fire. The music of guitars, a violin, a flute, a drum box, and a bass guitar filled the room. Everyone sang along, people knitted, worked on gimp lanyards, or just enjoyed the fire. Sunday morning we all shared a final meal before driving home between the bright orange, red and yellow of the New Hampshire fall.

The fundraiser was a huge success raising \$900 to support the house. Thank you to all!  
We can't wait for the next Freedom House Weekend on the Friday and Saturday of Columbus Day weekend 2019!

*Pete Migliaccio, Erika Steele and Kai Migliaccio*



Kiidi  
by Cécile Speitel

Keep up to date with LPC by checking BOTH our websites!

>>LPC International  
*this is the organizational arm of LPC*  
luethipetersoncamps.org

>>LPC Incorporated | US Board  
*this is the US-based board which oversees the maintenance of Freedom house and collects donations for campships*  
lpcinc.org

Applications for camps in 2019 are due on December 1, 2018. If you wish to receive an application or any further information, please contact the LPC office. Our address is: [lpc.office@ecole.ch](mailto:lpc.office@ecole.ch)

We continually update our database of LPC contacts. As we now send a digital copy of the newsletter (with more photos!) to everyone for whom we have an email address, please make sure we have yours, as well as any physical address changes. Email the LPC Board at: [board@lpcinc.org](mailto:board@lpcinc.org). Thank you!!



Oriolo

Luethi-Peterson Camps, Inc.  
P.O. Box 82  
Wakefield, RI 02880

Jamming at Birch Point  
by Colin Townes-Anderson



Kiidi



Pasta Prep Klino



Bay Area Support Group  
by Sara Bartholomew

