

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 children from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

November 2014

LUETHI-PETERSON CAMPS, INC.

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Peace in Maine

Photo Credit: Tasha Manning

REPORTS FROM THE CAMPS

Birch Point, Maine

The grass is long and green, the tides are always in flux and the days are bright and warm at this wonderful LPC site.

Without running water or electricity we got back to basics: taking showers with buckets of water warmed over a fire, and doing our laundry by hand in tubs outside while we looked out over the amazing landscape surrounding the house. While it was a struggle at first, it was remarkable to find out how easy it is to start living without all the modern conveniences. Our camp had an emphasis on theater. So we did a number of theater style courses throughout the month and also used a unique style of improvisational acting to work out camp problems called "Forum Theater" which proved both fruitful and fun.

We celebrated the 25th anniversary of LPC Birch Point with the site owners, Tim and Gail, at wonderful Crawford Lake. It was incredible to be a part of that much history and that many years of fun and laughter in the house.

Reported by the Birch Point staff

Ramadan in Birch Point

Ramadan is the most important month for Muslims. It's important because it is a month of reconciliation, forgiveness, prayers, kindness, and charity for Muslims. During Ramadan I get much closer to Allah (God). At some point I wondered how to fast during camp but with everyone's cooperation and amazement, I absolutely felt at home.



During camp I woke up every day at 3:00AM for breakfast and to do the Fajir prayer. I usually ate cereal and some of the leftovers from lunch and dinner. There was nothing strange about it because I often did the same at home. However, during breakfast or lunch I always stayed upstairs in bed because I don't feel comfortable watching people eat. It is just my nature. Some campers had similar questions I had before, such as how do you manage to not eat or drink from 3:30AM to 8:30 PM? I have always given the same answer, which is: "It only requires a strong belief to the religion." It is not an easy task but I was trained by my parents and Coranique teachers since I was 7 years old, so I am used to it.

There is this camper called Flavia who mostly asked: "how do you feel?", after 8:30 PM while eating on the bench in the dining room. I just said: I feel proud because fasting gives me courage. It gives me the courage and power to accomplish any desire.

I would like to thank everyone for the support.

Excerpts taken from an article by Adousalam Barry, Guinea

Kiidi, Estonia

We were supposed to end our first week with an overnight hike together, but due to the arrival of a dramatic thunderstorm we postponed this. Instead of hiking, we had 'Crazy Day' where we spiced up each daily activity and injected even more energy and enthusiasm into the day than normal. We opened and ate in our very own restaurant and enjoyed the much anticipated performance of the Kiidi 2014 Rap Band. The storm eventually cleared and we went on our overnight hike, to a beautiful island on a lake where we set up our tents and enjoyed singing around a campfire.

Throughout camp we got a lot of insight into Estonian culture. Our Estonian counselor led many great language courses, taught folkdances, and showed the entire camp how to enjoy the best Estonian sauna experience (including a dip in the nearby pond to cool down). We also helped a local farmer, collecting and storing hay for the winter. At the end of camp, the campers were surprised with an excursion to the city of Tartu, where we visited a science centre, explored the town on foot, had LPC sandwiches in one of the many parks and had juice in the old Gunpowder Cellar.

Reported by the Kiidi staff



In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Pete Peterson (10/08/65 - 5/01/14). He was in LPC Freedom '76, '77 and '78 and at the Ecole 1978-79, together with his sister Natalie. He was the son of Kathy and Pete (Silas) Peterson and the nephew of Natalie and Armin Luethi. Our thoughts go out to all Pete's family and friends.

YOU CAN HELP.....

- **By contributing** to repairing the Freedom house, which will soon need a new roof! We are also working on a window renovation and reconstruction project to preserve the historic windows in the house.
- **By donating supplies:** Over several years and many work weekends, we have worked on a beautiful bike shed to hold donated bicycles, fixed/reassembled by knowledgeable campers and counselors. We are in need of new helmets and some child-sized bikes (for 9-13 years olds).
- **By making a bequest** to LPC in your will and help LPC last forever. The larger our endowment, the more scholarships we can offer every year to deserving kids.
- **By coming to the Freedom Work Weekend** in spring or fall to help clean up the Freedom house. It's hard work but great fun!!

Please contact LPC Inc. (lpcboard@gmail.com) or send a donation to LPC Inc., PO Box 40714, Providence, RI 02940

Your contribution is tax-deductible!

Remember you can buy LPC T-shirts, bags, stickers and other items with the "LPC Fuzzies" at www.cafepress.com/luethipetersoncampstore !!!

Cards from Ann Bartholomew to benefit LPC

My mother, Ann Bartholomew, was a counselor in Oberwoelz, 1953 and introduced her three children and several grandchildren to LPC. She was also a lifelong artist, so after she died last year I used some of her art to benefit the LPC scholarship fund, which she strongly supported. The set of six colorful cards sells for \$15, of which \$7 is a donation to LPC. Please email me if you would like to order, to see them in color, or to view more of her paintings (prints of which will also benefit LPC): sara.bartholomew@gmail.com



These cards are all in lovely color.



Kiidi: Katherine Roscher



Bay Area: Sara Bartholomew

San Francisco Bay Area LPC Support Group

We have been meeting since 2008 to keep the LPC spirit alive on the West Coast. This past September Paul Rutgers van der Loeff and his wife Josette from the Netherlands were visiting San Francisco and came to our gathering.

Paul was a camper in the first camp in 1949 in Moesli, Switzerland, when the organization was called Young Leaders International. Some of Paul's memories of LPC were the same as ones today (building community, languages, singing and hiking) and some memories from recent campers had changed (leaving electronics behind, shorter camps, a more globally connected world, Facebook...).

Paul was looking forward to a reunion with a local LPCer who had also been in Moesli 1949 - Bart Costerus, originally from the Netherlands too. The last time they had seen each other was in LPC Hetzberg in 1951. Unfortunately Bart fell ill and could not come to our gathering. Undeterred, Paul went to visit him in the hospital, and the two Dutch friends had their reunion, along with Bart's son Alec (another LPCer) and his wife Barbara. They had a lot to catch up on!

Klino, Czech Republic

As I walk into the yard that separates the two houses in Klino, a lot of things are happening. Like a bee hive, everybody is busy and everybody has their own task. Today is open day in the village of Klinovice. The LPC community that comes every summer will finally open to the rest of the world for a few hours: what are these bees doing all day long?

On the right, in the Pub (also the dining hall), I can see shapes moving. Tables have been pushed away to make space for a dynamic group of dancers. Marta, one of the dancers, comes out with a red smiley face; she is getting water for the rest - dancing makes you thirsty!

As I enter the main house, a thick column of steam comes out of the kitchen door. The steam is from Magic May's Chinese dumpling course. Everyone seems so focused in the kitchen; some fill, some roll, some steam...

Continuing my way to the workshop I can hear familiar music. It's Simon's song, sung and played by a symbiotic group of campers and counselors. Battery, guitar, piano, Stella on the mandolin...

Oops, time flies by and I need to go back to my own set course. I go out the back door and see the "Piazza." Juggling balls, red pieces of cloth and drafts of human pyramids can be guessed at behind the trees. Roberto, 'the strongest man on earth' walks in. Next follows the rehearsal of pyramids. "Ouch, be careful! We said lower back, not smashing my ribs! - Is it okay like this? - Grumph..." Poses and magic tricks will continue until the lunch gong rumbles.

The neighbors come around too. Before all the set course performances start, we can finally taste the wonderful Chinese dumplings, in which two lucky coins have been hidden. The whole camp sings in front of villagers: Senor Abate, South Africa, Tam Tam. The folkdances, Stepping Out, a special dance prepared by the folkdance course, and the cherry on the top, -Jiffy Mixer (with the neighbors), are a real success. Then follow the performances: dance, the band and the circus...

Open day was a happy success, full of small anecdotes and big smiles.

From an article by Mathilde Imhaus, counselor France/Canada

Freedom, New Hampshire

We packed in a stack of activities and special days into camp. We worked, played, learned, sang and danced together and relaxed on restful "Sundays." In addition, we went on a three-day hike as well as an excursion to Portland, Maine - on a yellow school bus! We participated in a talent show at the Freedom Town Hall; a group of campers performed a self-choreographed dance and everybody sang Evening Rise. For this year's Freedom parade, "Freedom: a place for four seasons," four families dressed up to represent the seasons while the fifth family was the birds that fly from one season to the other. We won the "Most unique entry" award!

It brought the counselors joy to witness the campers growing into self-reliant individuals and contributive members in our international community. They showed enthusiasm for leading and taking initiative in camp. Campers led courses such as Swedish-chocolate ball making, introductory Spanish, introductory German, folk dancing, bracelet making, bread-baking, and Harry Potter wand-making; some also cooperated with counselors to make special Spanish, Sardinian, and Asian fusion dishes. They learned to work as a group, to express their opinions while respecting others, and to make group decisions during planning conferences. For the final assembly, the entire camp reflected upon what they brought to LPC as well as what they would take home with them. It felt amazing and magical. It reminded us of the original philosophy of LPC - people from different countries are united as one, and we can have a lot of fun together while living a simple life.

Reported by the Freedom staff

Pellbo, Sweden

The second summer LPC spent in Pellbo was a fantastic one! One of the hottest summers ever recorded in Sweden also provided many sun filled days.

On arrival, a sorting ceremony took place. Each camper had to put the sorting hat on their head. The hat announced whether they were in the Fox, Lion, Spider, or Dragon family. Just days later we all headed out on our overnight hike. With eight canoes and a rowboat we made our way to a lovely campsite where we enjoyed a camp fire and a good night's sleep under the stars. Later in camp we also had a three-day hike.

We had an open day to which we invited Swedish LPCers as well as people living near Pellbo. The day was spent singing, folk dancing, playing games, enjoying each other's performances at our special evening program and sharing what LPC is all about.

The campers, shaken by the fact that the end of camp was near and no pocket money had been spent, were in for a huge surprise. We walked to the nearby town of Fors to spend pocket money. From there we took a bus to the town of Avesta where the campers were surprised with a trip to the local swimming pool. Thinking the day had come to an end we returned to the center of town to catch the bus. No one was expecting it, but before heading home we indulged in a delicious pizza dinner.

With the many new friendships made, we all agreed Pellbo 2014 was another successful camp!

Doke Willemse, Netherlands

Saint-Sulpice, Switzerland

The camp is situated in a breathtaking valley featuring a beautiful view of mountains, goats, and a rooster named Tequila! A perfect location for wonderful hikes. The first week of camp we hiked to a small lake in the area where we swam and ate fire-roasted marshmallows. Our second hike took us to several places. The more adventurous among us spent the night in a mountainside cave overlooking a river, while others opted for a mountaintop picnic at a nearby Chateau. Afterwards, we met up in the small town of Fleurier where we distributed pocket money, most of which was spent on a rare treat of chocolate and biscuits.

Reported by the St. Sulpice staff



Pellbo: Julie Helen Fiebig

Applications for camps are due on December 1, 2014. If you wish to receive an application or any further information, please contact the LPC office. Our address is: lpc.office@ecole.ch

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We are continually updating our database of LPC contacts and we'd also like to be able to send you the newsletter electronically, so please send your email address and any address changes to the LPC Board email address: lpcboard@gmail.com. Thanks!

