

# 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 2017

## Message from the Board President

I have been involved in LPC for most of my life. I went to camp as a kid and attended work weekends over the years. When my kids were younger I was on the LPC Inc. Board. I rejoined last year to take over the presidency from Clark. My goal as president is to work towards building and reconnecting the broad LPC community.

LPC is celebrating its 65th year. We have been in Freedom for almost 60 years. That is a lot of camps. It would be great to have a way that all the people through the years could come together and rejoice in the LPC community. These days it seems that this is needed now more than ever. The more communities that celebrate tolerance, peaceful interactions and international understanding the better.

As the main U.S. LPC support group, the Board works to raise funds to support the camps and maintain the Freedom camp house. Each year we take on various projects to keep the house in order. This year we need a new roof.

We are working to create enjoyable fundraising and community building events like the Freedom House weekend, Adult Summer Camp, Camper Hosting, the Annual Meeting and Folk dancing nights. The spring and fall Work Weekends and winter window glazing pot-lucks are a fun way to get together and help support the camp.

Check out our website and Facebook page for a listing of these events. If you have a chance, come to share and enjoy stories of the past, discuss projects in the present and make plans towards the future of LPC.

Peter Migliaccio, *President*  
LPC Inc./Board



Rosalupi photo: Francesca Pileri

## The Rosalupi Project–Italy: All the best of LPC

Many countries have been experiencing the arrival of newcomers in large numbers, met by both fear and compassion from the people and leaders of these receiving countries. LPC's mission and Natalie's original intentions seem especially relevant again. And so the Rosalupi Project was born.

Five LPC directors, an experienced counselor and two new counselors, from Syria and Mali, formed the staff. They invited 8 experienced LPC campers and 8 newcomers to come together for 12 days in Rosalupi, in the beautiful Tuscan countryside. (The term "refugee" was quickly abandoned and replaced by "newcomer," preferred by many newcomers themselves as it is less stigmatizing.) Generous donations from the LPC community and collaboration with

Dutch and Italian refugee organizations helped make this possible.

The traditional LPC program, with singing, dancing, courses, cultural exchange, language, sharing of chores, etc. provided the basic structure. Unlike other camps we also included a daily time for campers to reach out to their families by cell phone and a quiet retreat for prayers. With such a diverse group with people from Mali, Gambia, Italy, Libya, Norway, Syria, the Netherlands, Germany, USA, France, Canada and Switzerland, we enjoyed the beauty and richness of hearing many different languages and learning about various cultures. We emphasized games and activities



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that relied less on language, including a dance clapping mob to have everyone quiet within a few seconds. During our daily 'Culture Hub' we did activities together that addressed the habits and characteristics of different parts of the world; a language café, special dancing and singing, theater skits, and a game in which everyone expressed where they came from, where they wanted to go and what they dreamed of were some of the activities.

As in all camps, we explored our surroundings, with trips to local towns, the Mediterranean Sea, and visits to a cathedral and a mosque, where we shown around by the Imam. For our Sunday evening programs we gathered at a spot just above the house, which had amazing views and beautiful sunsets, and shared songs, poems, music, dances and readings from all corners of the world. Even though we were in Italy, the country of pasta and pizza, our cuisine was very much influenced by Syrian and African spicing. We ate many different couscous and rice meals. Our favorites were a Malian meal, tigadegue-nah, and a wonderful Sudanese meal cooked by one of the camper's mothers.

In all it was a great, intense and sometimes emotional learning experience. The group gelled well from the start; everyone felt at home and contributed actively. We feel we were able to provide a safe and friendly place for everyone, as well as the opportunity to get to know each other beyond the labels we are given, and thereby developing a better understanding. Perhaps worth mentioning is that one of our biggest challenges was the unbelievable amount of flies!

As with all our camps, we hope that all participants will take home the values of compassion and understanding, and carry these forward in their own communities. We also hope that LPC can provide places for these newcomers in the regular camps and continue to provide projects such as Rosalupi to introduce other newcomers to LPC.

Based on reports from directors Andrea Place (USA), Katia Verrault (Canada), Mark Jordans (NL), Michaela Meme (Italy) and Michiel Blumenthal (NL)

## Klino—Czech Republic

"The children, unaware of anything else, take the algae growing on the walls and begin to eat it. They eat and eat as their skin turns slippery and pale. They eat and eat as slowly their hands soften to find their noses lengthen and eventually they too turn into dolphins. They nosed their way through the dark tunnels of the mountain, through the ice into the cold fresh air.

"Weird story, Kai"  
"I didn't get it at the end"  
Douwie just laughs.

"How can it not be odd if you ask me to tell you a story about mountains and dolphins?" They laugh and giggle but I am back to being strict, walking towards the door to turn off the lights. "Goodnight guys". Happy campers are tucked in and sleeping after a long day; I head to conference.

Some moments in camp stick out more than others. Perhaps with the busy camp schedule our brains can only clearly remember a few parts and the rest gets swept up into a camp box each LPCer has, where lost memories are stored until an old friend, a meal or a song resurrects it.

When I think back on camp, it's a long wonderful blur. I know I loved it. I oddly latch onto that memory of telling the campers a story before lights out. I can tell that there are more things but it isn't important. The feeling of LPC is there even if I can't perfectly recall the three day hike in Sumava National Park or the excursion to Cesky Krumlov. I don't remember all the evening programs. I do remember the feeling of the hot shower after hiking in the rain, being nestled into a cabin laughing and eating dinner and breakfast all at once. I remember singing in a square in Cesky. I remember a cozy fire, tealights and homemade pie, part of a Swedish song, soft guitar and ukulele. For now this is enough to remember. Enough to know how incredible camp was.

Kai Migliaccio, USA

## Birch Point, Maine—USA

We had three wonderful weeks together next to the tidal river, surrounded by forest and little chipmunks climbing up and down the trees making funny noises. The camp was very strong on self government and the camper group became Young Leaders International, which made me very proud.

We went on a three-day excursion to the camp in Freedom, New Hampshire. LPC Freedom is a younger kids camp and we offered our campers the opportunity to be the counselors for one day. They were very excited about this and we helped them organize and prepare for taking the lead. They led courses, all the activities except Putz, and supported campers at ringing the bell and doing announcements. It was an intense experience for the whole group as they had to take care of a big wild group of younger kids. They managed well and it taught them to communicate and work with each other.

Natalie von Tscherner, Switzerland

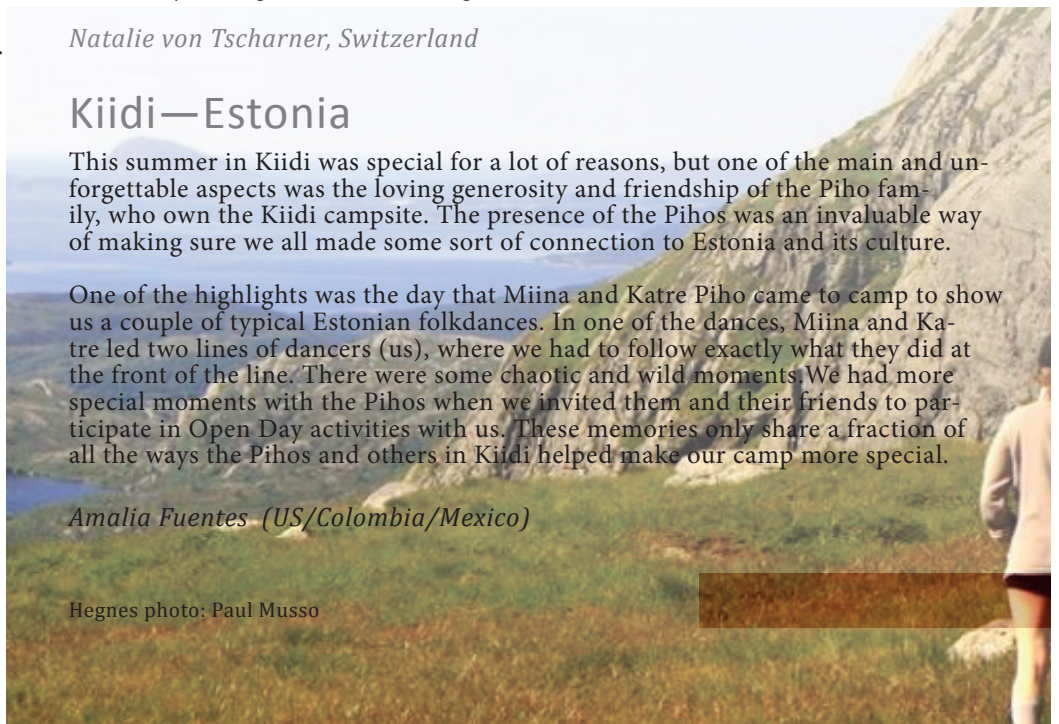
## Kiidi—Estonia

This summer in Kiidi was special for a lot of reasons, but one of the main and unforgettable aspects was the loving generosity and friendship of the Piho family, who own the Kiidi campsite. The presence of the Pihos was an invaluable way of making sure we all made some sort of connection to Estonia and its culture.

One of the highlights was the day that Miina and Katre Piho came to camp to show us a couple of typical Estonian folkdances. In one of the dances, Miina and Katre led two lines of dancers (us), where we had to follow exactly what they did at the front of the line. There were some chaotic and wild moments. We had more special moments with the Pihos when we invited them and their friends to participate in Open Day activities with us. These memories only share a fraction of all the ways the Pihos and others in Kiidi helped make our camp more special.

Amalia Fuentes (US/Colombia/Mexico)

Hegnes photo: Paul Musso





## Host Family Program Resurrected!

Last summer a committee of three board members brought the Host Family Program back to life by finding families in three states to offer 3 day stays for 11 campers from Europe going to Freedom and Birch Point. Everyone involved reported it was a great success, and we plan to offer this program again next year. Please spread the word and let us know if you or someone you know would like to participate and host a camper. It is a great way to let people know what LPC does. Email address: [host.family@lpcinc.org](mailto:host.family@lpcinc.org)

*... It felt like the world shrunk in size while we made connections about life on different continents. This experience offered so much more than I could have anticipated ...*

**Please consider a donation to LPC Inc. for scholarships 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/>

**Your contribution is tax-deductible!**

## Hegnes–Norway

Living in a farmhouse with 22 campers that share a common goal of simple community living is quite a joy. Though the rain in this part of Norway can be a challenge we managed to make the most of every day. Our days consisted of group discussions, games, community efforts and courses.

For our three-day hikes, we were very fortunate with the weather, as it was mostly sunny with highs between 25°C and 27°C every day. Each hike group was afforded beautiful views of our fjord. One climbed the nearby Kringla mountain, another a top of the Ridge that overlooks Hegnes. The home hike was able to explore the immediate area around our house.

The staff surprised the campers with a movie night with a borrowed projector. We had a premiere of a short film called "An LPC Nightmare". The story and film were entirely conceived, directed and edited by the campers with use of their own digital cameras and a staff member's laptop. The movie was a true horror classic.

*Jeanett Jansen (USA/Norway) and  
Colin Townes-Anderson (USA)*

Keep up to date with  
LPC by checking both  
our websites

>> LPC International:  
[luethipetersoncamps.org](http://luethipetersoncamps.org)

>> LPC Incorporated/  
U.S. Board:  
[lpcinc.org](http://lpcinc.org)



Klino photo: Bram Rimmelts

## Hensford–UK

Despite the hard work and play, the breathtaking vistas of our three-day hikes along the Devon coast or the delicious pizzas baked in our oven, the heart of our experience was to be found in the ritual for the preservation of healthy teeth and gums ... known as The Ceremony.

The Ceremony took place in the morning and in the evening. When the bell rang all would proceed to the ceremonial grounds, a large circular henge surrounding a monumental three-meter wooden votive statue known as the Great Brush. We would approach the Great Brush and open the tabernacle at its base, holding our respective brushes and paste. In a circle we faced the Great Brush and listened to a sermon reminding us of the importance of dental care in our everyday lives. The sermons ranged from the hopeful and celebratory to cautionary and ominous. A flourish of trumpets signaled the raising of our brushes toward the sky facing the Great Brush. As the trumpets hung onto their final notes, it was time to place the toothbrushes in our mouths and begin a thorough cleaning of the gums, teeth, and tongue. Guiding our brush true in tempo and courage, "God Save the Queen" carried us through the ritual delivering us from gingivitis.

*Philip Oechsli (USA)*

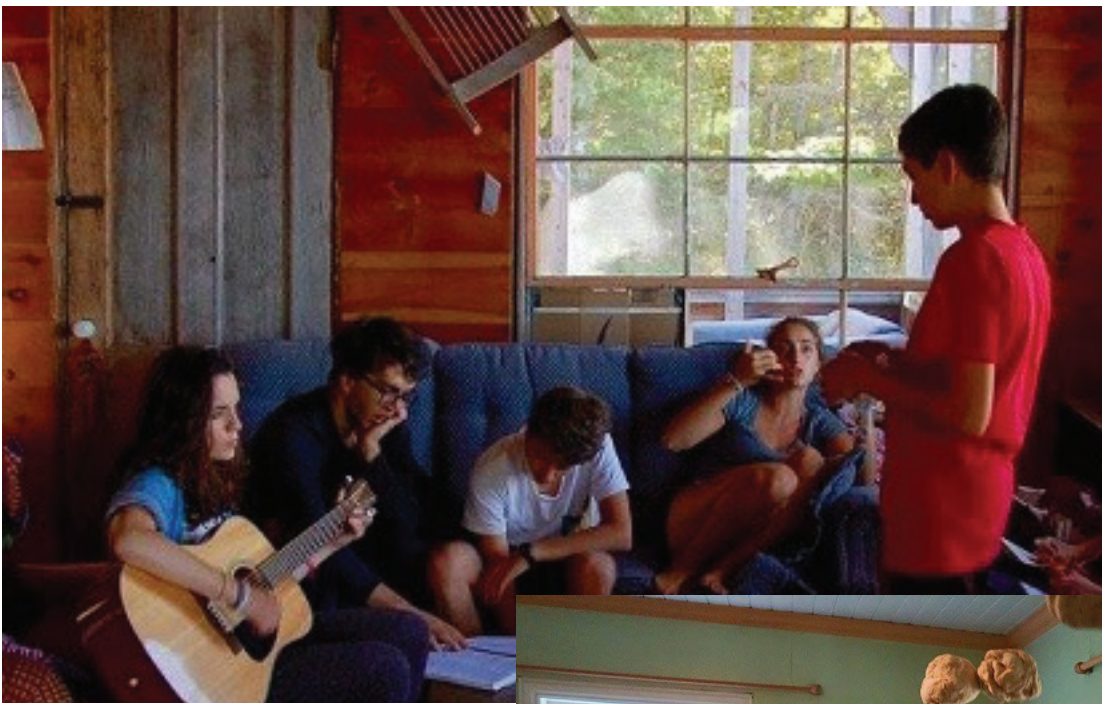
## LPC • WORLD • 18 GATHERING

You are all invited to the next LPC World Gathering in July 5-8, 2018—start planning now!

The World Gathering is our big LPC reunion, held every five years. It is always a joy-filled event with over 140 fantastic people singing, dancing, hiking, playing and eating together.

General information and a registration form are available on the LPC International website: <https://luethipetersoncamps.org/world-gathering-2018/>





Birch Point photo: Agathe Riviere



Hegnes photo: Paul Musso



Rosalupi photo: Francesca Pileris



# Freedom, New Hampshire—USA

After an overnight hike, a visit from the Birch Point campers, and many days where campers enthusiastically led singing, courses, language courses, wake up, and evening programs, we began to plan for the annual Freedom Old Home Week. Campers split into groups to work on parade preparation— music, creative writing, dance and movement, and crafts. We made a beautiful banner and a song, and created a dance piece to perform as we walked in the parade.

As we came to our last days together, we had our final assembly. We sat in a circle and reflected on our time together here at LPC. We all got to think about ways we had changed and grown, and had a chance to communicate our feelings towards one another. We had a very special evening program on the last night, where we gave each other “Secret Santa” gifts, wrote each other notes in our goodbye books and all slept together in the dining room. Bonds had grown stronger and a lot of laughs were shared.

## *Freedom Staff*

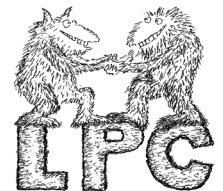


Birch Point photo: Tariku Rossi

Kiidi photo: Ylva Skóndahl

Applications for camps in 2018 are due on December 1, 2017. 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 and in color!) 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!!



Freedom photo: Jacob Podgorsky

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