

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.

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OCTOBER 2020

# LUETHI-PETERSON CAMPS

LPC-U.S. Inc.



**LPC INTERNATIONAL**  
 (luethipetersoncamps.org)  
 is the organizational arm of  
 LPC, based in Switzerland.

**LPC-U.S. Inc. (lpcinc.org)**  
 is the U.S.-based Board which  
 oversees the maintenance of  
 Freedom house and collects  
 donations for camperships.

HIKING '19 / ROWAN GILL

## WORLD-WIDE LPC HUNT Zoom

**T**HE WORLD-WIDE LPC HUNT WAS created to help keep the LPC spirit alive during the camp-less summer of 2020. The Hunt was a series of 5 weekly puzzles with an LPC theme, to be solved in Family groups by Hunters of all ages. Weekly Family Days, when the puzzles were solved, took place through Zoom meetings.

The Hunt encompassed a wonderfully diverse group of about 50 people, with ages spanning the tens to the seventies from 9 different countries. Several Hunters had been to more than 10 LPCs, and some had not yet been to camp.

The weekly puzzle themes were LPC classics: The Big Hike, The Daily Schedule, Places in Song, LPC History, and Putz Puzzle. The answers were all names of past camps.

The Hunt creators connected all the Families through their magical Attic website, which revealed clickable clues and links with LPC songs, recipes, photos, and much more.

*I was amazed at how my Hunt family came together with excitement and camaraderie. It truly (or virtually) was another wonderful LPC experience!*  
 ~Chris Signorino (U.S.)

Besides solving a puzzle, at Family Day each week people talked and got to know their Family members. These participants still hiked and Putzed and sang and danced.

The Hunt Finale was special, like Sunday Evening Program, with singing, dancing (Pata Pata!) and a video montage recapping the whole Hunt. Families also found the summer's missing camps, "in our hearts"! The Hunt ended with a chorus of "Good Night to You All" around a candle.

The LPC Hunt was created by Becky Streit Jiron, Lisa Streit Falk, Tom Streit and Dan Streit.

If you'd like a taste of the Hunt yourself, visit <https://sites.google.com/view/lpc-hunt2020>.

**- Dan Streit, Port Saint Lucie, FL**

## STAYING CONNECTED 2020

**T**HE GLOBAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC canceled events around the world, including LPC camps for 2020. This was the first year with no camps since they began in 1949, and it was painful and disappointing for many. In true LPC spirit, however, our community adapted — overcoming geographic boundaries with the help of the internet and imagination. LPCers made new friends, rekindled

old friendships, exchanged emails, danced and sang across time-zones, cooked simultaneously, undertook challenging cultural conversations, and shared joys.

This edition of our annual newsletter highlights the unique ways LPC stayed connected in 2020. Our mission of international understanding is as relevant and important today as it was in 1949.

**- Sara Bartholomew, San Francisco, CA & Claire O'Laughlin, Denver, CO, Co-Editors**



## LOOKING BACK: Natalie's memories of early camps

“OUR FIFTH CAMP WAS IN A STRANGE AND AMAZING LITTLE town which had once been a metropolis on the salt route. We lived in the village schoolhouse, which had oiled floors that turned your bare feet black, which turned our sheets black.

The school director, who had arranged for us to use the schoolhouse that summer, lived in a villa in an overgrown park which reminded us of a Chekov play. A few eccentric ancients lived in the villa, too. We did our laundry in their cellar in a dank dark room where we built a fire under a huge pot in which we stirred our dirty sheets with a long wooden pole, then fished them out and rinsed them under an ice-cold tap. Did they get clean? I doubt it. Oberwölz was an adventure.”

*Oberwölz, Austria 1953*

“The most important day of camp for me was when a group of ex-campers, now counselors, came to me and said they would like to run a second camp next summer. This is what we always hoped for: the expansion of our work through the campers themselves. Armin and I will be having camp in America—a good site has been lent to us in Freedom, NH.

Next July the children in Europe [in Delft, Netherlands] and the children in New Hampshire will be playing many of the same games and singing many of the same songs. We will all be working for our common goal—and there will be 70 of us working for it instead of 35. Isn't that cause for celebration?”

*Ludlow, U.K. 1958*



**1** Natalie and Armin with Jürg Papritz (CH), and Ruth Ferguson (U.S.) on the left. YLI Terschelling, Holland 1952.

**2** Marilyn Reynolds (U.K.) playing the accordion with Andreas Fidus (Ger.) on the left. Mösli, Switzerland 1950.

**3** Erica Helmschlag and Monika Kaufman (both from Austria) hold the YLI\* flag, representing a circle connecting different nations (the triangles). Mösli, Switzerland 1950.



**4** Armin playing the violin for folk dance circle (with Natalie and Debby Drew). The Pinnacle 1959 (the first Freedom location).

**5** Violet Little (SD), Sue Bullock (PA), Winfried Arendt (Ger.), Loretta Bearquiver (MT), Laverne Soke (AZ), and Debby Drew (RI). The Pinnacle 1959.

\*Luethi-Peterson Camps was called Young Leaders International (YLI) for the first five years, changing the name in 1955 due to the U.S. anti-communist sentiments of the 1950s.





So lovely to see so many familiar and new smiling faces. And the course that didn't work technologically was great too because we had an opportunity to chat!  
~Sue Howells (U.K.)

I loved seeing so many old friends and faces. I loved the energy and involvement. I loved hearing Natalie tell her story again.  
~Debby Drew (U.S.)

Virtual Camp Birthday brought me close to friends and familiar faces. I am so grateful and in LOVE still with LPC, 40 years later. ~Saija Singer-Seidenfaden (Austria)

## CAMP BIRTHDAY August 1, 2020

**T**HIS SUMMER, 150 PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD CAME together on Zoom to celebrate LPC. Counselors, campers, and directors of different ages, nationalities, and locales, had created home videos of LPC's regular activities to build a daily schedule we could all watch/experience together in two hours.

We woke up, brushed our teeth, had singing, putz pause and chose from courses as diverse as cooking, a tour of the Freedom house, folk dancing and a lesson in Arabic. Liana Brower asked us all to consider how racism is being brought to light in new ways in our communities, and how racism is present in LPC.

During Together Time we watched an interview with Natalie in which she described how LPC was started—it was very moving, and felt as if she was there with us. By the end it was clear that we were connected across distance and that we could do camp together, while physically apart.

- LPC Camp Birthday Organizers

## LPC RADIO SHOW with Piet-Hein

**I**BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF MUSIC TO UNITE US, GIVE US energy, and send a message around the world. I love music in LPC, and the emotions it brings us. I use my love of music to host a radio show as a hobby, and enjoy sharing those feelings with my listeners.

When the Corona pandemic began and we were all isolated at home, I decided that music could bring the LPC community together. In March I started a weekly two hour LPC Radio Show, playing familiar songs and camp hits, and taking requests. So many people came forward to help—by spreading the word among friends and on Facebook, by sharing rare recordings (it was so special to hear Armin Luethi leading a group in song again), sending in requests, and singing songs themselves.

Many LPCers tuned in—we averaged 65 people per show! I've had so much fun researching songs in French, Swedish, Swiss-German, Italian, Polish, Spanish, Estonian, and Dutch, and getting feedback from listeners.

It is funny to know that while I am doing the show on a Sunday night, closing my weekend, LPC Radio is playing during other people's breakfast or lunch—LPC is truly a worldwide organization. Hosting the show has made me feel deeply connected to our community in this strange and difficult year, and has proven once again the strength of music to unite us. I will continue LPC Radio every other week for as long as we need it. (See the Luethi-Peterson Camps Facebook page for dates and links.)

- Piet-Hein van der Ploeg, Zoeterwoude-Rijndijk, The Netherlands



PIET-HEIN / PIET-HEIN

## IN MEMORIAM

*Nancy A. Graham* 5/10/26 – 1/12/18

Wellesley College roommates, Nancy Aring, Natalie Peterson, and Pavey Lupton spent their Junior year (1947) in Switzerland—where LPC was conceived, and where Natalie later met Armin Luethi. Nancy, Natalie and Pavey remained close friends for life. Nancy's five children, Busy, Hoey, Dick, Nan and John were all LPCers, from Buochs 1964 to Celso 1981. Nancy enjoyed hosting many LPC and Ecole gatherings over the years.

*Elisabeth Beckman* 5/4/36 – 7/27/20

Born to a Czech Jew and German Catholic in the midst of the war, then living amongst post-war emigres in Brazil and the U.S., Elisabeth bore the scars that LPC sought to heal. She was a devoted LPC parent (of three campers and two LPC secretaries), Board Member, and enthusiastic host to dozens of campers.

*Andy Streit* 11/20/47 – 8/10/20

Andy was a scholar, a doctor, a fisherman, a musician and, above all, a teacher. He loved working with kids and spent many summers in LPC, from the 60's to the 90's. His family, and his extended LPC family, meant the world to him. Cancer took him way too soon.

*Judy Wizowaty* 11/12/30 – 9/3/20

A proud Wellesley graduate, she read about Natalie and LPC in the alumni magazine in 1969 and her daughter Gigi joined her first camp in 1970. Judy was a regular donor to LPC, and was always especially touched by the stories of individual campers that she read in the LPC Newsletter.

# New Dates!

## U.S. GATHERING

### SAVE THE DATE!

CELEBRATE ~~40~~ <sup>61</sup> YEARS IN THE FREEDOM HOUSE: JULY 2-5, 2021

Details about the event, including how to register, will be on our website soon:

[LPCINC.ORG/CELEBRATE/](http://LPCINC.ORG/CELEBRATE/)



## SILENT AUCTION New Fundraiser

**L**PC'S FIRST SILENT AUCTION WAS a big success, raising over 5,000 euro (\$6,000)!

Sixty people bid on an exciting range of donations, including many handmade items, LPC memorabilia, wine tasting and Swiss German classes, virtual tours, holiday getaways, and more.

The bidding was enthusiastic, and the process helped connect our LPC community around the world. *We plan to do it again next year!*

- Nina Horakova, Czech Republic & Sara Bartholomew, U.S.  
LPC International Fundraising Committee

LPC song-teaching/singing session  
Hand spun yarn.  
Wool from Gotland sheep. 426 grams.

Tour of Andy Goldsworthy sculpture in San Francisco

One hour of co-hosting an LPC-Radio show:



Home stay in Sweden:  
Rent David and Carin's home in a village outside Falun for a week, dates to be agreed. during the week you will have to do housework and cleaning. The price is 1000 SEK. The house is in a beautiful area with a view of the lake and the mountains. The house is a traditional Swedish house with a fireplace and a balcony. The house is a great place to stay and enjoy the Swedish lifestyle. **What Else Should I Know?**  
Wine Tasting 101: It Tastes Good, What Else Should I Know?  
Wine tasting duties included in the rent! Falun is a beautiful area with a view of the lake and the mountains. The house is a traditional Swedish house with a fireplace and a balcony. The house is a great place to stay and enjoy the Swedish lifestyle.

Weekend getaway in Maryland  
Week-long getaway to the Eastern Shore of Maryland: where Natalie and Armin and their friend Nancy Graham imagined day there would be. In LPC camp, this is a cherry serving spoon, hand carved by Lucas. eam too!

Hand carved spoon  
This is a cherry serving spoon, hand carved by Lucas. eam too!

A personal excursion in Prague

## DIGITAL VERSION

We email a Newsletter with two extra pages of photos! Update your email with [board@lpcinc.org](mailto:board@lpcinc.org).

## SUMMER 2021

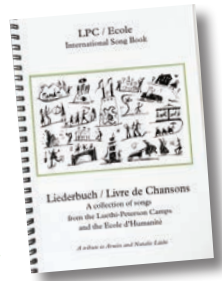
For more information, please contact the LPC office at [lpc.office@ecole.ch](mailto:lpc.office@ecole.ch).

## DONATIONS!

We appreciate all donations! Make checks to "LPC-U.S.Inc." and mail to address below. Or click on our PayPal link at [LPCinc.org/donations](http://LPCinc.org/donations).

## SONGBOOK & CD

Armin & Natalie's favorite LPC and Ecole songs are collected in one place and beautifully illustrated by LPCers. The CD is the perfect companion to the book. More info: [lpc-ecolesongs.org](http://lpc-ecolesongs.org).



## LPC COOKBOOK: SWEDISH CHOCOLATE BALLS



Camp Favorite

CLAIRE O'LAUGHLIN

- 3 dl. (100 g.) oats *1 1/2 cups*
- 100 g. margarine (or butter) *1/2 cup*
- 1.5 dl. (125 g.) sugar *1/2 cup + 2 Tbsp.*
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. cocoa
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla powder *1 tsp. Vanilla Extract*
- instant coffee to taste

Mix all ingredients together well. Make balls. Options: roll in sugar, oats, grated coconut, or chocolate powder. Makes up to 20. *Refrigerate 2 hours*



HERZBERG '51



MÖSLI '50



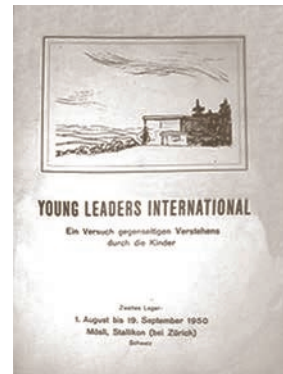
MÖSLI '50



MÖSLI '50



ARMIN DIRECTING SINGING YLI WASSERWENDI SWITZERLAND '56







**SAUNA HOUSE**  
KIIDI '18  
JULIA ERTL



**FREEDOM '61**  
ALLEN DEAN



**OPEN DAY**  
FREEDOM '16



**CAMP STREET PERFORMANCE**  
SVARTNÄS '89  
CLAIRE O'LAUGHLIN



**HIKE**  
KIIDI '18  
JULIA ERTL



**TOOTHBRUSHING SONG**  
KIIDI '18  
JULIA ERTL



**KIIDI '18**  
CÉCILE SPEITEL



**FREEDOM '94**



**GROUP HIKE**  
BUOCHS MUSIC 2ND '75  
ROB STREIT



**ARMIN & NATALIE**  
SCHELKLINGEN '83  
CLAIRE O'LAUGHLIN





**FREEDOM '76**  
HELEN DREW



**BUOCHS '78**  
ROB STREIT



**SWEDISH CHOCOLATE BALLS**  
KIIDI '18



**CAMP COOKOUT**  
KIIDI '18  
JULIA ERTL



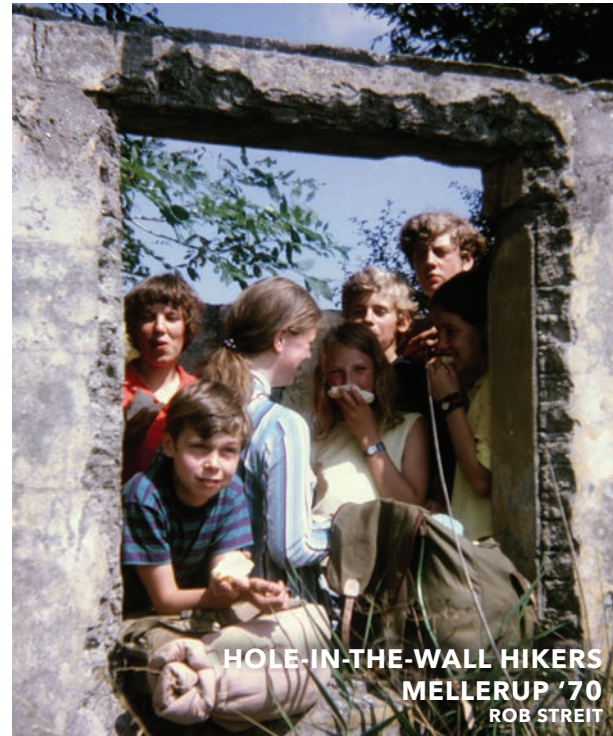
**KIIDI '17**  
GRAHAM NEELY



**CELO '81**



**"SPICY" FAMILY**  
KIIDI '18  
LUCIA MARTIN



**HOLE-IN-THE-WALL HIKERS**  
MELLERUP '70  
ROB STREIT



**HIKING CAMP '19**  
CLARA PISONI



**BUOCHS MUSIC 2ND '75**