



# Camp Linden

A Program of the Philadelphia Ethical Society

## Summer Views

June 2024

### Message from Dr. Dubb

At least 150 children from low income urban neighborhoods will benefit from the Children's Summer Program at Camp Linden again this coming summer. Your generous financial contributions make this possible.

We engender support for Camp Linden by communicating about our program. This newsletter is one example. Another is the Philadelphia Ethical Society ("PES") practice of focusing its Earth Sunday Platform on Camp Linden, an annual event now in its second year. See p. 6 *infra*.

The major, and longest standing, event which connects PES with Camp Linden is the PES annual picnic and weekend camping. The picnic is held on Sunday afternoon and we invite the local community to an open house during the day on Saturday. Last summer members of the Baltimore Ethical Society joined us for the weekend. This summer we are extending the invitation to all of the Societies associated with the American Ethical Union, as well as Friends of Camp Linden. If you read this newsletter, you are invited.

We have arranged for overnight accommodations at Temenos, a nearby conference center, as an option for those who prefer a bed and private bathroom to tent camping. In addition to enjoying a fun time at Camp Linden, weekend visitors will have the opportunity to explore the public gardens, museums and historical sites in the vicinity. For more information see pp. 3-4 *infra*.

Thank you for your support of Camp Linden.

Jeffrey Dubb, M.D.  
Chair, Friends of  
Camp Linden

### Camp Linden Weekend

August 9-11, 2024; Rain-date: August 16-18, 2024

#### Saturday, noon to 5:00 PM

Open House for local residents  
Tour the property, lawn games  
Picnic - bring your own food  
Pool will be open 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

#### Sunday, noon to 5:00 PM

Philadelphia Ethical Society Annual Picnic  
Cookout, lawn games, folk singing  
Tours of the property  
Pool will be open 1:00 to 5:00 PM  
Recommended contribution \$15  
Children 12 and under FREE

#### Overnight Friday and Saturday nights

Tent camping FREE  
Temenos Conference Center,  
Room rate per person:  
Single \$100; double \$75; triple \$60

Saturday night pot-luck dinner,  
campfire and fireworks  
Sunday morning blueberry pancake breakfast

RSVP to [camplinden@phillyethics.org](mailto:camplinden@phillyethics.org)



# Our Program

We offer a six week program of environmental education, character building, and swimming. We partner with organizations that operate day camps in low income neighborhoods. Our partners bring the same group of children to Camp Linden on the same week day. Campers are generally divided into two groups - one goes to swimming in the morning and the other goes to environmental education and they switch after lunch.

The aquatic program includes swimming instruction, water safety and recreational swimming. Campers receive colored wrist bands to document and reward accomplishment of specific goals, leading to mastery of the crawl stroke with alternate breathing.



The environmental education program features a different subject and major activity each week. Campers have an opportunity to plant, harvest and taste produce in our raised bed garden and “pollinate” a model flower. They catch insects and toads, dig for worms, and capture macroinvertebrates and float in the Brandywine.

They learn about the cycle of life, and the interdependence of plants, insects and animals. They are introduced to the Native American value of living in harmony with nature. They also learn about the challenges facing the Planet, and what they can do to help preserve the environment. The summer ends with a celebration of the Earth, featuring parachute exercises with an inflated globe and a “feast” of produce from the garden and other healthy treats.



Each day also includes a lesson on Camp Linden Values, which are: 1. Value yourself (keep yourself safe and open to learning); 2. Value other people, especially your fellow campers (keep them safe and help them learn); and 3. Value Planet Earth and all living things, especially the creatures you encounter at Camp Linden (learn from observing them and leave everything as you found it.)





**PHILADELPHIA  
ETHICAL SOCIETY**

presents

**CAMP  
LINDEN  
PICNIC**

in

**WEST CHESTER, PA.**



**WITH**  
lawn games  
swimming  
hiking  
kayaking  
local attractions:  
(museums, gardens,  
historical sites)  
cookout (veg opt)  
camp fire  
fireworks  
overnight options:  
(camping, hotel,  
retreat center)  
pancake breakfast

**1 WEEKEND  
OF SUMMER  
FUN!**

**August 9-11, 2024  
Rain Date: August 16-18**

**Contact [camplinden@phillyethics.org](mailto:camplinden@phillyethics.org)  
To RSVP or for more details**

# Visit Camp Linden and the Brandywine Valley

Camp Linden, 1521 Camp Linden Road, West Chester, Pa., is a 51 acre, mostly wooded, property along the Brandywine. It is in the heart of the Brandywine Valley, home to celebrated gardens, world class museums and historical sites. See Brandywine Valley Attractions: [www.thebrandywine.com](http://www.thebrandywine.com). Youtube.com: 8 Most Amazing Mansions of the Brandywine Valley.

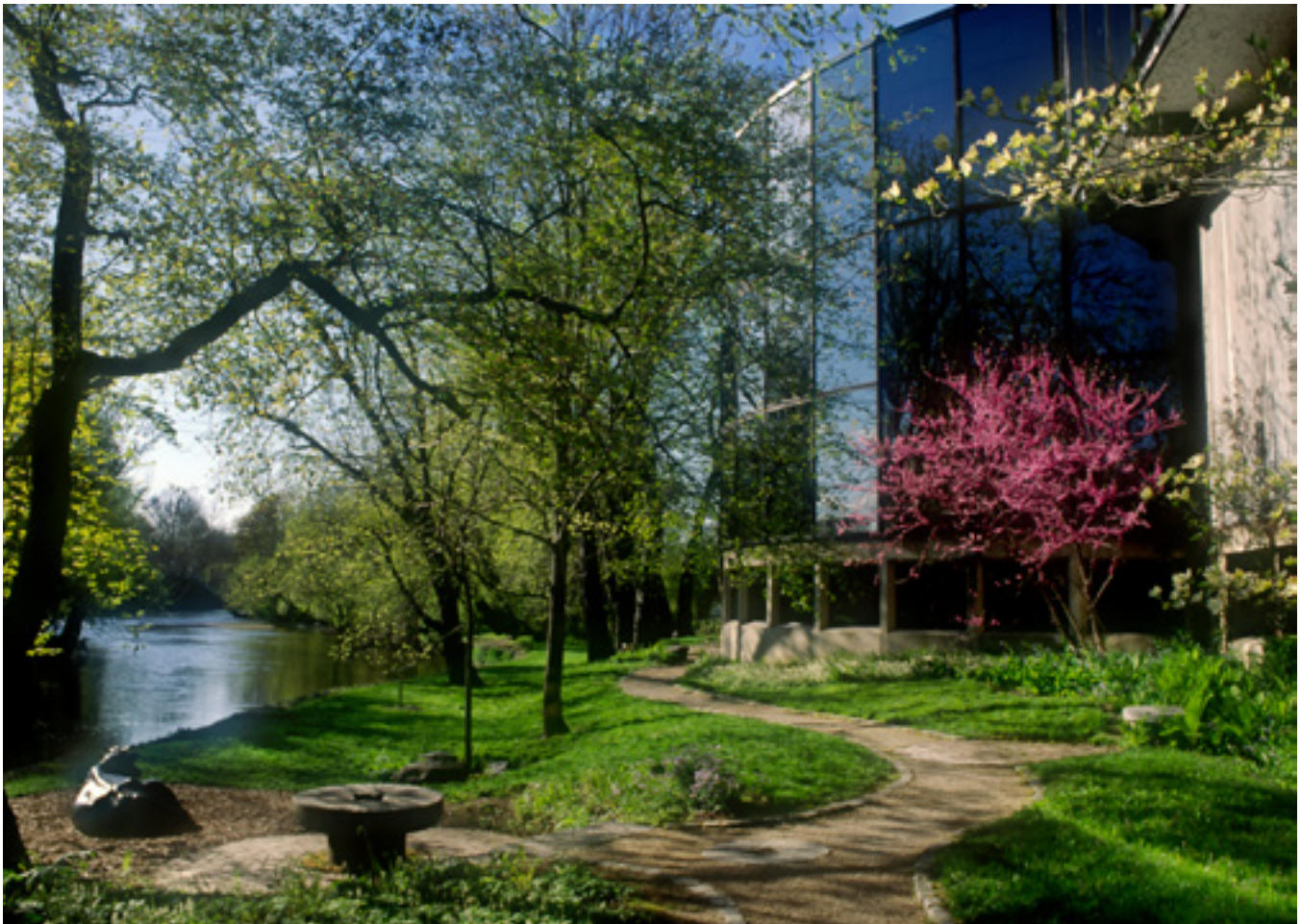
The Philadelphia Ethical Society annual picnic takes place on Sunday, from noon to 5 PM. The pool will be open from 1 to 5 PM. In addition to eating, socializing, and swimming, participants have an opportunity to tour the grounds, play lawn games and join in folk singing. The property will be open to tent camping on the Friday and Saturday night preceding the picnic. We have also made arrangements for overnight accommodations

*Brandywine River Museum of Art*

at Temenos, a nearby retreat. Room rates at Temenos are \$100 for single occupancy, \$75 per person for double occupancy and \$60 per person for triple occupancy.

If you spend the weekend, you can visit Brandywine Valley attractions on Saturday, or engage in activities at Camp Linden - hike our trails, swim in our pool (open from 1 to 5 PM), kayak the Brandywine, or relax and commune with nature. Saturday evening we will share a pot-luck dinner followed by a campfire and fireworks. We will provide a blueberry pancake breakfast on Sunday morning.

Longwood Gardens, the Brandywine River Museum of Art and Brandywine Battlefield Park are all within ten miles of Camp Linden. Longwood Gardens is a world-renowned horticultural show-place. Its "Festival of Fountains" is spectacular. The Brandywine River Museum showcases artwork of the Wyeth family in a converted mill, surrounded by native plants. It will be showing a special exhibit of the work of Frank Stewart, a photographer appreciated for his sensitive and spontaneous portrayal of world culture and Black life. Another unique attraction within 5 miles of Camp Linden is the Antique Ice Tool Museum. See: [uncoveringpa.com/visiting-the-antiqueice-tool-museum](http://uncoveringpa.com/visiting-the-antiqueice-tool-museum).



## Our Partners

All of our returning community partners serve low income neighborhoods in Philadelphia. Dixon Learning Academy and Western Learning Center are programs of the Greater Philadelphia Community Alliance, a multi-service agency covering all of South Philadelphia. The Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia focuses on the needs of the Cambodian, refugee and immigrant communities throughout the city. North 10 operates out of the Lenfest Center which serves the Hunting Park and East Tioga sections of North Philadelphia.

Community Concern 13 is a child care center in North Central Philadelphia. The Netter Center for Community Partnerships of the University of Pennsylvania provides educational resources to help public school students and families in West Philadelphia.

Dixon Learning Academy, Western Learning Center, North 10 and Community Concern 13 plan to attend all six weeks. The Cambodian Association is scheduled for four weeks. The Netter Center at the University of Pennsylvania will attend only one week because they are enrolled in a School District half day program which prevents traveling to Camp Linden most Mondays. Our new community partner, Coatesville Kids to College will attend on Monday for three weeks.

*CKC campers at Camden Aquarium last summer.*



## Our New Partner: Coatesville Kids to College

The mission of Coatesville Kids to College (CKC) is to provide academic, emotional, and spiritual empowerment from pre-k to college for the children and youth of Coatesville. It operates a preschool, after school programs for children and youth, and summer camps. Children enrolled in its elementary-school age summer camp will attend Camp Linden this summer, with middle school and high school students serving as instructional assistants.

Coatesville is located within ten miles of Camp Linden. It is a once thriving industrial center that fell on hard times with the decline of its major employer, Lukens Steel. The population of Coatesville is 13,311, of which 41.1% is Black; 27.8% Hispanic; and 25.1% White. The poverty rate is 24.33%.

CKC was founded in 2013 to serve as a pipeline from pre-kindergarden to college for children who face obstacles to success, including the poverty, lack of opportunity and absence of vision of a better future. CKC provides the support and resources that they and their families need to face and overcome these obstacles so that they can reach their full potential. It is a component of Educational Equity Alliance (EEA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that supports community led educational programs in Liberia and Zambia as well as Coatesville.

### Contact Us

If you are interested in volunteering at Camp Linden, want to receive this and/or future newsletters by email, or have any other comments or suggestions, you can reach us by email at [camplinden@phillyethics.org](mailto:camplinden@phillyethics.org).

## Camp Linden Funding Sources

Two charitable funds make significant annual contributions to Camp Linden, which we have relied upon over the years; the Rose Rappaport Long Trust Fund, which is administered by the Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia Ethical Society; and the Schreiber Family Foundation. Ellen McBride, a member of the New York Society for Ethical Culture and an enthusiastic supporter of Camp Linden, directs grants from the Schreiber Family Foundation. This year we were awarded an Environmental Education Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, through a competitive application process.

We do some fund-raising through events. Contributions to Camp Linden are solicited at Earth Sunday and the PES picnic at Camp Linden. Carol Love celebrates her birthday every year by holding a benefit party for Camp Linden at her home in January.

Our largest single source of funding is "Friends of Camp Linden", that is, contributions from individuals like you, which accounted for 43% of the funds we raised last year. We could not operate without your support.



## Camp Linden at Rittenhouse Square

On April 21 PES celebrated Earth Sunday (the Sunday closest to Earth Day) with a program focusing on Camp Linden. Co-Program Director Sharon Wallis presided at the Sunday "Platform", and Co-Program Director Amy Johnston conducted a concurrent children's program. PES Leader Hugh Taft-Morales spoke about how the Children's Summer Program at Camp Linden responds to the ideals of the Ethical Culture movement. At the conclusion of the Platform Amy, carrying an inflated globe, led the children, followed by the adults, in a parade through Rittenhouse Square. Participants took up the handles on the perimeter of a colored parachute, bounced the globe on the parachute and performed other parachute exercises that are a part of the closing "Celebrations of the Earth" at Camp Linden. We then adjourned to the PES social room for a lunch featuring Three Sisters Salad and cornbread. The Three Sisters are corn, beans and squash, the staple crops of Native Americans. The Earth Sunday celebration, which was initiated last year, has become a PES annual event.

## Camp Linden Leaders Receive Award

Sharon Wallis and Leonard Weeks received Lifetime Achievement Awards from the West Chester Green Team for their service to the Earth through Camp Linden. The husband and wife team have volunteered at Camp Linden since 2012. Leonard serves as Manager. Sharon served as Program Director until 2022, when she began sharing that responsibility with Amy Johnston. The award was presented at the Green Team's Earth Day parade and dinner on April 20, 2024. The Green Team works to educate the public and to establish and nourish green initiatives in the West Chester community.

