

The Afterglow

The Newsletter of the Nature Camp Foundation

Number 67

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Update on Renovations at Camp

We knew our members would come through, and the response was beyond our hopes (though fortunately not beyond our budget). As of press time, more than 100 of you have donated almost \$14,000 toward the pool fund (\$13,960, to be exact). This has been matched by another \$13,960 from NCF reserves (which of course is also mostly from our loyal members), making a total of \$27,920, well over half the costs of restoration. And we did not have to cash out any investments to do this.

We are proud and deeply moved to see how many people have contributed - regular Service Weekend workers and those who haven't seen camp for decades, residents of Virginia and those overseas, people who have contributed every year and those who have been waiting for a special occasion, regardless of age or income level. Work on the pool began in November. New tiles have been laid and cement poured, and work continues during above-freezing days. The pool will be ready for inspection before first session.

The second stage of repairs ahead of us is more significant. The electrical, water, and sewer systems need complete overhaul, the former especially because of fire hazard. All were laid down forty or more years ago and modified incrementally and sometimes haphazardly over the years. They were not designed to meet their current needs and are at the end of, if not beyond, their safe and useful life. Burying new lines and pipes throughout camp in rocky soil, however, will not be easy, and the uncertainty of how difficult the task might be has made a formal engineering estimate essential.

Taking the lead on this enterprise has been Nancy Hargroves, President of the two Boards with responsibility for the camp, Nature Camp, Inc. and the VFGC. Under her gifted leadership, both met at the end of January to address the issues, and both approved the go-ahead for the full renovation project. Because estimates had ranged from \$200,000 up to \$400,000 for the complete overhaul, there was a distinct possibility that the camp might have had to close this fall, since neither the VFGC nor the NCF have that kind of ready money. Happily, that's not in the cards.

The governing VFGC Board approved getting the necessary estimates and plans drawn up (at a cost of another \$46,000) so as to be able to let a contract to begin work this fall after the summer sessions are over. Moreover, the Board agreed to undertake all the repairs at once, rather than phase the work over several years, and decided to undertake a major fundraising campaign with professional help to raise the needed cash.

It will be several months before the exact scope of the project can be more clearly defined, but by the time of our NCF Annual Meeting at Nature Camp on Saturday, May 20,

the way ahead should be clearer. In the meantime, your NCF Board agreed at its own January meeting to support the VFGC in its work. Rather than give funds outright and draw down our principal, however, your Board agreed to use up to \$200,000 of its assets as collateral for a loan to the VFGC, should that be necessary; to provide up to \$1,000 a month or \$12,000 a year to help service such a loan if needed; and to assist in fundraising.

We won't know for some while yet whether all this support will be needed, except of course for the fundraising part. The latter would be something that we could engage in during the summer after appropriate coordination with the VFGC, because this effort will need to reach not only VFGC club members and Nature Camp alumni, but corporations and individuals across the state.

In the meantime, your Board unanimously thanks you for your great support of camp in this time of its need. We will keep you posted as plans and work progress.

-- Powell Hutton, President

Highway 608 Adopted

Special Projects Chair Amy Beaird has completed the work to allow the NCF to adopt the stretch of Route 608 running from just before the railroad tracks to the dirt road entrance to camp. A sign will be put up showing the NCF and Nature Camp as jointly responsible for this section of road. Clean-up days will be during the two service weekends and during second session, with a winter clean-up depending on weather conditions.

Proposed Budget, 2006

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dues	5,100	Administrative	3,200
Contributions	12,000	Contributions to Camp	1,450
Adult Session	5,000	Adult Session	2,600
Investments	<u>3,500</u>	Service Committee	<u>2,000</u>
Total Income	25,600	Total Expenses	9,250
NET	16,350		

"Administrative" covers the costs of *Afterglow* and Directory printing and mailing, as well as minor copying and mailing costs for committee chairs. This year's administrative budget also includes funds for an independent accountant to prepare a filing with the IRS, and to have an outside audit of NCF funds. "Contributions to Camp" covers our support for Evening Program speakers and square-dance musicians, and contributions to the book awards for campers and counsellors.

Calendar of Events, 2006

Spring Service Weekend	May 20-21
Annual Meeting of Members	May 20, 1:00 p.m., LS Building
Adult Session	June 9-13
Fall Service Weekend	Sept. 16-17



New Caretaker for Camp



We're happy to report that a new caretaker family has been found for camp following the departure of Brian and Summer Falls. Charles Truxell grew up in Greenville, VA, not far from camp. He and his wife Priscilla have two grown children and six grandchildren. Charles worked most recently as the facilities manager for a Montessori school in Greensboro, NC; he also has experience as an electrical foreman, carpenter and contractor. And should there be any asbestos lurking anywhere at Nature Camp, Charles would be certified to remove it.



State of the Investments

Goal	500,000
Current Level (approx.)	267,209
Donations for 2006	16,450
Lillian Schilling Fellows	51
Sustaining Members for 2006	45

Donations and Sustainers include all contributions to the pool fund, many of which were received in December 2005.

CLARIFICATION: You may have noticed that we are no longer referring to our investments as an "endowment". This is because we have realized that the term "endowment" refers to a legally-established fund with very specific controls on its use. The NCF board of directors has decided not to establish a formal endowment, because it would limit our flexibility to respond to camp's needs. For instance, it might not be possible to offer an endowment as collateral for a loan as described above. This would render us almost powerless to help the VFGC during the next year. It remains a policy of the NCF that funds invested will not be drawn upon except in dire emergencies -- but if such an emergency *should* arise, we want to be able to respond.

Directory Update

We are compiling information on changed addresses and new members as the dues forms come in. A paper copy of the directory will be mailed in the next month or so to all members who requested it. An electronic version will be posted on the web site in the password-protected area for members only.

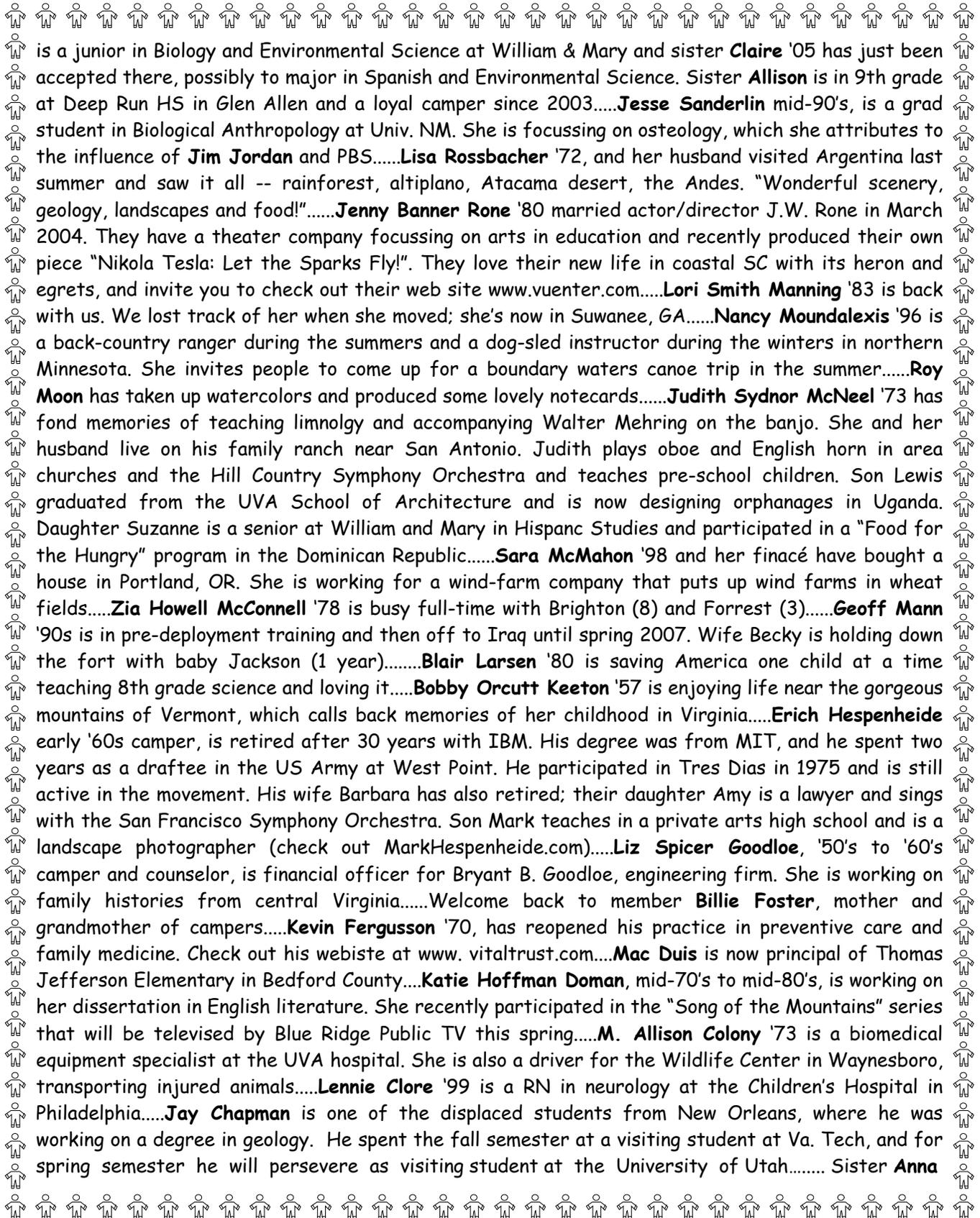
LILLIAN SCHILLING FELLOWS FOR 2006		
* Steven Andreaus	Brian & Molly Pickral Cadieux	Amy Kasdorf Gonzalez
* Liz Spicer Goodloe	Mike Meads	Charles Thornton
LILLIAN SCHILLING SUSTAINING MEMBERS FOR 2006		
* David & Jane Abbott	Amy Beaird	The Brashear Family
* Jim Brooks	Amy Wingfield Clark	M. Allison Colony
* Flip Coulling	Sidney & Mary Coulling	Louisa Sargeant Dent
* Steve Fisher	Andy Flint	Harrison Fridley
* Brent Heath	Church & Evelyn Hutton	Powell & Joanne Hutton
* Richard Hutton	Nancy Keeton	Mary Jane Gannaway Layne
* Peggy Layne	Anne Lewis Leyden	Tom & Mary Thompson Liebhold
* Jim Lowry	Nancy Lowry	Geoff Mann
* Charles Mattox	Judith Sydnor McNeel	Roy & Gladys Moon
* Julie Moore	Betsy Saxman Orgain	Laurie Peel Potteiger
* Jane Hatcher Rasi	Jenny Banner Rone	Lisa Rossbacher
* Helen Sanders	Mary Tiffany Schweitzer	Jeff Stein
* Betty Austin Stephens	The Still Family	Chuck Story
* Jill Stein Tietjen	Cammie Tuskey	Dick Wieboldt

Website Password

Copies of the Afterglow, the Directory of members, and other sensitive information are in the "Members Only" section of our website (www.naturecampfoundation.org). For 2006 the user ID will be "Colonel" and the password will be "Lorax" (without the " "). These words are for everybody; you don't have to get your own password or ID. We plan to change these every year, so that only current members will have access.

That Was the Year That Was

Shirley Napps '74 has snagged a job as assistant to a 4th-grade special-ed teacher in Ivy, VA.....
Michaux Lowry Hood's band, Las Gitanas, has released their first CD, a combination of many traditions including Appalachian and Hungarian tunes. One cut, "The Cuckoo" is also on the camp CD. Check out "If I Were A Rose" at www.lasgitanas.com**Pam Browning Wilkins '70** has retired after 34 years of vocational education and is looking forward to some time to travel and get into house and garden projects.....**Annie White '90's** is working on a dual degree in business and sustainable systems at U. Michigan.....**Kevin Wheeler** is in grad school at Columbia University; his brother **Mark** is working in Charlottesville.....**Catherine Thorup** mid-60's, has just returned from conducting an assessment of a program on literacy and community empowerment in Kabul. She now lives in Maine, "a move very much connected to the love for the woods that I developed during my time at Nature Camp".....**Jean Still '00**


 is a junior in Biology and Environmental Science at William & Mary and sister **Claire '05** has just been accepted there, possibly to major in Spanish and Environmental Science. Sister **Allison** is in 9th grade at Deep Run HS in Glen Allen and a loyal camper since 2003.....**Jesse Sanderlin** mid-90's, is a grad student in Biological Anthropology at Univ. NM. She is focussing on osteology, which she attributes to the influence of **Jim Jordan** and PBS.....**Lisa Rossbacher '72**, and her husband visited Argentina last summer and saw it all -- rainforest, altiplano, Atacama desert, the Andes. "Wonderful scenery, geology, landscapes and food!".....**Jenny Banner Rone '80** married actor/director J.W. Rone in March 2004. They have a theater company focussing on arts in education and recently produced their own piece "Nikola Tesla: Let the Sparks Fly!". They love their new life in coastal SC with its heron and egrets, and invite you to check out their web site www.vuenter.com.....**Lori Smith Manning '83** is back with us. We lost track of her when she moved; she's now in Suwanee, GA.....**Nancy Moundalexis '96** is a back-country ranger during the summers and a dog-sled instructor during the winters in northern Minnesota. She invites people to come up for a boundary waters canoe trip in the summer.....**Roy Moon** has taken up watercolors and produced some lovely notecards.....**Judith Sydnor McNeel '73** has fond memories of teaching limnolgy and accompanying Walter Mehring on the banjo. She and her husband live on his family ranch near San Antonio. Judith plays oboe and English horn in area churches and the Hill Country Symphony Orchestra and teaches pre-school children. Son Lewis graduated from the UVA School of Architecture and is now designing orphanages in Uganda. Daughter Suzanne is a senior at William and Mary in Hispnc Studies and participated in a "Food for the Hungry" program in the Dominican Republic.....**Sara McMahon '98** and her finacé have bought a house in Portland, OR. She is working for a wind-farm company that puts up wind farms in wheat fields.....**Zia Howell McConnell '78** is busy full-time with Brighton (8) and Forrest (3).....**Geoff Mann '90s** is in pre-deployment training and then off to Iraq until spring 2007. Wife Becky is holding down the fort with baby Jackson (1 year).....**Blair Larsen '80** is saving America one child at a time teaching 8th grade science and loving it.....**Bobby Orcutt Keeton '57** is enjoying life near the gorgeous mountains of Vermont, which calls back memories of her childhood in Virginia.....**Erich Hespenheide** early '60s camper, is retired after 30 years with IBM. His degree was from MIT, and he spent two years as a draftee in the US Army at West Point. He participated in Tres Dias in 1975 and is still active in the movement. His wife Barbara has also retired; their daughter Amy is a lawyer and sings with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. Son Mark teaches in a private arts high school and is a landscape photographer (check out MarkHespenheide.com).....**Liz Spicer Goodloe, '50's to '60's** camper and counselor, is financial officer for Bryant B. Goodloe, engineering firm. She is working on family histories from central Virginia.....Welcome back to member **Billie Foster**, mother and grandmother of campers.....**Kevin Fergusson '70**, has reopened his practice in preventive care and family medicine. Check out his webiste at www.vitaltrust.com.....**Mac Duis** is now principal of Thomas Jefferson Elementary in Bedford County....**Katie Hoffman Doman**, mid-70's to mid-80's, is working on her dissertation in English literature. She recently participated in the "Song of the Mountains" series that will be televised by Blue Ridge Public TV this spring.....**M. Allison Colony '73** is a biomedical equipment specialist at the UVA hospital. She is also a driver for the Wildlife Center in Waynesboro, transporting injured animals.....**Lennie Clore '99** is a RN in neurology at the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia.....**Jay Chapman** is one of the displaced students from New Orleans, where he was working on a degree in geology. He spent the fall semester at a visiting student at Va. Tech, and for spring semester he will persevere as visiting student at the University of Utah..... Sister **Anna**

Chapman is a grad student in entomology at Va. Tech. She spent the summer on the Eastern Shore studying the use of parasitic wasps to control the European corn borer....**Noel Carson**, mid-60's camper and early '70's counsellor, has taken up karate and is now a Senior III Brown Belt in Universal Kempo Karate. Daughter and former camper Shannon Porter is a sophomore at Va. Tech and her son, also a former camper, is in high school.....**Barak Brashear** is finishing a degree in Outdoor Recreation at Ferrum, sister **Grae** is doing a joint major in horticulture and journalism at Rutgers, sister **Pippa** (who deeply regrets never making it to Nature Camp, is finishing a degree in Landscape Architecture. Meanwhile parents **Bob and Cin** pursue, respectively, medical work with J&J and the perfect gentlewoman's fern.....**Dave and Jane Abbott**, Adult Session '03, are busy upgrading their house with hurricane windows, visiting the first grandchild, Daniel, in Arizona, and touring the drill site of the impact crater beneath Chesapeake Bay.....**Christine Stinson** '71 is now the administrator of the Ferrum web system *and* director of the Centre for Instructional Design and Technology *and* on an advisory committee for the Appalachian College Association, not to mention still being a professor of business.....**Alia Anderson** is running a non-profit organization to promote alternative transportation in central Virginia.....**Karen Grove Trimmer** reports that they have finally moved into the house they've been building. They have retrained three retired race horses and found homes for them. Daughter **Anna** will be a 4th session camper this summer.



In honor of the ongoing restoration of the pool, we thought it would be fun to take a look back and see how far we have come. Do you remember the original pool? Murky green water, freezing cold, carried in by that old slew from Big Marys? And then the upgrade to the pump and filter (shown in the picture at left).

Then we got the "new" pool, complete with diving board, filtration, and chlorination. We could finally see the bottom of the pool!!! Life guard chairs, pool duty (note John Diller ready to save a life!) And, not shown but familiar now, the fence. The next time many of us see the pool it will have its facelift complete and thanks to you, the pool will continue to be an integral part of the camp experience.



Gladys DeWitt Moon May 18, 1920 - January 2, 2006

Gladys DeWitt Moon, age 85, a dearly loved Nature Camp nurse, died peacefully on January 2, 2006 following a stroke on December 23rd. Gladys served as the camp nurse intermittently from 1958 to 1968. Her two children, Bob and Martha (both LS Fellows), were little "camper wanna-bes" who stayed in the nurse's cabin with Gladys for several years before they each became old enough to become real campers and later counsellors. Mrs. Moon was not only our camp nurse but also the "substitute Mom" for most at camp. She loved the mountains and life at Nature Camp. Many of us remember how Gladys enthusiastically gave her lunchtime cabin inspection reports in poetry, often with a surprise teasing ending such as, "and Tidewater earns an 8 . . . (pause) . . . plus 2." She is now a Memorial LS Fellow, having been honoured by her son Bob several years ago.

Gladys served for many years as a public health nurse in several Virginia counties, and as a school nurse in Appomattox. She was an oil painter and was active in Girl and Boy Scouts, her church, the American Heart and Cancer Societies, garden clubs, and, in retirement, she and Roy participated in ElderHostels. In recent years, they have been living at Covenant Woods in Mechanicsville, VA.

With typical Moon generosity, the family has requested that donations be made in memory of Gladys to the Nature Camp Foundation. Gladys is survived by her loving husband, Roy, and children, Bob and Martha.

Hazel Virginia Wolfe Thrower January 21, 1919 - January 25, 2006

Hazel Thrower, long-time trustee of Nature Camp Inc. and Honorary Lillian Schilling Fellow, died at the Johnson City Medical Center on January 25. Mrs. Thrower was deeply committed to Nature Camp and was one of the first members of the VFGC to encourage us to establish the foundation. She gave us valuable advice over the years as we developed a clearer sense of our mission. Her daughter Susan Thrower Cale and son-in-law William Cale were both campers, and are also Lillian Schilling Fellows. Grandson John Cale was a camper in the early 1990's. Mrs. Thrower served as president of VFGC and was presented with The Governor's Award as State Conservationist of the Year on behalf of the Virginia Wildlife Federation. She was a charter member of the Green Thumb Garden Club, and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Doris Keeton October 8, 1904 - September 12, 2005

Doris Keeton passed away September 12, 2005 at nearly 101. She was the mother of Bill Keeton, Director of Instruction from the mid 1950's to the mid 1960's. Early supporters of camp, Doris and her husband Bill sent young Bill as a camper in the early days at Lake Sherando. Bill met his future wife, Bobbie Orcutt Keeton, at camp and their three children -- Lynn, Nancy and Bill -- were all campers. The Keeton parents ran a virtual shuttle bus to and from camp and their house in Richmond. Doris eagerly watched the newspapers in Richmond and later in Roanoke for news of camp, recalling how her son had helped to build its fine reputation and the role it had played in the lives of her family. Doris was a Life Member of the NCF and we are proud of our three generations of Keeton members.

A Time To Reflect

As your editor typed the news and memorials above, she found herself thinking what an exceptional and admirable group of people have been a part of Nature Camp. Whatever our paths in life have been, we have all retained the love for our planet, our fellow creatures, and other people that is such a distinctive trait of camp. Terry Richardson once said that the three things we learned there are the beauty of simplicity, the joy of life, and caring for all beings. Even though you have never met some of the people described above, you know that they are people who have made a difference in the world whom you would be proud to count as friends. Certain strands are very strong in this group -- parents whose children are working to make the world a better place, people working to help those less fortunate than themselves, people creating beauty or knowledge for all to share. And among these fine and wonderful people, some have been facing difficulties and challenges themselves: death of a dearly-loved relative, career interruptions from natural or man-made disasters. Let us keep them especially in our minds and hearts as this new year begins.

Thinking of tomorrow and the dreams that can come true
I know that camp has taught me of the things that I can do
And when I leave to face the world with promises and dreams
I'll carry with me something of these sparkling mountain streams

