



CAMP MASON Message

YMCA Camp Ralph S. Mason

Spring 2009

CAMP MASON'S ANNUAL MEETING

An Evening of Celebration!

On January 15th, Camp Mason's trustees, staff and friends gathered at the Nassau Club in Princeton for the association's annual meeting. More than seventy people attended the event, despite the frigid temperatures outside.

During the business portion of the meeting Nominating Committee Chair Barbara Cooper announced the slate of candidates for the board of trustees. Veteran trustees Marty Birkenthal, Michael Schwarz, Emily Vickers and Barbara Cooper were re-elected to three-year terms.

The mantle of board leadership passed from Ralph S. (Rip) Mason III to his brother Tom, who assumed the President's position. Marty Birkenthal and Mike Schwarz were re-elected as vice president and treasurer, respectively, while Barbara Cooper took on the secretary's role. We are indebted to Rip Mason for his services as board president – his second tour of duty in this role. Rip's contributions to Camp Mason are many, and we certainly hope that he will remain involved in the years to come.

There were several highlights to the evening. A raffle was held for a beautiful pearl necklace donated by trustee Dave Bath. Kevin Walsh, Senior Program Director of the Princeton Family YMCA, was the lucky winner. The Camp Mason Volunteer of the Year Award was shared by Tom Mason and Emily Vickers – a well-deserved honor for their countless hours of service and involvement.

The evening's program consisted of a number of members of the Camp Mason extended family sharing a bit about their particular affiliation with the camp. Our attendees heard wonderful testimonials regarding how Camp Mason had had a positive effect on each of these individuals and families – through summer camp, retreats, outdoor education and family camp. We'd like to thank Doug Slobodien, Mitch Decter, Amanda Meehan, Tom Lynch, and the Edelman and Adlerman families for participating in our annual meeting. It was a night to remember, and left all in attendance with warm, positive feelings about the value of a Camp Mason experience.

Save the date of January 14, 2010 for Camp Mason's next annual meeting!



The transfer of board leadership: Tom and Rip Mason

Look Inside For:

- Viral Marketing
- Alumni Weekend
- President's Message
- Dining Hall Facelift
- Much More!!



YMCA Camp Ralph S. Mason - The Mason Message

The **Mason Message** is published twice a year by YMCA Camp Ralph S. Mason to share news and events with our camp families, alumni, staff, volunteers, neighbors, supporters and all who believe in and share our YMCA youth development mission!

VIRAL MARKETING... WE'RE LOOKING FOR "SNEEZERS!"

Overwhelmingly, folks who contact us about Camp Mason's summer camp or outdoor education & conference programs have heard about us through word-of-mouth promotion. It seems that the days of media advertising have passed by. The most effective way to promote our programs is through our *true believers* – people who have had a positive Camp Mason experience and are willing to tell others about it.

While the concept of word-of-mouth promotion is not new, it's been the topic of a myriad of business books and articles in recent years. Malcolm Gladwell, in his best-seller *The Tipping Point*, discussed how ideas flow through communities and why some catch while others fade away. Marketing guru Seth Godin has written of *viral marketing* and the importance of "sneezers" - people who actively and unabashedly tell all they encounter about the products and services that they have used.

So – we're jumping on the bandwagon and are asking our Camp Mason community to help spread the word about our programs and facilities. Please consider all the folks that you encounter – friends, neighbors, co-workers and more – who might be interested in learning more about Camp Mason. Remember, we're a summer camp and so much more! Church retreats, family camps, school outdoor education, leadership development – we serve people of all ages and groups of all sizes throughout the year. And, of course, the heart of Camp Mason is our summer, sleep-away camp program. Shouldn't every child have the opportunity to enjoy a camp experience?

Help us fill Camp Mason and provide a meaningful, fun experience to as many people as possible!

*If you would like to be an official **Camp Mason Ambassador** and help us promote our programs, please contact Dave DeLuca for a full kit of materials to get you started!*



IMPORTANT DATES

Summer Camp Open House Events

Sunday, March 29

Saturday, April 4

Saturday, April 25

Sunday, May 3

Saturday, May 16

Sunday, May 31

All open houses run from 1:00PM to 4:00PM and are held at camp.

Alumni Weekend

May 1- 3

Family Camps

Mother's Day Weekend
May 8-10

Memorial Day Weekend
May 22-25

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2009

Save the dates of May 1-3 for Camp Mason's Alumni Weekend. We're inviting back our former campers and staff members to reconnect and relive their memories of camp. We've already heard from a large contingent of staff alums from the mid-to-late 1990's who are planning to attend. But of course, we'd like to see all eras of Camps Wilson/Central/Mason represented at the reunion.

There will be plenty of recreational activities as well as ample time to reminisce about summers spent at camp. We'll share food and fellowship in the dining hall, and spend the evening around the council ring campfire.

Folks may register online at www.campmason.org. You may also download a paper registration form from the website. Please help us spread the word – we'd love to see our cabins packed with alumni!

Anyone up for a fire tower hike?

A Message from the President of the Board - By Tom Mason

On January 15th Camp Mason had its annual meeting at the Nassau Club in Princeton, NJ. This event has grown in popularity over the years from when I first attended as a board member in the early 1980's. At that time it was a meeting of the board to review the previous year – with dinner attached. Our meeting this January was a glorious gathering of 75 friends, camp staff and board members celebrating the successes of 2008 with inspiring testimonials, stories and anecdotes ... and we still got dinner!

The business portion of the annual meeting includes the election of a class a trustees and officers to the board. This year I was proud and humbled to be elected to succeed my brother, Rip, as Board President of Camp Mason.

As you all know, the Mason family has been involved with this venerable YMCA camp for decades, starting when my father, Ralph S. Mason was a camper, then a counselor, at Camp Wilson on the Delaware River in the 1920's. Those familiar with the camp's long and storied history know that is was my dad who headed up the effort to find an appropriate site for relocating Camp Wilson when the Marshall's Island camp was destroyed by Hurricane Connie in 1955. Through dedicated efforts of Y leaders from Princeton, Trenton, New Brunswick and Metuchen, the Central New Jersey YMCA Camp was formed in Hardwick Township, NJ, and Ralph Mason was named president of its original board of directors. My brother Rip and sister Karen were campers and staff members at Central, as were most of my cousins. I started as a camper at Central in 1962 and progressed through nine years of summer camp involvement.

Nothing in my early years compares to those carefree days at camp...learning to swim, canoe, shoot a rifle and make camp. As an older camper, my friends and I successfully lobbied for the revival of the Ranger Program, a precursor to today's Adventure Bound Treks, where I developed a lifelong passion for exploring nature on the river, hiking trails and extended overnight camping trips. This experience enabled me to expand my skills later, as a member of NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School), where I experienced the great challenges and joys of climbing, camping and mountaineering expeditions in Wyoming and Alaska.

As Board President of Camp Mason, I consider it my utmost mission to nurture the same passion and love for this great crucible of natural education in as many children, teens, and families as I can reach. To that end, I invite you all to take time to visit this special place...every season has its own wonders and activities. The sledding and skating have been great, and there's still a bit of winter left! Spring is right around the corner, and we're already excited about our summer plans. Before you know it, camp will be all decked out in autumn's splendor. And after that... it's not too early to be thinking about joining our great family of campers, staff and volunteers for our next annual meeting. The food's great too!



Emily Vickers and Tom Mason displaying their Volunteers of the Year award



Groundbreaking in Hardwick: 1956



Farm & Garden Program at Camp!

This summer our campers will have a new activity to enjoy... we're starting a farm and garden program. We will build a raised garden near our nature center and also create a fenced-in area for a variety of farm animals. We have received a \$500 grant from the Redwoods Foundation to help get our program started.

Our campers will tend to the garden and care for goats, chickens and other animals. In the process they'll learn where a variety of food items come from and gain a healthy appreciation for the farming community. After all, New Jersey **is** the Garden State!



Past, Present... Future

By Doug Slobodien

Some articles, they say, practically write themselves. I have never found this to be true. On the other hand, sometimes the subject matter to be addressed is so obvious, the decision on what to write is all but automatic.

Camp Mason has undergone a changing-of-the-guard, if you will. Mike Peterson has retired and Dave DeLuca has arrived at Camp Mason. I would like to take this opportunity to honor both of them.

I hope Mike Peterson realizes how significant an impact he had on Camp Mason. More than that, I hope he knows the impact he had on me. Mike came to the camp during perhaps its darkest period (darker even, in my opinion, than the Great Flood). Saddled with a camp with low enrollment and deteriorating facilities, Mike's leadership allowed Camp Mason to revert to a highly regarded summer camp and created a top-notch year-round outdoor education center. With Mike at the helm, Mason became a kinder and gentler place to be.

Along with the Mason family and others who shared a love for Camp Wilson/Central/Mason, Mike created the Alumni Association. After a decade of estrangement, I felt welcomed again. Now, thanks to the fact that I missed a meeting, I have the honor of serving as President of the Alumni Association. I feel like I'm home again, every time I visit Mason. I have Mike Peterson to thank for that. We, as an association, and I, personally, wish Mike and his family all the best in this next phase of their lives.

Figuratively speaking, Mike left some pretty big shoes to fill. While he may follow in Mike's footsteps, I get the feeling Dave DeLuca will do it in his own shoes. Having called ahead to make an appointment, my wife, Elaine, and I took a drive up to Camp Mason to meet with our new CEO. After the initial handshakes, Dave's next words were, "Would you like to take a walk?" I knew then that I like this guy. He would rather talk while strolling the camp grounds, than sitting in the office. And talk we did. He asked many questions about the history of the camp, of the Alumni Association, of my perspective and my ideas. He answered questions about his past and his ideas for the future. We talked about things that had very little, and yet so much, to do with Camp Mason.

Among the topics Dave and I discussed (as one might expect) were our plans for the future of the Alumni Association. Dave agrees with me that the quality of the membership and their commitment is more important than the quantity of members, but that we'd also like to see the Association grow. We talked about ways to reach out to more potential members, especially more recent campers and staff than have traditionally been involved. He has some ideas about hosting events throughout the country, where alumni would be able to connect, without having to travel all the way to the east coast. We decided that we should integrate various factions within the Camp Mason family. There is no reason to send separate newsletters, for instance. If we combine the Mason Message and Smoke Signals, we can save on postage AND reach more people.

Speaking of groups, we have already taken another step to open communication lines for the Alumni Association. We have created a group on Facebook. It is called Camp Mason (Official), and anyone can join. By going onto www.Facebook.com, you can sign up for free. Who knows, the future of the Alumni Association may just be on the internet. What a nice way for the Past, Present, and Future to come together!

If you haven't done so, please visit our web-site and officially join the Camp Mason Alumni Association!

A YEAR-ROUND DESTINATION FOR YOUR GROUP

YMCA Camp Mason is much more than a summer sleep-away camp for kids. In fact, our year-round programs serve more than 11,000 people of all ages. We are an innovator in the field of residential outdoor education; The Trenton, NJ public schools first visited us in 1950. Churches, youth groups, scouts, schools, YMCA parent-child programs, colleges and universities all use our facilities from late August through early June. Additionally, we offer a number of weekend family camp programs throughout the year.

Our guests appreciate Camp Mason's extensive recreational activities, delicious, home-cooked meals, cozy accommodations and – most importantly – the caring and talented Camp Mason staff. Our professional program directors can assist any group in tailoring an event to suit their specific goals. Many groups avail themselves of our extensive team-building and challenge programs.

But don't just take our word for it! Here's what some of our guests have to say:

"All of the leaders of the activities were pleasant and proficient at their jobs. I felt like the children were safe."
(Teacher, Lutheran High School)

"These programs are really great and always something the girls look forward to." (Radnor Girl Scouts)

"It was great for our students and the quality of the staff and Camp Mason and the facilities made for an enjoyable and relaxed experience for the school faculty." (Teacher, Moorestown Friends School)

Why not consider Camp Mason for your group's next event? Please call or email the camp office for more information.

ANNUAL FUND EXCEEDS GOAL

The 2008 Camp Mason Annual Fund – our yearly campaign to raise dollars for a number of worthy endeavors – generated nearly \$60,000 in contributions. As a not-for-profit, charitable organization, Camp Mason relies upon the support of our camp community to provide funding for camperships (financial assistance) as well as for specific programmatic and facility needs.

This past summer we provided more than \$32,000 in camperships, allowing 39 deserving children to participate in day camp and resident camp. As one parent shared with us:

*“My son’s two weeks at Camp Mason was the highlight of his year.
Thanks so much for helping to make this happen for him.”*

Our fall/winter campaign generated gifts from more than 130 individuals. We are grateful for the support of our alumni, camp families, volunteers, staff and other friends. You have helped to give the gift of camp to children who would have been otherwise unable to attend Camp Mason.

Those interested in learning more about making a contribution may do so at our website.

2008 CAMP MASON SUPPORTERS \ Annual Fund Drive

PRESIDENT’S CENTURY CLUB DONOR RECOGNITION LEVELS (*IMO DENOTES IN MEMORY OF; IHO DENOTES IN HONOR OF*)

THE LIST BELOW REFLECTS ALL GIFTS RECEIVED 1/1/08 – 1/15/09

PROMISE KEEPER DONOR LEVEL \$1 - \$99

Anonymous (2)
William Ainslie
Kate Bech & Nicholas Hegedus
Wayne Birkenthal
Alice Boyle, *IMO Robert N. Boyle*
John Bryant
Brian Cahill/CDMA. Inc.
Francis Catania
Susan & David Dearing
Kate Elston
Adam Farren
Lauri Fink & Kevin Barletta, *IHO Joe Thompson*
Danielle Furey
William Gold
Gary & Bonnie Graham
Eric Graig & Elizabeth Janssen
Joan Green
Lois Gretzinger
Ellen Griffith, via Johnson & Johnson's United Way Distribution
Donna Grossman Casting
Lisa Gurk Herman
Gordon & Laurie Hain
Bob Heil
The Hillman Company Matching Gift Program
Suzanne Holmes
Carol Hub
Don Jennings
Deborah Kempe & Andre Hurni, *IHO Emily Vickers & Tom Mason*
George & Bonnie Knigge
Diane Knights
Don Korn & Laura Chenicek Korn, *IMO Bob Chenicek*
Bond Koteas
Keith Krick
Karen Mason
Gary & Dotti Morgan
Carolyn & Joseph Nesi
J. Wilson & Cecily Noden
Thomas O'Connor
Walter Pylypiak
Don Raff, *IHO Ed & Jan Robinson*
Greg Robinson

Marvin Lee Rohovec
Bud & Patricia Shuster
Allan & Gail Smith
Perri Stevenson
Ward & Jan Swift
The Willow Tree / Sue Nobleman
Dr. Susan Tobia
Judith & Christopher Trigg
Midge & Alex Vaccaro
Alice & Bob Vernon
Georgia Vickers
Nathan Vickers & Lois Anderson
Cindy Zahn, *IHO Kent Weber*

CENTURY CLUB DONOR LEVEL \$100 - \$249

Jack Birkenthal
C. Lee & Ruth Boyle
Beth Chenicek, *IMO Robert Chenicek*
Andrew Dennis
Vivian Ducat
Lynn & Thomas Ebeling
Marcus & Ashley Forster
Graham Goodkin & Laura Chittick
Hardwick Township
Hart & Illiff / Charles Brand
The Hines Family, *IHO Bronwyn & Johannah*
Herbert Hobler
Horizon Foundation
Madge & Ernest Ikpe
Susie Chung & Albert Jun
Emily Leonardo
Margaret Marcks
Daniel H. Mason, *IMO Ralph S. Mason*
Dick & Joyce Miller
Norman Monhait & Marcia Halperin
Joseph Moriarty, MD
John & Faith Murphy
Burt Myrick, *IMO Jerene V. Myrick*
James O'Connor, *IHO Dave DeLuca*
Don & Julia Painter
Preferred Benefits Group / John Ramazzotto
Kenneth Selody, II
Julie Sgarzi, *IHO Marty Birkenthal*
Stockland Martel, Inc. / Bill Stockland

John & Lisa Sullivan, *IMO Elaine Williams*
Westex
Alice Vickers & John Davis, *IMO Ralph S. Mason*
Marilyn Vickers & Lief Carter, *IMO Emily Whitaker Vickers*
Barbara & Roger White
Jeff & Natasha Zeiger
Keith Zenobia & Sylvia Nestor, *IHO Emily Vickers & Tom Mason*

SILVER DONOR LEVEL \$250 - \$499

Drive Digital, LLC
Stefan W. Goff
Randy Green
James Jennings
Hungwon Jun, *IHO Emily Vickers*
Prudential CARES Volunteer Grant Program, *IHO Barbara Cooper*
Kellogg's Foods
Donna & Mike Line
John & Diane Lusdyk
Robert Ridolfi, Twin Hunt Farm
Scott & Curry Simmel
Kent & Geraldine Weber

GOLD DONOR LEVEL \$500 - \$999

Isidor & Marilyn Birkenthal, *IHO Marty Birkenthal*
Marty Birkenthal
Delaware Valley Business Club
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Matching Gift Program
Jeffrey & Solveigh Marcks
Nottingham Insurance / Peter Toft
The Redwoods Foundation
Michael & Roni Schwarz
Tim & Deborah Spork
Marion Vickers, *IMO Emily Whitaker Vickers*
Jerry & Julie Waldron

PLATINUM DONOR LEVEL \$1,000 - \$4,999

Dave & Dreana Bath
Priscilla Bath
Barbara & Butch Cooper

Dave & Laurie DeLuca
Dorothy Fullam
Meta Griffith, via The Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Mercer County
John & Vivian Katsock
PNC Financial
The Prudential Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Paul & Martha Samuelson
SCOPE Foundation
Times Kiwanis Camp Fund / Trenton Times

DIAMOND CIRCLE DONOR LEVEL \$5,000 AND ABOVE

Rip Mason
Tom Mason & Emily Vickers
The Turrell Fund

ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Joe & Patricia Thompson
Merck Matching Gift Program

CAMP MASON LIBRARY CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2008 we created a camper/staff library in the Apache Recreation Lodge. A number of people donated books or funded the purchase of books.

Susan & Rich Beringer
Marty Birkenthal
Barbara & Butch Cooper
Laurie & Dave DeLuca
Marcus & Ashley Forster
Don Liebson
Donna & Mike Line
Emily Vickers & Tom Mason
Judy & Chris Trigg

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Marcus & Ashley Forster
Ken Hamlin
Bob LeClair & April Szekula
Michael & Roni Schwarz
Robin Stoeckel
Kent Weber

We apologize for any errors in our listings. Please contact the camp office (908) 362-8217 to report any corrections.

DINING HALL FACE-LIFT

The Camp Mason Dining Hall has served – by conservative estimate – more than 4,000,000 meals since its opening in 1958. It's been the virtual and emotional center of our camp community since its inception. If the building could talk – oh, the stories it could tell of the people and events of Camp Mason's glorious past. And now – more than 50 years after its construction – we're planning on a number of improvements to this grand old facility.

As this newsletter goes to press we've begun the process of polishing the concrete floor. This will remove the many layers of paint (we've counted at least four different colors!) and expose the bare concrete. Then, using progressively finer diamond grinders, the floor will be polished to a smooth, bright finish. The end result will be an attractive, easy-to-maintain surface that will stand up to the heavy use that the building sustains. This project is being done by **Concrete Polishing Reflections** of Mount Arlington, NJ.

And that's not all! As time and funding becomes available, we plan to make other improvements to the building. New lighting – and painting the ceiling panels a lighter color – will enhance the brightness of the dining hall. We'll continue the replacement of the old wooden tables and benches, which have served Camp Mason well but are ready for retirement. New entry doors and replacement windows are also on the horizon. And – finally – a full-length deck along the front of the building will provide lovely views of Lake Mason.

It won't all happen overnight, but we're committed to the care and improvement of our dining hall – Camp Mason's cornerstone facility.



Camp Mason's venerable dining hall awaiting renovation

ADVENTURE BOUND TREKS – *The Natural Challenge for Teens!*

Canoeing down the Delaware River...hiking the Appalachian Trail... climbing the rock ledges of the Shawangunks... these and other challenges await the teens who participate in our Adventure Bound Treks programs. Our treks – ranging in length from 7 to 14 days – provide exciting opportunities for teens (grades 7-10) each summer. Two highly-trained leaders accompany each group and teach them a variety of wilderness skills. Most importantly, our trekkers will experience some of the most pristine and beautiful natural areas in the northeast. Adventure Bound – a fun, confidence-building experience in the great outdoors! Contact the camp office to learn more about our specific treks and the summer schedule.



From the Executive Director...

By Dave DeLuca



In the next few weeks, spring will once again arrive at Camp Mason. Flowers and green leaves will emerge, and the days will grow longer and longer. And I've got a confession: Despite my long work history as a summer camp director, spring is my favorite season of the year. It always arrives with a promise of renewal and rebirth.

Since arriving here in October 2007, I've tried to immerse myself in the history and traditions of the camp. I've heard wonderful stories from parents, campers, alumni and staff about how much Camp Mason means to them. I've greatly enjoyed getting to know members of the Mason community. It is an honor to be part of an organization that has so positively affected so many people.

It is a challenging time for Camp Mason. Despite the numerous positive aspects of our organization, we have many (metaphorical) mountains to climb. We must return to fully-enrolled summer sessions, and our year-round programs must grow to maximize use of our extensive winterized facilities. Aging facilities must be renovated or replaced. Fundraising efforts must be expanded and improved; we absolutely require the support of the worldwide Camp Mason family. We must tell the incredibly compelling *Camp Mason* story to all who will listen and, in the process, make new friends and develop positive relationships with everyone we encounter.

Phew – when I look back on the paragraph I've just written, I realize just how busy I'll be for the next few years!

The good news is that these tasks are eminently do-able. Our 600+ acre property is a gem in rural Warren County, and it's within easy driving distance of several large metropolitan areas. Our human resources are strong, with a dedicated staff team, a very capable volunteer board and a largely untapped network of alumni and friends.

And as for what YOU can do to help...throughout this newsletter you'll see a number of opportunities:

- *recruit a camper*
- *make a contribution*
- *volunteer for a committee or focus group*
- *bring a group to camp*

The possibilities are almost endless!

I invite you to visit Camp Mason when your schedule allows. Come walk the trails with me and share *your* memories of camp. In this season of rebirth, as our woods are coming alive once again, we'll talk about the rebirth of Camp Mason.

Alumni News

We've heard from a number of former campers and staff members this year. Here are a few updates. We plan to make these updates a regular (and more extensive) portion of our newsletters.

Glenn Bevensee emailed from Bensalem, PA. A camper in the early '70's, Glenn served as the model rocketry instructor in 1978. He fondly remembers the hikes to the fire tower... **Eric Brown**, who grew up in Piscataway, was a camper in 1980 and '81. He graduated from Syracuse University and now lives in San Francisco. He works as a systems administrator for NASA's Ames Research Center...since serving as a Mason counselor in 2005 and 2006, **Perry Cann** has finished college and now works as a civil engineering technologist in Sudbury, Ontario... **Donna Salter Haag**, who lives in Salisbury, MD, was another early '70's camper. She still has the letters that she sent home from camp, and her love of the experience has now caused her to work as registrar for a local day camp... from Fairlawn, NJ, **Stephanie D'Agostino** began medical school in the fall. She was an 8-week camper from '96 –'01 and a counselor in 2002. Her sister **Danielle** is also an alumna.

We were visited last summer by **Phil Datz**, another 8-week camper who was at Mason from 1985 to 1991 (or '92, he can't quite remember). Phil lives in Valley Stream, NY and has even looked into buying a camp and getting into the business... **Emily (List) Gunn** sent a wonderful email from her home in Tampa, FL. She loves her work as a sixth grade math teacher and credits her work as a Mason counselor for kindling her interest: *"When I was a counselor, my cabin had 11-12 year old girls. Wouldn't you know that's the age group I love the best? I taught 4th grade, 5th grade and landed in middle school as a fluke and I LOVE IT!! I truly think Mason had a lot to do with that!"* Emily and her husband Peter have a beautiful young daughter named Kaitlyn.

This just in from the **Barger Family** of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio: **Christine** works at NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland as a technical writer/editor while **Kevin** serves as the Dean of Students at Walsh Jesuit High School. He is also finishing up his Master's degree in educational administration at Kent State University. As for their children, Madeline is 5, Finn is 3 and – according to Christine – *"Both enjoy swimming, Tom and Jerry, and breakfast cereal."*

The Bargers have had many camp visitors to Cuyahoga Falls, including **Karen Eisenhut** on her way out to California, **Simon Ashmele** during a U.S. visit, **Dana Lahoff**, up from Columbus, and **Graham and Kristen Spencer**, as well. They also report on the following relatives/alumni: **Adam Barger** (staff 2001) is living in New York City and working in advertising, **Lisa Martin** (camper, LT 1998) is working at the University of Colorado at Boulder and **John Martin** (Camper, LT) is finishing his senior year at Virginia Tech.

Last fall **Brian Lynn** and **Kelly (Merrell) Heffernan** stopped by to visit and enjoyed a stroll through camp. Brian lives in Wall, NJ while Kelly and her family are now Floridians, living in Pompano Beach.

Please send us your news and updates for our next newsletter!
Also check out the alumni section of our website for more updates.

COMMITTEES & FOCUS GROUPS – Get Involved!

Camp Mason has a number of opportunities for volunteers to share their expertise and talent with us. There are a number of standing committees that help to guide the camp in a number of areas. The **Finance** committee helps to provide insight of a fiscal nature, while the **Facilities** committee ensures that Camp Mason's property and buildings are cared for and adequate for our program needs. The **Development** committee gives leadership to our fundraising efforts (including grant-writing) and the **Program & Personnel** committee addresses issues related to program quality and human resources.

In addition to these groups, we're in the process of convening a number of **focus groups** which will provide feedback for each of our primary program areas. For example, a resident camp focus group – comprised of parents of current campers – will help us to better serve these families. Similarly, an outdoor education focus group (made up of teachers and administrators) will work toward strengthening our school programs. Other focus groups will set their sights on day camp and year-round conferences and retreats.

And finally, we're planning to reinvigorate the **Camp Mason Alumni Association**. We're looking for former campers and staff members with a passion for camp to help us reconnect with the hundreds of alumni out there. An active and engaged alumni association is a hallmark of a great camp.

So – there you have it! If you have the skills and interest in one or more of the areas listed above, please contact CEO Dave DeLuca.

Camp Mason Board of Trustees

Tom Mason, President
Hopewell, NJ

Marty Birkenthal,
Vice President
New York, NY

Barbara Cooper,
Secretary
Basking Ridge, NJ

Dr. Michael Schwarz,
Treasurer
Scotch Plains, NJ

David Bath
Newtown, PA

James Jennings
Lawrenceville, NJ

John Katsock
Morrisville, PA

Chris Knigge
Princeton, NJ

Donna Marcks Line
Doylestown, PA

Daniel Robinson
Metuchen, NJ

Mark Thielmann
Princeton, NJ

Joseph Thompson, Sr.
Metuchen, NJ

Ed Vander Berg
Wantage, NJ

Emily Vickers
Hopewell, NJ

Kent Weber
Somerset, NJ

Dave DeLuca
CEO

It's All About the Kids!

To learn more about ways in which you can help us serve more kids – and to ensure that a Camp Mason experience is available to future generations – please visit our website and click on "Donate Now." Here you'll discover a number of options for your tax-deductible contribution.



I Can Help!

I want to help Camp Mason carry out its mission of building better kids, families and communities

- Attached is my current contribution
- Call me - I want to talk about a major gift
- I can help in other ways - please call me
- I plan to include Camp Mason in my estate

Name _____

Telephone # _____

Address _____

RETURN TO: Dave DeLuca, YMCA Camp Mason,
23 Birch Ridge Road, Hardwick, NJ 07825



MISSION

Through the transforming experience of outdoor camping – rich in bonding friendships, physical activity and fun – YMCA Camp Mason will lead youth, families and community to an awareness of our core traditions: environmental stewardship, spirituality and respect for our fellow man.

YMCA Camp Mason
YMCA Camp Seldon Shannon
Mason Outdoor Center

23 Birch Ridge Road
Hardwick, NJ 07825
908-362-8217
Fax 908-362-5767

www.CampMason.org

Camp Mason is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation. All contributions are fully tax deductible and go to program, facilities and scholarships that benefit the children directly.

Camp Mason through all and any of its programs serves all children and families on a first-come, first-serve basis, with out regard to race, religion, sex, national origin, economic situation or physical challenge. Families in need of financial assistance should contact the camp office for help and information.