



CAMP SLOANE YMCA



The Birchbark 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

CAMP SLOANE YMCA
124 Indian Mountain Rd, Lakeville, CT 06039
www.campsloane.org info@campsloane.org 860-435-2557

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What a year! We started out with designs of running only a day camp at Sloane because the state hadn't declared that sleep away camps could open in 2021. By the late Spring, permission was granted to open camps. We hustled to hire staff. We redesigned the camp program so it could be run with a pod system to minimize contact between groups.

There were plenty of challenges. With the borders closed, our usual contingent of international staff were unable to join us, many of whom were skilled returning staff. Food and trucking shortages across the country threatened our ability to serve meals. There were many COVID related protocols and practices which had to be followed by everyone from our youngest camper all the way up to our Nurses and administrative staff.

With all of the challenges we faced, we were still able to have a memorable summer. We hired a young American staff who rose to the challenge. The kids had fun, the staff were on their game and we were able to pull off a successful summer program. Our food service company adapted and overcame weekly and sometimes daily challenges to keep our campers and staff well fed. To top off this miraculous summer, we had no incidence of COVID at camp in 2021!

There was something else which helped us through this most trying year, our donors. In a time when things were so stressful and troubling for everyone, you chose to put others first. You truly exemplify the Camp Sloane Spirit and we are thankful for it.

As we look towards summer 2022, hope springs eternal. We have been able to hire internationals and many have already received their visas for this summer. We are nearly fully staffed for the summer. Camp is getting some much needed work done too. There will be new roofs on the Hiking Hootch, the library, the store, and the day camp cabin. New dining hall doors will be installed and there is a fresh coat of paint on the dining hall. Campers will be happy to see all new kayaks and three new sailboats at boating. We are also hoping that we'll be able to get our hands on a fleet of brand new mountain bikes this year.

Sadly, Camp Sloane lost a beloved and respected leader in 2021, Bob Ferguson. Bob was the Co-Executive Director with his wife Janet from 1983-1992. However, Bob's history with camp dates back to the 1940's when he was a camper. He served on staff in many capacities: as a counselor, Boy's Camp Director and even served as the camp's interim Executive Director in 1969. For many, Bob was Camp Sloane personified. He will be missed. We will be honoring Bob with a memorial service over Labor Day weekend.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead and hope that you will continue to support the great work we do at camp. If you'd like to speak with me, I'd love to hear from you. Give me a call anytime at (860) 435-2557.

In the Spirit of Camping,

Paul "Bear" Bryant
Executive Director/CEO
pbryant@campsloane.org



A LOOK BACK AT 2021

578
TOTAL
OVERNIGHT
CAMPERS

33
TIER 4
OVERNIGHT
CAMPERS

187
TIER 2 & 3
OVERNIGHT
CAMPERS

17
MILITARY
CAMPERS



296
INDIVIDUAL
DONORS

219
TOTAL
DAY
CAMPERS

49
TIER 2 & 3
DAY
CAMPERS

3
TIER 4
DAY
CAMPERS





A Message from the Board Chair

Dear Camp Sloane Family,

In 1943, Bitsie Thompson, my mom and the matriarch of the Thompson/Clark/Vines clan was sent to Camp Sloane and so began our family's Sloane journey. My parents were counselors. My uncles were campers and counselors. My cousins, my brother and I were campers and I was a counselor after my freshman year at college thanks to the great Bob Ferguson. My cousins' kids have attended Sloane as campers, counselors and even the head of Valley Camp [Boys+] (Yes, I am first cousin once removed to the great Malcolm Thompson!). My aunt and uncle served on the Board and today I currently serve with my cousin, former Board Chair Aitken Thompson. What is amazing about our story is not this laundry list of Sloane ties, it is that we are in no way unique!

Camp Sloane is a place that creates deep ties. There are so many families with generational ties to Sloane and so many families creating those ties as we speak. People have fallen in love at Sloane and gotten married. Babies have been born thanks to camp and some are even named Sloane. When I asked a friend to donate to Sloane she replied that she would gladly do it as Camp Sloane saved her kid's life. Her daughter is now an adult but I am sure that is the feeling many of our parents had this summer when a difficult year of lockdowns and remote schooling left kids in need of Camp Sloane like never before.

If there is one thing we know it is that EVERYBODY needs Camp Sloane and thanks to you, that is a reality for so many kids today. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for your commitment to this amazing place that we all like, love and adore. Without your love and support, Camp Sloane could not be what it is today.

In 1943 my mom went to Sloane and now 78 years later I become the first female Board Chair of Camp Sloane following in the footsteps of so many great people some who are still on the board today and some who we have recently lost. For some of you, Bob & Janet Ferguson ARE Camp Sloane and we lost one of the greats with Bob's death last year. We will be celebrating his life and legacy at Sloane at Family Camp this year so for those who loved Bob, please stay tuned for more information in the weeks and months to come on ways that you can celebrate this great man (and family!) and his contribution to Sloane.

Camp Sloane always has been and always will be a place for everyone. Whether you have just arrived or your have been here forever, on behalf of the staff, campers and an amazingly passionate and dedicated Board of Directors – WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, WE ARE SO HAPPY YOU ARE HERE!

Sincerely,

Mary Clark Vines
Chair, Camp Sloane Board of Directors
maryvines@yahoo.com



2021 LIST OF DONORS

Benefactors \$10,000 and above

Robert & Virginia Angilello

Patricia Broadbent

Harold and Margaret Sackett Trust
c/o James Holden

Founders \$5,000 and above

Jim and Jeffy Benedict

Birch Sirignano Family

Jeff Fee

Seven Stars Foundation

Chair's Roundtable \$1,000 and above

Andrew and Caroline Breslin

William Bryant

Paul (Bear) and Allison Bryant

Rosemary Bryant

Cerelle Centeno

Salisbury Bank and Trust Co.

Sarah Dean

Eric Eve

Janet Ferguson

Mark Giancola and Ning Pan

Monica Jaehnig

Eiichiro Kuwana

Luke and Caroline Laumann

Alan Lewis

Gina Lucas

Bruce MacDonald

Rhino Merrick

Bill and Kathy Schneider

George & Anne Thom

Aitken Thompson & Ilze Thielmann

Mary Vines

Edward and Catherine Woolston

Barbara Zinman

Theresa Zoro

Susanna Zwerling

Campfire Circle \$500 and above

Justin and Anna Beeber

Chris and Stephanie Bell

Ward Dennis

Deborah Eisser

Eric and Stephanie Ferguson

Olga Sunden

Alison Giovanni

Erik and Kathryn Hanson

Courtney Hodapp

Maulik and Emilie Joshi

Mara Kaplan

Matthew Fritz and Pauline Leung

Adele Myers

Helen Nurse

Catherine O'Connor

Clare Rashkoff

Joe Stella

Ben Taylor

David and Tetyana Tisch

Mathew and Patricia White

Dan and Cindy Wickstrom

Sloane Circle \$250 and above

Carrie Anderson

Lloyd Baroody

Chris and Stephanie Bell

Cindy Belmore

Maggie Black

Jesse Carrier

Anonymous

Fred Jr. and Janet Fagal

Catherine Fraise

Kelly Hayes

Adam Janaway

Amanda Kauff Jacobson and Blair Jacobson

Arlene Johnson

Donald Kirby

Marie Kirk

Adam Kirschenbaum and Susan Orr

Sean Crnkovich and Karin Kringen

Mark Lee
Linda McCarthy-Tropeano
Jonathan Raiola
Marc Schauer
John Van Steen

Ernest Levinson
Jesse Carrier and Mara Miller
Geoffrey and Debra Ramsey
Karen Thompson
David Wright

Anthony Marinello
Emily Poulin
Heidi Reineke-Kelsey
Catherine Van Steen
Linda Yates

Friends Circle \$100 and above

Nicola Atherstone
Karen Berger
Marin Blake
Sam and Shannon Caspersen
Frances Clark
Fiona Cull
Rachel Dean
Annette Doskow
Nicolas Entel
Stephen and Elizabeth Fearnley
Leslie Gallagher
Jill Gregory
Catrina Hays
Antonino Jimenez
Dr. and Mrs. Michael K. Kauff
Andrew Keener
Sue Koonce
Stephen Lando
Thomas and Wendy Lincoln
Kara Manna
Stephen and Katherine McHale
Helene Minton
Holly Moton
Scott Neumann
John O'Neill & Allegra Blackburn-Dwyer
Jan Peck
Bob and Emily Peruzzi
Richard Preiss
Lisa Reed
Portia Sabin
Thomas Sawyer
Harvey Schussler

Walter Barnie
Margaret Bergstrom
Robin Kleuber
Elliot Piatetsky
Dan Cohen
Linda Danforth
Jennifer Donnolo
Christine Elia
Rachel Epstein
Mark Schleinitz and Melissa Fischer
Jennifer Geddes
Victoria Guisinger
Benjamin Welch and Natalie Herron
Jillian Joseph
Nancy Kaufman Panagacos
Jean-Michel Kientz
Bruce Kunzmann
Bill and Ann Leviness
Valerie Makin
Chris Russell and Merrilee Mardon
David and Regina McKie
Lorraine Mitchell
Annie Muzaurieta
Andrew Norris
Paula Orkin
Kenneth Peirce
Gerald and Nina Piper
Bettina Prentice
Susan Repoli
Sally Sands Marvin George
Frederick Schneider
Darius Shirzadi

Mike and Betsy Beck
Robert & Cheryl Billinger
Nonie Brzyski
Catherine Chatham
Mitchell Cohen
Jamie Dannhauser
Jennifer Dorfmann
Chris and Gina Enock
Diana Estwick
Leon Frankel
Eduardo Gomez
Heather Hahn
Catarina Quinzii
Phyllis Joslin
Janet Keating
Elliot Schwartz and Carole Kiser
Terra Kushner
Eva Liao
Tom and Rachel Maniatis
Sophie Martin
Ted and Angela Michaels
Robert Morrison
Ann Myers
Penelope Nyburg
Steven Orova & Paula Colagrossi
Renee Perroncel
Brian and Sara Poulter
Catarina Quinzii
Jessica Rodriguez
Jonathan Satriale
Zvia Schoenberg
Laine Siklos

Mike and Theresa Simaitis
Theresa Sturley
Virginia Thorp
Mahlet Tsegaye
Christopher and Jackie Vigilante
Mary Watros
Sarah Wright

Kiersten Skog
Josh Engelman and Eve Teipel
David Timberger
John Van Steen
Lauren Volkmer
Martin Weaver
Deborah Wurgler

Steven Huang and AJ Stack
Claudia Tesoro
Debbie Torley
Carolyn Vaughan
Anne Wall
Sarah Wolf
Heidi Zafran

\$99 and below

John Ball
Sharon Bolton
Caroline Brigham
Andrew and Erin Castle
Gillian Conroy
Rick Devine
Daniella Edwards
Ray Escalante

Ridgely Ficks
Eric Fleisig
Doug and Kim Glickman
Tom Harper
Sarah Hines
Chuck and Brenda Jablonski
Frederica Jerril
Sarah Jones
Jonathan Chan and Christine Leahy
Daniel Lorio
Amy Maggio
Steven Marotta
Chris Antonelli and Geneva Morris
Deborah Nicolson
Kaari Pitkin
Brad Smyth and Rachel Schneider
Lora Seward
Stephen Schulz and Melanie Smith
Malcolm Thompson
Anjaneya Joshi and Denise Tomasini
Emily Villatoro
Christine Zoro

Todd and Helena Barnes
Sam Boykin
Kristen Burke
Suzanne Cerone
Claudia DeMegret
James Drinane
Emily Einhorn
Peter Falion and Elizabeth Tannenbaum
Steve and Laurence Fiehl
Danielle Francoline
Mary Grayson
Riley Hart
Barbara Hockstader
Lesley Janzen
Jonathan Johnson
Bonnie King
Scott Levy
Gordon Macdougall
Alexis Mainland
Carly McDade
Carolyn Nalbandian Johnson
Alice Ott
Jordan Pollinger & Alison Conn
Beverly Selmeski
Bill Shapiro
Gretchen Swarr
Johnny Marsh and Jessica Thornton
Adam Trzaskos
Mary Wheeler
Kevin Zaragoza & Remy Shaber

Deb Bloomhuff
Denise Bricker
Steve Canale
Cyrus Clark
Maricelle Denny
Elizabeth Echevarria
Serianne Entel
Nicole Feliciano

Joshua Raff and Michele Fillion
Jim Gardner and Sarah Reilly
Johanne Hagan
Patrick and Martina Henry
IBM
Jim Bassett and Bree Jeppson
Christina Johnson
Susan Lazorchick
Ben Nachumi and Susannah Lipsyte
Danielle Mackey
Ruth Mariampolski
Melissa Miller
Michael and Vanessa Neithardt
Christopher Pappas
Sharon Rivilli
Susan Senk
Meghan Sivesind
Luke Tani
John Tilley
Kate Tucci
Lauren Whittaker

ALUMNI NEWS

BOB FERGUSON CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Join us on Saturday September 3rd to celebrate the life and career of Sloane legend Bob Ferguson

Click [HERE](#) to register.

(You do not need to be registered for Family Camp to attend, simply select the 'Bob Ferguson Celebration of Life' session under the Family Camp tab)



Register as a Sloane Alumni

Join our Alumni database to be kept up to date with all future camp news and information - register [HERE](#).

We also have an [Alumni Facebook group](#) where you can connect with fellow Sloanians!

ALUMNI PROFILE - MATHEW WHITE

Mat grew up in Easton, CT - a small town located 60 miles south of Lakeville, CT. He first visited camp one muddy weekend in the spring of 1993. He tagged along while his parents brought his older brother to Sloane for a tour. By the end of their visit, one thing was clear: Mat desperately wanted to attend Camp Sloane, even though his parents felt he was too young. After lots of convincing, his parents came around to the idea of sending their seven-year-old to sleep away camp (he turned eight at camp). From 1993-1999 he attended Sloane, spending the first three years as a Pio! He was planning to work at camp during the summer of 2000, but a fractured collar bone kept him home.

The time he spent at camp was wonderful! He recalls running around the A-field, building suits of armor out of plastic planters and rivets, learning to waterski, going on countless hikes, competing in the Iron Man competition at the lake, taking the funyaks out, and so much more. The time he spent at camp was wonderful! He recalls running around the A-field, building suits of armor out of plastic planters and rivets, learning to waterski, going on countless hikes, competing in the Iron Man competition at the lake, taking the funyaks out, and so much more. Believe it or not, although he didn't know it at the time, he would meet his future wife (Patty) at Camp during the summer of 1996. Amazed by her soccer skills on the girl's A-Field during a coed evening activity, he eventually built up the courage to ask her to the square dance.

Over the coming years, Mat and Patty attended camp, often during different sessions. Occasionally they were campers during overlapping sessions. Eventually, they ran into one another during the summer of 2002, in her hometown of Fairfield, CT. They eventually started dating and married in June 2009.

During this time, Mat joined the US Navy as a Corpsman. He spent 5 years on active duty, deploying to Afghanistan shortly after their wedding in 2009, until spring of 2010. There, he was embedded with a NATO multinational surgical unit, providing surgical care to anyone harmed as a result of the war. His time in the service earned him many medals and the opportunity to meet two presidents!

After Navy life, Mat attended The George Washington University's school of public health where he studied Exercise Science, with a focus on studying medicine. After graduation, he continued to follow his passion of working in surgery by studying to become a Surgical First Assistant. Currently, he works for John's Hopkins Medicine, at a community hospital in Bethesda, MD. He lives in northern Virginia with his beautiful wife, Patty, and their two amazing daughters, Sloane (10) and Allison (7). In his free time, he enjoys playing ice hockey, coaching youth lacrosse, and using his hands to build & create.

Fun fact - Mat's daughter, Sloane, attended camp for the first time in 2021! After quickly getting over her homesickness, she met countless friends and had an amazing time. She's looking forward to continuing the family legacy at camp and hopes that her little sister will join her in the coming years.