

## Emails to the Deerwood website – 2005-2007

Deerwood was one of the best things that ever happened in my life: a chance to perform great music, be in plays, develop wonderful friendships, learn from good teachers. It was the dream of Sherwood Kains to expose children to the classical music literature and I believe he succeeded beyond his wildest dreams. My family has summered in the Adirondacks for 5 generations and our summer home on Lake Clear is just 2 miles from the former site of Deerwood. I would love to hear from former campers and have always hoped to have a reunion before we are all gone! I can be contacted at [tweraser@uark.edu](mailto:tweraser@uark.edu). Gene Cohen Tweraser ("Squeeky")

As a young kid I studied with Agi Jambor who wanted to take me to Europe for concert tours. At the camp I began as an accompanist and just a few short years later I joined at age 16 the Juilliard accompanying staff. My wife Sally and I now live in Newcomb NY and I direct concerts in the Lake Placid Synagogue and we are a lot of the time in Saranac Lake and we walk the town and see the old places of my youth. Never did I dream as a ten year old that I would live so close and be in town again, and go to shul so close to the camp I loved. Sherwood Kains was a big influence and I later was Choirmaster of the Hartford Symphony Chorale. Kol Rinah Chorale and became Director of Music, choirs and Senior Organist of Temple Beth Israel of West Hartford CT. Met wonderful people and musicians at the camp and would love to attend a get-together. Where can we have it, when?

Herbert Chatzky

I can't believe I finally found a DEERWOOD site! Looking thru the '52 catalog I see all the dear folks, all the great activities. Squeeky Cohen, of course I remember you, and your mom and sister, and your sweet father and Blue Bay. Sherwood stomping his foot to keep Bob Wolferstieg on tempo in choir practice! The 4-day canoe trips! Bill "Shlunk" Spinnenweber, who died in a construction accident long ago but is never forgotten. Helene Shifrin's magnificent contralto voice and beloved friendship. Hartford and his early morning trumpet (when he didn't get up, I got to do reveille!) and Tillie, and Dick Westrich -- and the Stovalls, and PT, Victor Laderoute ("the best tones come from the buttocks!")! Donnie and Esta, and Pearl Lang, and little Bruce Marks leaping across the stage with such incredible grace. So much great dance and music (I hear the Naenie, and the Academic Festival Overture in my dreams) and so many great friends -- Mark and Bonnie Rubenstein, where ARE you? Ada and Jimmy and Karl -- all the sweet Pittsburgh buddies! One summer in the 60's I went to the campsite with my husband and kids, and stood on that great empty "front lawn" looking at the pine trees where Main House once stood, and then went down to the leaning-over-the-lake birch where I used to daydream (the one in front of the infirmary) and lay along its old trunk and wept for our long-ago wonderful summers. My tears were also in gratitude -- whoever once had the Deerwood experience has a heart's treasure for life. God bless everyone. Johanna Sawyer Seth

Does anyone recall a young lady named Gabriella Goth? Was a good singer-would be fun to find her after many decades. I see on the Deerwood site someone mention Victor

Laderoute- I knew him many years later when I was Professor of Piano and Accompanying at Hartt college of Music. Joe and I gave many concerts together. Tragically, his demise was not nice nor reputable.  
herb chatzky

Hey all you guys checking in at this Deerwood site -- PLEASE put your e-mail address in your notes. How else can your friends get in touch? HERB CHATZKY -- Helene Shifrin remembers you fondly. She's a rabbi/cantor in White Plains, NY. We both have good memories of Victor Laderoute. Please email me and expand on your comment re his death. I hope he did not suffer a long illness. Do you remember Barbara Sears, his wife? And do you remember Bob Wolferstieg? DAVID STOVALL -- thanks for your note. Why not post a note here at the site for your old friends? And let people know your e-mail address! Do you have any news of another Cincinnati buddy, Dick Westrich? SQUEEKY COHEN -- bless you for working on a reunion and helping people get in touch with each other!)  
Johnnie Sawyer (Seth)

Can't believe it's the first time I've checked the website since I sat down at the Adirondack Museum 2 summers ago and typed in my message. It's so good to know that others feel the same way about Deerwood. Has anyone got ideas about how to organize a reunion? My sister Karen and I have had this idea for years but at the rate we're going we'll all be in wheelchairs before it happens. Please e-mail me with your ideas about how to organize something. We are 2 miles down the road from Deerwood most of the summer so we can do a lot but not all of it. Hope to hear from some of you.  
Gene "Squeeky" Tweraser

Hello out there. I just discovered this site - it's late in the day and I'm still working. I have a thousand memories of Deerwood. I'm ecstatic at the thought of possibly connecting to people who is never should have let out of my life. Hi Squeeky - how could anyone forget you. I see Steve Klasky every five years at the Columbia College reunion. Dick Klafter recently emerged; and I've been Barbara Sprung Wilkes' friend since I was 7 and she was 6 and we studied with the same music teacher. Sid Rothstein is a prominent conductor of some regional orchestras - I'll grab his website for next time. Arthur Rubenstein and I are in infrequent touch. I'm sure I'll think of more when I really have the time for a long letter. Meanwhile I live on Manhattan's upper West Side. Three grown kids, three grandkids; hardbody kickboxing wife Still a kid myself. I love all of you.  
More soon.  
David Rosen

Hello out there all. Johnny, do you still have your silver Benge? I've been in touch with Dave Rosen and his thumb has healed which means he has no more excuses when performing Mendelssohn. I've also had ongoing correspondance with Barbara (Sprung) Wilkes. In addition I've youched base several times with Craig Hodgetts who has become a cutting-edge architect in LA (the recent Hollywood Bowl makeover). I've been in LA since 1980, scoring film and TV and forming Symphony In the Glen, a non-profit that presents free symphony concerts in LA's Griffith park. We're starting our eleventh year. I

have so many Deerwood recollections, including uncomfortable mountain climbs, young romances, trying to sing Bach, trying to understand French-Canadian...but my most vivid memory is sitting on the new stage, being baked by the sun, playing in the orchestra (French Horn) for what has to have been the silliest performance of Beethoven's Ninth on record. What persuaded Pearl Lang that history would not be complete without a choreographed last movement only God and Sherwood can say. (Sherwood always had the last word).

Arthur Rubinstein

From time to time, I have thought about the two summers that I spent at Deerwood and how it helped to change my life. When Barbara Sprung gave me the web site and it was certainly a blast from the past. I have been in touch with Barbara, David Rosen, and Sid Rothstein and have followed the careers of Arty Rubenstein and Eliot Feld. What did Deerwood and Sherwood Kains mean to me? Well, when I went to Deerwood, it was as a clarinetist and I quickly found out that what the world didn't need was a mediocre clarinet player. However, as an orchestra member, I was "forced" to participate in chorus every evening and because of Sherwood, learned excellent choral singing techniques. For the last 33 years, I have been a member of the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia and also the Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia, both semi-professional symphonic choruses. This has given me the opportunity to perform with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, and Reading Symphony Orchestra as well as a number of regional orchestras. I have been fortunate enough to perform under the direction of Ricardo Muti, Charles Dutoit, Zubin Meta, Eugene Ormandy, James Levine, & Claudio Abbado to name but few AND I owe it all to Sherwood! Choral singing has always been an important part of my life and now that I am retired (42 years of university teaching - Electrical Engineering), it is even more important. A Deerwood reunion would be fun and if Squeaky (I remember the name and I think that our attendance overlapped) is acting as a coordinator, that would be great. I'd like to hear from people who might have been at Deerwood in 1953 & 1954.

DICK KLAFTER

What a wonderful surprise to find this website and the opportunity to find old friends and relive the experiences of the four best summers of my life. (1951-1954) Thank you "Squeaky Gene" for getting the ball rolling. When I think of Deerwood, I remember good friends, many of whom have had and are successful in the careers they set out to accomplish as early as our Deerwood years. Sherwood Kains offered us learning and performing opportunities that influenced so many of our lives. For me, he granted me the opportunity to appear, not once but twice, as soloist with the orchestra in 1951 and 1953. And--where else would I have had the chance to sing the wonderful choral works that we were "forced" to participate in that to this day, I love each and everyone of them when I hear them. For the past 38 years, home has been in Novato, California, 40 minutes from San Francisco. I have three grown children and five grandchildren. Since losing my husband 4 1/2 years ago, I have recently gone back to serious piano work and performing after more than 40 years in which I taught instrumental music; conducted semi-professional opera and was involved in a variety of other projects but only now have I found the time and the inspiration to return to my passion. I would love to hear from

anyone who remembers me from summers past.  
Barbara Sprung Wilkes

Artie Rubenstein! I recall that performance of the Ninth -- and the dancers! But don't forget, we were witnessing greatness in the making -- that as a baby Eliot Feld leaping away on our newly carpentered stage! And how could you possibly remember that I played a beloved silver Benge? No, I do not still have it, alas. The husband of my first (disastrous, sorry to say) marriage was a really bad trumpet player who coveted that horn and finally persuaded me to make him a gift of it. Come to think of it, that was probably a big reason why he married me! Oh well, we all have our dark patches. I'm thrilled to be hearing from Squeakie, and now to be in touch with Bonnie and Mark, the Rubenstein kids (will always think of them that way!) Davie Stovall, and Karl Egerman. This site is a real blessing! Does anyone remember a one-character one-act performed in Boathouse by, I think it might have been Jeannie Segal, called "Hello, Out There"??? Well, HELLO, OUT THERE! and God bless us, every one! --Johnnie  
Johnnie Sawyer (Seth)

Today is March 24, 2005. Over 50 years ago, I was a junior counselor at a sports camp somewhere in Ohio. I was miserable. My parents must have sensed this (of course, reading my letters to them telling them how miserable I was probably gave them this insight, DAH!) so they yanked me out of there and sent me to Deerwood. It probably impacted me more than any other single event in my life. There are so many good memories of Deerwood, and the wonderful people there who made an impact on my life. Like Rose Bampton, the world famous operatic soprano, who gave me voice lessons. (I once asked her for her opinion: "Miss Rose, do you think I could make it as an opera singer?" I think I was all of 15. She took a long time to answer....OK, so I'll go to medical school, and forget a musical career!!) And there was her delightful, impish husband, much older and much smaller than she, Wilfred Pelletier, an opera conductor, who coached us thru scenes from La Traviata, and La Boheme. Donnie McCail, a magnificent dancer, who stayed at our home in Pittsburgh when he came to perform there. And Ethan and Fredda Stang; We are still friends after all these years, and we have dinner together in Pittsburgh when we visit there. And Mark Rubenstein, a fellow (retired) pediatrician. We have seen each other occasionally since camp. And Phil Eisenberg. We visited him in San Francisco when he was a prompter there for the San Francisco Opera; he also came to Birmingham, Alabama to see us about 15 years ago. And just recently, I have renewed a long lost friendship with Johnnie Sawyer (Seth), one of the more energetic, and lovable of my fellow campers. And Ada Joseph (Brandegge) who still lives in Pittsburgh. But I wonder what has become of so many of the wonderful people who were there, like Barbara Altman, whose family owned the dress shop in Saranac Lake, and who had perfect pitch; Zita Skavniky, Debbie Schimmel, Jeannie Segal, Pete LeRocco, and so many more. Just a brief note about me since Deerwood. Medical school, practice in Birmingham, retired to Hollywood, Florida. What am I doing in retirement? Playing principal clarinet in the Hallandale Symphonic Pops Orchestra, and managing and playing piccolo in the Sunrise Symphonic Pops. To what do I attribute my musical activities in retirement? Deerwood, of course. Yes, a reunion is in order. I will help. Surely there must be a list of names that we can start with. So we need to

spread the word of this web site to everyone we can think of who was at Deerwood, and assemble their names, e mails, phone numbers, etc. And where should we hold this reunion? How about Major's? Didn't we sneak off to there to drink beer? And did it never fail that Sherwood Kains would always walk in? Fabulous events contributing to a most unusual, dynamic, life-altering experience. That is my memory of Deerwood.  
Karl Egerman

To what do I owe my presence on this web site? To my cousin, Barbara Sprung Wilkes, my indefatigable cousin whose name appears all over this site. She called me and told me about it so naturally, I had to put in my two cents worth. Yes, Deerwood was an important part of my musical genesis and I remember it fondly. Helene Schifrin greeted me warmly when I first arrived and we became friends, although have not remained in touch often since. I also remember Joyce Baron and her twin brother (whose name I forget). Perhaps Herb Chatzky rings a bell. Did you also play the horn there, Herb? Sid Curtis (who had a different name then, but I can't remember it) - he went on to the Philadelphia Orchestra's viola section. I remember Joe Kovacs and Milton Briggs, the horn teacher who was appalled by my Sansone 5-valve B-flat horn (which I gave up decades ago)but recommended me for an award at the end of camp because I could transpose horn in G (to his surprise) for the second horn part of the Haydn Symphony #88. Then there was transposing a bassoon part for the Verdi Requiem because we didn't have four bassoons in camp. I also remember the "forced" choral attendance which turned out to be a great experience (to my surprise) and gave me the ability to sight sing I might not have had. There were some wonderful orchestra conductors the years I was there. Richard Karp, who also conducted opera in Pittsburgh and whom I played for when I later became principal horn of the Pittsburgh Symphony; Nicholas Harsanyi who was conductor of the Princeton Symphony when I was a grad student there. I remember Ethan Stang who had just gotten married to Fredda when I went to Deerwood and was the piccolo player of the Pittsburgh Symphony. He and I became colleagues later when I was in the Pittsburgh Symphony. My life has been in music ever since. After Pittsburgh, I taught at Wichita State University for three years, then went to California where I taught at Sonoma State University, then California State University, Hayward. In 1973 I became one of the San Francisco Opera's two co-principal horns (a position I still hold - I return in the Spring for the end of the current season and start the Fall Season in August) and in 1976, principal horn of the San Francisco Ballet. I retired from the Ballet in 2000 and became Professor Emeritus of Music at Hayward in 1992. I have so many memories of Deerwood, some funny, some weird, but regret to say that I'm not nearly as good as my cousin Barbara in keeping with old friends and doing the "nostalgia" thing. Still, if anyone wants to reach me, they are more than welcome. I'm in Florida six months of the year and San Francisco the other six months (as long as my lip holds out).  
David Sprung

What my life would have been like without Deerwood I can hardly imagine. I spent three summers with Jo Uris. Joined The All City Chorus with Barbara Sprung. Visited with Bruce Marks and all the pear Lang dancers while i was in college. Lou frederichs who woke us all up every morning greeted me when i arrived at College and took me to my first football game. Traveled to philadelphia to Judy Kaplans famous party Went to my

Senior Prom with sid Rothstein Went out New years eve to the met with Sy Hirsch to see FLEDERMAUS Kept up a wonderful relationship with Mark Watkins Watched Bruce honored by City Center My friend Shirley Frummer married the son of a musician and lives in Manhattan saw Wagner at The Met with Vicky Brecher Went out to dinner in New York with "Pinky Strickler" and her mom. Last saw Bev Brooks at Laurel Lentchners party. Laurel is married to a doctor and lives in Maryland. Mark Watkins is a Math Professor at Syracuse. We kept in touch while he was at Amherst and I was at Cornell. Barbara Sprung Dave Rosen Remember Earle? Norma Hansburg

Wow! I never saw anything on Deewood on the internet before tonight! I read what you all wrote about Deerwood and my father. I am the younger of Sherwood and Noie's two daughters - the one who sucked her thumb! You all mentioned the profound effect Deerwood had on you all and as for me it did the same for different reasons. There is a saying I've heard from my Catholic friends - "If the Jesuits get you before you are seven, they have you for life." It is an imprinting or bonding thing and that is what happened to me at Deerwood. My whole life was a search for the richness of the balsam fur forest and the birch trees besides mountain lakes and the understanding of the natural world. I studied music my whole life too, but became a conservation biologist, an educator/professor at Columbia University and other universities in the USA and Canada. I also studied theology and have found in my own theology what is most akin to that of native people. This is in no small part because Sherwood took me over to the Six Nations Museum at Onchiota (left on Harriestown Road at the soft ice cream stand) to sit with Ray Fadden, Scottish Mohawk of the Bear Clan and he told me stoy after story that drew me deeper and deeper into Red America. Today I run a nonprofit that I founded to work with Crazy Horse's people on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation of South Dakota and have been going there for the last 20 years. I also have my father's 1756 violin made in Rome by Jacobus Horel and another violin upon which I play the Scottish music of my ancestors. Did you know that Sherwood was the great-great grandson of the last chief of Clan MacMillan, after the English crushed the Highlanders at the Battle of Culloden Moor in Scotland. That chief brought three shiploads of Highlanders to Canada in 1802, all relatives, to escape the reprisals of "The Butcher of Scotland," son of the English King? Sherwood also was descended from MacBeth, King of SCots, and the Celtic Bishop of Dunkeld in the 12th Century. The records are in our clan centre in Scotland and today I work with our Clan Chief in uniting the clan worldwide, through our Community of the Tonsured Servant. No wonder he loved the mountains, with his strong Highland blood. And that's where the music in him came from too! When my father died, on December 27th, it was the worst day of my life because our huge extended family of the Kainses and Dashes did not get together and we eventually never saw them until just a few years ago, when I reconnected with some cousins. My mother, Noie (Eleanore Larkby Purcell - remarried a physicist with the Air Force in Dayton, OH) died January 8, 2003. She always talked about people from Deerwood so much so that I knew the stories, even though I was too young to remember some of the people in the stories. We visited Deerwood people my whole life and can safely say that Deerwood was extremely memorable for me and directed the rest of my life in some strange way. I always returned to the Adirondacks to camp and hike and take my two small sons to listen to Ray Fadden

of the Mohawk Bear Clan. If any of you want to have a reunion, let me know. I was looking into having a reunion for my Kains cousins and got to know the people who run the Sunday Pond B&B next to Deerwood. My cousin Grace Kains Lamica bought a piece of Deerwood and lives across the road from the old entrance to the camp. Dick Lyons, the proprietor of the B&B graciously offered to have an outdoor meal served (a barbecue) for our reunion (which I haven't done yet) so it may be a good place to have an event and some of you could stay there. I have even met the people who own the houses that are on Deerwood property. I have returned again and again to walk on the land there throughout the years, and realize how strongly I imprinted to nature, to that habitat and to Indian associations. Please let me know if you have a reunion. I'd love to meet you all and hear stories of my father that you may have. I was only six when he died but he was a memorable person for me. Susan MacMillan Kains

Hello all. It occurred to me that next year ('07) will mark the 50th anniversary of Deerwood's closing perhaps a reunion is in order!

Arthur B. Rubinstein

Hooray Deerwoodians! I love you all! Thanks for the beautiful memories and for an incredible tug on my heartstrings. fifty years ago during my Deerwood experience (1954-56) I learned about belonging, tolerance, and hard work. I gained life-guiding values for all that is beautiful on God's earth, and, my greatest joys continue to be my family, music, and nature. For this I thank God and my Uncle Sherwood - the big guy in the red buffalo plaid shirt who immortalized, "hubba-hubba-hubba." Hello Squeaky - Thanks for getting us together, and Johnnie Sawyer - you sound as delightful as I remember you. Artie Rubinstein - a "lefund" as a young romantic - your surrent pursuits sound wonderful. Karl Egerman - majors is no more but we must still get together. sorry to inform that Barbara Attman passed away sadly several years ago. My cousin buried her lovingly with her red Deerwood sash. I called Dick Klafter - in my Philadelphia area and we reminisced fondly without knowing each other. Just to touch on a few of my favorite memories of summer at Deerwood: Lou Fredericks' breathless TAPS at night Flag Raising - white birches in the morning mist softball games on the front lawn (a few ouches) "Rouge" canoes in lower boathouse (and snack bar) Toni Cooke dancing Ravel's Pavanne 4 day Canoe trip with (Sgt.) Pete Larocca and "Bear" Lou in the stern of my canoe Wednesday night at majors Practice pianos everywhere - so God could listen. We absolutely need to have a get together. There is a retirement village in Saranac Lake that I'm pursuing for a possible reunion weekend in the middle of this summer. Stay in touch and save "gas money". I have an open heart and house for all of you. Let's talk and jump on this while we still can. Anxious to hear from anybody, Love Cecilia Dash  
Cecilia Dash

I now know that I attended only one summer before the camp closed. How sad. I remember no hot water that summer and I was very unhappy. Danced joyously with Joyce Trisler and played piano under someone whose name I do not recall, but Squeaky I do remember as my counselor (?) CIT(?) and Ellen Fine. My bunk name: Paderewski.  
Maida Feingold

I think it's been a year since I checked the site. Just finished crying when I read what Susan and Cecelia had written. I had tried to find Noie a few years ago but didn't get to contact her in time. Please, let's have a reunion. Cecelia, if you can get something organized this summer, maybe just even in a small way, I will help however I can. I will be at our camp, Balsam Bay, on Lake Clear from 7/5-8/15, except for 7/26-29. Perhaps we can follow up on Artie's suggestion and have a bigger reunion next summer, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the last summer. Let's get working on it.:-) Gene "Squeaky" Tweraser

Its been quite a while since I checked the site. Since then I have talked to Barbara Sprung several times and exchanged emails with Mark Watkins who promised faithfully to post something to this site. I have at least two dozen wonderful pictures taken that memorable summer and some from our New York Reunion in Feb 54. Not sure how to post them to the site. I think a reunion would be a great idea. I stil have my red sash with everybodys signatures on it. Also have a few dozen letters from: Sy Hirsch, Sid Rothstein, Curt Waterman, Pinky Strickler and Mark Watkins that would make all of you remember "The Sound Of Music"  
norma hansburg

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