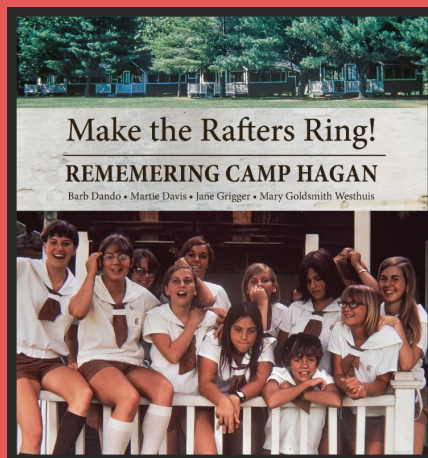




Hagan Newsletter September 2015 Visit CampHagan.com

21 days to go, but who's counting

Make the Rafters Ring! Remembering Camp Hagan With a Foreword by Lyn Brandt Barr



A new book on Hagan will be on sale at the September 22-24, 2015 reunion for \$30. As a way to help preserve the habitat that is similar to the habitat surrounding Hagan, 100% of the proceeds generated from the reunion book sales will be donated to **The Nature Conservancy of PA.** You will be able to make a check out directly to The Nature Conservancy PA or donate online. Additional inquiries about the book should be directed to Martie Davis, marthadavis2@me.com

Are you interested in purchasing a copy of *Make the Rafters Ring*?
[Click here to let us know.](#)

<><><><><><>

As part of its plan to establish the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area, the

United States government acquired properties along a thirty-mile stretch of the Delaware River bordered by Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Camp Hagan, a Lutheran camp for girls located north of Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pennsylvania, was demolished in the mid-1970s to facilitate clearing land for the national park.

The authors of ***Make the Rafters Ring! Remembering Camp Hagan*** felt the need to keep their camp alive by creating a memoir that revives camp experiences and reverence for a uniquely special place. The memoir includes a description of Camp Hagan's setting, past and present, camper and counselor life, a myriad of camp activities, special events and traditions. Appendices incorporate a Hagan Songbook, camp trivia, and a visual archive of camp murals and old postcards. The appendices also provide information about affiliate "river camps," Camp Miller, Hagan's "brother camp," and Camp Ministerium, and the subsequent relocation of Miller to the Hagan site and the eventual relocation of all three camps to Bear Creek Camp outside of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

The members of the team, scattered across three states and separated by almost 700 miles, relied upon 21st century technologies for meetings and communication. We assembled for our first official teleconference in late December 2014 and began planning the story we wanted to tell and how we wanted to tell it. We recognized quickly that we had a set of complementary skills and were a good match of personalities.

The target audience for ***Make the Rafters Ring!*** is anyone who has a connection to Camp Hagan and the other river camps -- our Camp Miller brothers, the Camp Miller-Hagan alumni, the small Camp Ministerium contingent that has reconnected, as well as alumni of Bear Creek Camp. The volume should also appeal to individuals and organizations interested in the history of the Delaware River Valley. We especially hope to evoke fond memories of "The River Camps" for all those still around to remember them, and to our contemporaries who attended other camps during the same era.

Copies of the book will be donated to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Park Archives, the Monroe County Historical Society, Bear Creek Camp and the Archives of the Lutheran Ministerium of Eastern Pennsylvania. Our mission includes leaving a legacy of information for those who follow. We want to pass along the heritage of this land that the National Park Service now maintains, the rich traditions of Camp Hagan and the perspectives of four women who came of age during the mid-twentieth century.

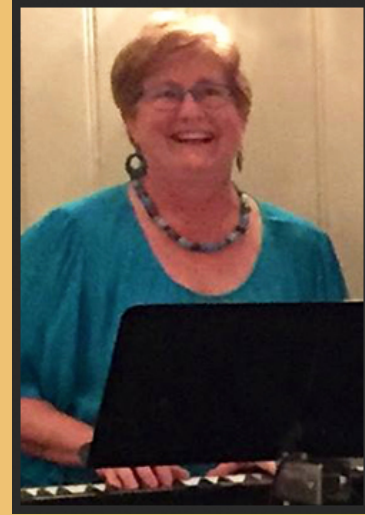
Barb Dando, Hagan 1961-1967
Martie Davis, Hagan 1956-1967
Jane Grigger, Hagan 1965-1969

What's This Singing Thing All About?

Dotty Watson Westgate

Hagan 1961-1970; Miller-Hagan 1971-1973

It was a Lutheran camp. It was a sports camp. It was a singing camp! We sang a lot--before, during, and after all three meals, around campfires, during competitions, hikes, evening vespers, Sunday church services, and evening entertainment. Even if the entertainment for the evening had no singing in it, there was always the send-off, "Now run along home, and jump into bed, say your prayers, and cover your head....", which served as a winding-down and a shared focus on what was next. Sleep. Dreaming. Leaving the assemblage to break off into separate cabins, but with the suggestion that we might still be together in our dreams: "You dream of me, and I'll..... dream..... of..... you."



**Dotty Watson Westgate
will be a co-Song Leader
at the reunion**

Singing together was absorbing and joyous. It was therapeutic, calming, challenging, energizing! It fought boredom, fear, loneliness, even pain. It brought us together in ways that no other activity could do.

There were a huge variety of songs sung at camp. There were the rah-rah Hagan songs, which created camp spirit ("Ours is the best camp in the land, ask us and we'll tell you so..."); the generic friendship songs, which emphasized a sense of togetherness ("the more we get together, together, together..."); the sentimental songs, for those times when you were feeling in need of a good cry ("mmm-mmm I wanna linger, mm-mm-mm a little longer..."); the ridiculously silly songs, good for a shared laugh ("one elephant went out to play on a spider's web one day..."); pep songs, to call upon a shared goal to conjure up more endurance in competitions ("Go, Army, go!")

I remember one miserable canoe trip when there was a cold rain and a strong, mean headwind. The water was choppy and we were exhausted. We managed to pass the time and keep going by composing a work song together, as people have done for hundreds of years, describing the difficulties ("...the headwinds are strong....") and

proclaiming our strength ("...but we're always happy and we're always gay, keeping up the spirit on the Milford way. Stroke, paddle, stroke, paddle.....")

So that's what it was all about. Spirit!

And the Hagan Torch Gets Passed to a New Generation

Nancy Atkiss Haring, Hagan 1961-1966

Like many of us, I have made a point of passing along Hagan traditions to my kids and Grandkids. Taylor and Katie love to sing Camp Hagan songs with their Nana. "When we stay overnight, we each pick a song to sing at bedtime after we skip into bed singing 'Now Run Along Home.' Before we eat, we sing 'Johnny Appleseed' while holding each other's hands. And, remember to 'always light just one little candle'."



Taylor and Katie learn to raise and lower the flag to reveille and taps with Uncle Jeff and Aunt Jenny. Uncle Jeff even plays it on his phone.



[Click to hear Taylor and Katie sing "I Love the Mountains and Johnny Appleseed"](#)

Drumming Circle at Reunion

Sally Klein, Hagan 1959-1967

Sally will be facilitating a community drum circle at the reunion from 1:30 to 2:30. Meet in the Waring Room. A Community Drum Circle is an open group who gather to drum, sing and dance through rhythm, harmony, sharing and connecting. No prior drumming

experience is needed. Sally will bring about 10 African style hand drums and a bag of other percussion instruments. If you have a hand drum, feel free to bring it with you.

Sally Klein creates art, jewelry, poetry, music and community. She performs, writes, sings, drums and practices mindfulness in her daily life. Sally initiated the Bedford Community Drum Circle 5 years ago.



Sally Klein will be a co-Song Leader at the reunion



Camper Sighting

After several years of not being in touch, Linda Gundelsheimer Krapish (Gundles) and Nancy Hartman reconnected for lunch near Nancy's home in Pennsylvania. Linda was bringing her 13-year-old grandson from North Carolina to a skateboarding camp very near where Nancy lives. Gundles and Nancy were CITs and JCs together.



Camper Profile

Sally Weidenbacher Scott Stedman
Hagan 1958-1969



Sandy Dempsey asked if I would write a Camper Profile...and how do I respond to my favorite counselor? The girl I wanted to be just like when I grew up? So yes, of course! *(Editor's Note: I swear I did not give Sally extra canteen coupons to say this -- Sandy Dempsey)*

It does seem odd though to wrap up a lifetime in a few paragraphs for fellow campers who may or may not even remember me!

I remember them!!!!

I was the youngest Camper in Junior 1 the first July session in 1958. An only child from Westfield NJ, scared to death, cried every day, wrote pathetic letters home (which, of course my Mother kept). Thank goodness I had the bunk next to the wall so my thumb sucking could go unnoticed. Vowing never to return, walking side by side with other little girls into the magical campfire, only to be honored with the Citizenship Award??? Really??? So ended the first of 10 years at Hagan. A decade of summers. A lifetime of memories.

I attended Green Mountain College, married my high school sweetheart, and we were off to New Haven CT. for his graduate work at Yale. Disillusioned, very young, starving students...hey, let's have a baby! And my first son Luke was born. Growing up a bit, we moved to Branford on the CT Shoreline where I was a wallowing in being a young Mom. A few years later my second son Geoffrey was born. And we moved to Madison, a town away. Think Peyton Place! So.....after the divorce I went back to school (Albertus Magnus in New Haven) and finally became what I had always hoped, an interior designer. After two "springboard" positions with other firms, I launched Sally Scott Interior Design and have been working passionately at this for 26 years. (SSIDESIGN.COM).

I have been extremely happily married to my husband Joel, for 23 years and am the proudest Mom to Luke (43 graduate of Bucknell, owner of a successful ad agency in CT) and Geoffrey (39 graduate of Berklee College of Music, VP of Draft Kings a fantasy football gaming company in Boston). I have been blessed with three wonderful grand children, Noah 15, Jasper 12, and Eloise 7 months, and two amazing daughters in law.

My husband and I have been fortunate enough to get some bucket list traveling under our belts! Favorite trips; Gorilla trekking in Uganda, an elephant back safari in Botswana, ultra lite ride over Victoria Falls! Most recently Italy and we have a trip to Ireland planned for October.

Once a camper.....This marks our 16th summer as camp directors (not really but it sounds so good!) We have a small original 50's camp on Lake Bomoseen in Castleton Vermont. Four cabins on 3 acres with weekly guests coming and going. So every Thursday evening, from April through Columbus Day, we leave the CT Shore and head to the lake, returning home on Sundays to cram a full week of work into 4 days. This "camp" is a labor of love, a place to rest our souls, entertain friends and family, and provide rustic, peaceful vacations to families who come from as far away as Alaska and Hawaii!! (Sunsetpinesvt.com) One of the families who arrived yesterday has been coming for 16

years. We have watched their family grow and have seen their two boys from babies to the oldest driving in the driveway himself! On our 10th wedding anniversary my husband indulged a childhood wish of mine and had an authentic tipi made by Native Americans in Colorado and delivered to Vermont! It is a very special place to gather and tell stories, sing, play instruments (and have a few cocktails) looking out over a camp fire and the moonlight on the lake.

P.S. My best friend is still Nancy Rosenquest Reeves. We see each other often, she is Luke's Godmother. She is my rock, my inspiration, my best friend forever.

And finally...sing this last line please...Seeeeeee youuuuuu in Septemberrrrr.



**Sally and Joel at
the Lake**



**Granddaughter
Eloise**



**Sally, Chopper, Nancy
2013**

Bring Something to Include in the Hagan Time Capsule

Is there something you would like to immortalize in the Hagan Time Capsule? Anything flat is OK. If it has some dimension to it, it should not be too big. It cannot be rubber (like a Hagan swim cap), liquid (like river water) or anything metal (like paper clips). Bring it with you to the reunion and you can put it into the Time Capsule on Thursday morning. The size of the Time Capsule is 19.8 x 18.2 x 10.3 inches.



Top View of Hagan Time Capsule

News and Updates

- The final reunion AGENDA is on the CampHagan.com website.
- Make sure you check out "What to Bring" to the reunion, also on the Hagan website.

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to shd248@aol.com by hagangathering@gmail.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



Hagan | 411 Woodside Avenue | Narberth | PA | 19072