



# Deerpark Diary

Town of Deerpark Museum, 1863 School House  
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**Camp Reimagined  
Huguenot, New York**

\*After more than a century of operation during which time it is estimated that more than 100,000 young people experienced camp life, the decision to sell YMCA Camps of Greater



New York was made in March 2021. There had been great financial losses from the COVID pandemic.

Former campers tried to save it by raising money for the purchase price of five million dollars. The Wend Collective, a social impact fund based in Denver led by a Walmart heir purchased the property for seven million dollars on July 22, 2021. Wend describes itself on its Linked In Page as “a collective of way finders exploring pathways to a better world.”

One of the leaders is James Walton, a grandson of Walmart founder, Sam and Helen Walton. The belief for Camp Reimagined is that “Camp is the best place on earth for young people to grow in their understanding of themselves, build community with others, and connect with the natural world.”

\*Source: Times Herald Record 9-1-2021

Good wishes for a successful future go out to Camp Reimagined. If our readers are interested in an update about the 1000 acre facility, there are pictures on their website—campreimagined.org and on You Tube.

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**A New Exhibit**

It was good news when the Town of Deerpark Museum Committee received pamphlets, photos, camp projects, and historical information about the former YMCA of Greater New York Camps. An exhibit about the history of the camps was created during the winter months. Since the camps had been in Huguenot from 1918 until 2020, period pictures show how the camps developed during the past century.



*Deerpark Children  
Summer Program*

Not only did the camps serve children from New York City, local children through the auspices of the Town of Deerpark Recreation Committee enjoyed summer camping experiences. During the entire year school children attended field trips, athletic teams honed their skills in the gymnasium, educators attended conferences and families shared camping experiences with their children. These were just a few of

the services provided throughout the years for both city and local families.

Stop by the museum to enjoy this new exhibit Tuesdays from 10:00-3:00 and Saturdays from 10:00-12:00, or by appointment.

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## The YMCA of Greater New York Camps

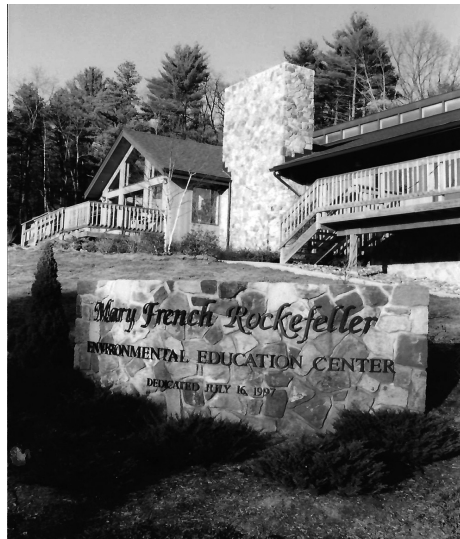
There were three camps located on over 1,000 beautifully wooded acres, which included three lakes, miles of hiking trails, playing fields and courts, a horse ranch, low/high ropes courses and much more. Their Sleepaway program was designed to change with the changing developmental needs of the children. There was a perfect mix of fun, challenge and support at every age.



### Camp Greenkill

Camp Greenkill is the camp near the main entrance. It was open year round because it had the most diverse facilities. It's the most accessible for travelers

At the Greenkill Outdoor Environmental Education Center



children learned about themselves and their world. There was a blend of social and academic education. This curriculum was available during all four seasons of the year. There was "Project Adventure" where children learned the importance of cooperation. Classes were held in pond, stream, forest and field environments to learn about living organisms and their survival. Outdoor skills included map and compass reading, orienteering, survival mountain hikes, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and sometimes a backpack trip. History also came alive through archeology, environmental history, Native American history or the making of early crafts, such as hand-dipped candles or maple syrup.

Camp Greenkill facilities were available for adults as well as for children. Teachers, sports instructors, college leaders, recreation professionals, religious leaders and students attended conferences in the Outdoor Environ-

mental Education Center.

Various sports training events took place in the Camp Greenkill Sports Center, a 100' x 160' year -round building equipped with volleyball courts, basketball courts, and tennis courts, as well as a Universal gymnasium, fully equipped training room, lecture-film room, lockers, dressing rooms, showers, lavatories, auxiliary rooms and equipment storage space.

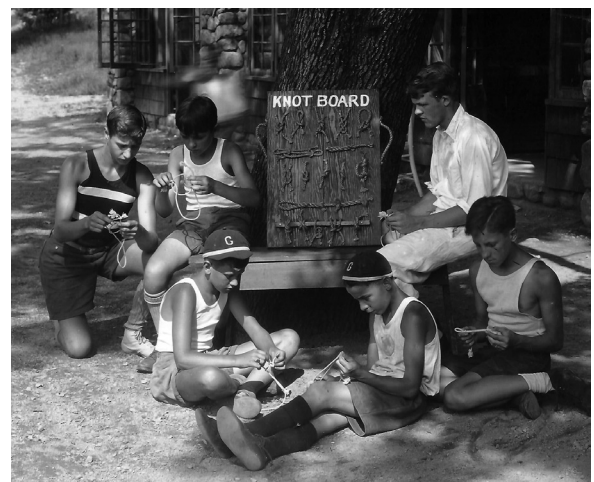


Judo Camp

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### Camp Mc Alister

Camp McAlister is located uphill from Camp Greenkill. At this camp boys and girls ages 6 to 11 could make new friends and



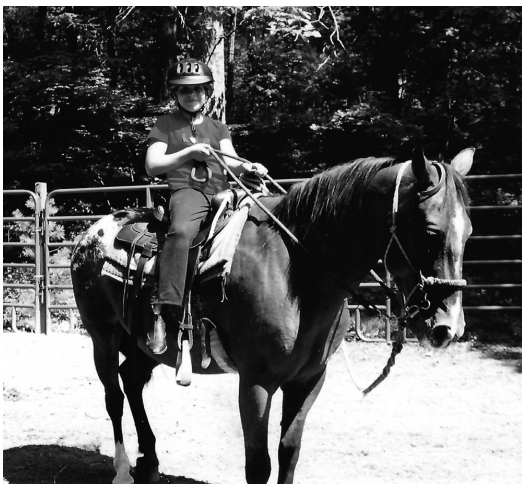
develop new skills. It was a great place for the transition from home to camp especially for young or first-time campers. There was a family environment which taught responsibility and strong values. Campers learned to keep their bunk areas neat and clean and shared responsibilities with other campers.

The natural world provided additional opportunities to learn about animals, such as chipmunks, squirrels, tadpoles, turtles and fish. Campers participated in hands-on activities such as painting, jewelry making, crafting, talent shows, and cookouts. These were good times shared by campers and staff.



*Making Friends*

There were swimming instructions for swimmers and non-swimmers alike, as well as fishing, rowing, and canoeing. At their farm, campers learned about animals by feeding and petting cows, goats, chickens and other animals.



Horseback riding was re-introduced in 2001.

There were many different water sports available for the campers (ages 11-15) who attended Camp Talcott. Water skiing, wind surfing, sailing, canoeing, rowing, plus swimming lessons were available at this beautiful lake. Sport skills were developed in basketball, soccer, softball, touch football, tennis and archery. Nothing was routine for the campers. Everyone looked forward to special events such as talent shows, campfires, cookouts, camper dance routines

and theme days, organized around college sports or Olympics. Arts



*Talcott Totem 1950s-1990s*

from drama to painting were part of the curriculum. There were even jazz, modern dance, and aerobic dance groups. The older campers could build their self-esteem by climbing 21 feet up the rock climbing tower or climbing the tightrope walk, swing and slide across the high ropes course.



*Wall Climb*

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### Camp Talcott

## Camp Brooklyn

Camp Brooklyn, Poughkeepsie, PA was included with the local YMCA Camps of Greater New York from 1906 to 1960s. The camp served boys ages 8-15. It was located on Fairview Lake in the Poconos and provided similar camping experiences as the Huguenot camps.



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## Camp Newsletters

### The Daily Tick Camp Talcott

### Solve a Mystery

Solve the mystery. Sergeant Smashem of the traffic Division reported an accident. A truck and twelve cars had been crushed when a bridge collapsed on them. The truck was badly damaged but the driver escaped without injury. When the sergeant arrived, there was no sign of any car drivers. Why?

## Camp from the Past *Greenkill Happenings* excerpt 1928

Time was when Greenkill had all the earmarks of a military camp. The leaders were stern commanders who compelled the boys to go through rigid daily routines, and the boys were unwilling obeyers of their will. Many was the time that offenders went without their ice cream or chocolate pudding. Often too the campus resounded and the hills echoed as malicious paddles did their corrective duty.

For two years the camp has been putting a new system into practice. Paddling is nearly a thing of the past, tent inspection has been given up, comparative freedom has taken the place of the harsher discipline which preceded it... Leaders are here to guide, not to command... cave man stuff is most undesirable. If the new plan succeeds, the hardboiled camper will disappear and in his place there will be boys who stand for courtesy, honor and manhood. This ideal is worth attaining.

*Answer to Mystery —The truck was transporting the cars.*

## Jay Ungar and Molly Mason Concert

Sunday, June 11, 2023  
3:00 PM

Neversink Valley Grange  
35 Grange Road, Huguenot, NY



If you love American acoustic music, don't miss Jay Ungar and Molly Mason. These extraordinary musicians won international acclaim after Ken Burns' *The Civil War*, hit the airwaves. Their performance of Jay's haunting composition *Ashokan Farewell* – the musical hallmark of the PBS series – left a lasting impression on everyone who tuned in. The soundtrack won a Grammy, and *Ashokan Farewell* was nominated for an Emmy.

Jay and Molly are masters of music and storytelling who generously share their lives and their music with audiences.

Please join us for what is sure to be a wonderful afternoon.

Be advised that seating is limited.

For further information call 845-754-8070

This performance is presented by the Town of Deerpark Museum and is made possible by a grant from the Deerpark Heritage Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan, a New York State 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation.