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THE LAMBDA DKE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

LAMBDA CHAPTER • March 2022

PRESIDENT'S LETTER FROM SAM ADAMS '81

Our esteemed **Brother Teddy Roosevelt** (Alpha 1880) championed overcoming tough challenges to reach success. He mastered his physical shortcomings, boxed his way through Harvard, charged San Juan Hill, and became the youngest President in our country's history, leaving a massive legacy including the National Park System. About challenges he once said: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Chapter Growth. Teddy's words must have inspired our active Lambda Brothers this winter. Doubtless they looked at each other and considered how few they were and how challenging the task of rebuilding the chapter would be. Other Kenyon fraternities have more members, more momentum, more campus awareness. But that did not deter this Band of Brothers! What numbers they lacked did not diminish their efforts and their spirit, nor lessen the knowledge that they are part of Kenyon's oldest fraternity, one whose strength and bonds are unbroken over generations. As you may know by now, they hit it out of the park! Lambda has **17 Pledges!** Please see the list below. Perhaps you know some of these young men or their families.

Our new Pledges are a diverse group. They are athletes and scholars of varying backgrounds and interests. At publication, we are planning a zoom call with them and our Actives so that Alumni can get acquainted with them. For now, these candidates are taking their first steps down the road that may lead to membership. A great new foundation has been built. A big round of clicks for Dylan Osimetha (Brother Beta), Andrew Kotler (Brother Pi), Max Thesig (Brother Kappa Rho), Winston Reid and Nick Lewis for their heroic efforts on behalf of Lambda!

Back in the West Wing. I'm happy to report that the groundswell created by our Actives will reach beyond the Lodge. **We will have 10 Brothers living in the West Wing next fall, including in the Bullseye!** For all of us Lambda alumni, this is a real "homecoming." Getting there was the work of many, especially our Actives who have met with the Administration every other week and worked to re-establish our presence on campus. They continue to contribute to the community socially and through volunteer activities and are gaining recognition for it. They were awarded a "Silver" in the college's "Centers of Excellence" program (which tracks organizations' community engagement on campus), narrowly missing a Gold. But they are quick to acknowledge how much the support of the Alumni Association has meant to them and helped them succeed. So a great deal of the credit for Lambda's success belongs to you. *Thank you for that, and for your continued support.*

Staying Involved. In a recent discussion with Celestino Limas (Vice President for Student Affairs) and Mick Steiner (Director of Student

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First Name	Last Name	Class	Hometown
Kamal	Aubakirov	Junior	Almaty, Kazakhstan
Jack	Srinivasan	Junior	Red Bank, NJ
Jackson	Wills	Junior	Oakland, CA
CJ	Morris	Junior	Detroit, MI
Matthew	LesStrang	Junior	Arlington, VA
Sam	Walch	Junior	Ann Arbor, MI
Dylan	Fuerst	Sophomore	Manhattan, NY
Juan	Matabuena	Freshman	Getxo, Spain
Miles	Versa	Freshman	Nashville, TN
Reily	Scott	Freshman	Concord, MA
David	Mazon	Freshman	Sarasota, FL
Sam	Lieberman	Freshman	Manhattan, NY
Gefen	Bar-Cohen	Freshman	Princeton, NJ
Peter	Haas	Freshman	Manhattan, NY
Max	Belt	Freshman	Pittsburgh, PA
Aymeric	Mauvais	Freshman	Menlo Park, CA
Connor	Moss	Freshman	Pittsburgh, PA

Carlie Berlin '75 and Mark Jacoby '77 on Lambda DKE, fine antiques, and lifelong bonds

What does New York City, Lambda DKE and the small world of antiques have in common? At the center of this Venn diagram is **Carswell (Carlie) Berlin '75** and **Mark Jacoby '77**. While these brothers had no intention of going into such aligned businesses during their time in West Wing, they have both become preeminent in the antiques world in New York and around the world. Carlie specializes in 19th century American formal furniture and accessories at Carswell Rush Berlin, Inc, and Mark Jacoby focuses on very fine eighteenth and early nineteenth century English furniture and works of art at Philip Colleck.

The Lambda DKE sat down with Carlie and Mark via Zoom, and talked about their Kenyon days, how they discovered their niche, and the tonic of lifelong friendship. Read on!

How it all began

"I moved to the city in 1977," Carlie said. "I commuted from Southport, Connecticut before moving in with fellow Lambda DKE **Tony Smith '75**." He worked in advertising and ran a design firm, eventually owning one, then two firms of his own.

"After a while, I got bored," he said. "I wasn't really fulfilled, and I started looking around for something else. I came into antiques because my father had been a collector. I'd grown up on American antiques — I sat on them, ate on them. They weren't precious or off limits. My father didn't have a big budget, but he had very good taste and learned from important dealers."

One of Carlie's father's friends was Albert Sack, a prominent New York antiques dealer and the author of a guidebook to early American furniture that became the standard for professional collectors. "My father was in the right crowd," Carlie says. "It gave me an interest in collecting." But his dad's interest was in the 18th century, or Colonial material, typical of his generation of collectors, Carlie's taste veered to the early 19th century, and specifically "supreme masterpieces, conceived to awe and on which no expense was spared."

But the move from aficionado to dealer proved challenging. "Being a dealer is a



Carlie and his wife Lori exit the White House after making the delivery.



The Carved Mahogany Eagle-Base Games Table, New York or Boston, c. 1815-1820, which Carlie Berlin '77 sold to the White House Historical Association.

difficult thing. You have to know a lot of stuff, and wear a lot of hats. It's a very steep learning curve." And that was a learning curve that he would attack with his customary focus and dedication. "I dove in head first," he said. "Now I've been in the business for thirty years."

For Mark, the journey to antiques expert took a more linear trajectory... sort of. He originally enrolled at Kenyon as a premed student, but was soon convinced that it wasn't a life's calling for him. When fellow DKE **Tom Bruggman '75** told him to take an art history class, "I fell in love and changed my major immediately," he says.

He took a year abroad in Rome, which he calls simply "a brilliant experience," and then worked hard to hone his craft, first at the Delaware Art Museum, then an auction house in Chicago, then a 9 month course on

decorative arts at Christie's in London.

Back in New York, he was offered a position at Philip Colleck of London, LTD. And although he didn't know it at the time, he had found a mentor, his future wife and lifetime business partner, and a niche all in one place.

"Philip Colleck had been in business since 1938 and had 42 years of experience. He was a very sophisticated guy," Mark said. Mark wasn't his only new hire. He had recently brought on Diana O'Rourke as vice president.

"Diana and I worked together six days a week, and on the seventh, we would go to auction previews," Mark said. The two fell in love. In 1988, they married, and bought the business ... and then things really started to get interesting.

Milestones of achievement

"When I'd only been in business for a year, I was invited to be on the organizing team for The International Fine Art and Antique Dealers Show," Mark says. "This show brought vetting to the US, and helped establish a process of evaluation by a committee of experts to ensure that all the antiques were original, of the highest quality and condition and accurately described by the exhibitor. Because I was on the organizing committee, I

was eventually asked to be part of the vetting committee, where I was able to work with top people in the field. Introducing and adopting vetting has helped to raise the standard of antique fairs in the US."

"We were then invited to exhibit and join the English Furniture Vetting Committee which I did for 27 years. This year marks our 42nd year dealing!"

"There used to be antique shows all over the place," Carlie added. "From Charleston to Pittsburgh to Houston — fundraisers for local hospitals to raise money. They were of varying quality. But The Winter Show is the super bowl of antique shows, and The International Fine Art and Antique Dealers Show was the World Cup. Mark's participation served to bring the standards up in both shows. Both shows became a benchmark of quality, and an

ALUMNI PROFILE

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invitation was an honor that many dealers never got.”

Carlie says that there are a few milestones that stand out in his illustrious career. “The first was making a sale to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and then realizing that having museums as clients was reassuring to other clients as well as other museums. To date, we have sold to 20 public institutions.”

“As far as most exciting — it was the moment when I identified a card table with a carved eagle that was a mate to the one in the Oval Office. I acquired it and sold it to the White House, and the matched pair currently flank the Resolute Desk. If you watch any broadcasts of the oval office, you can see them.”

“I got to deliver the table myself during the Clinton administration, and it was quite the cloak and dagger routine. We had to meet outside D.C. to transfer the table into a van, then I followed the van to the White House where they had set up a room with klieg lights to examine the table. They ultimately decided that the table was original and part of a true pair, and even discovered that the White



Mark Jacoby '77 with his wife Diana in their back garden.

House table's eagle had been inaccurately gilded while the table I'd acquired was still in its original condition. The moment I saw the table beside the Resolute Desk, and those two eagles looking at each other ... that was a good moment.”

The lifelong impact of Lambda DKE

“More than anything, Lambda DKE gave me lifelong friends,” Mark says. “There are half a dozen I still see with some frequency, and several who made big impacts on my life during pivotal moments. I remember when I was thinking about taking over Philip Colleck, I was worried about my lack of experience in accounting and bookkeeping, and **Gregg**

DeSilvio '74 (my big brother) said ‘So what! You can hire that out— you know what you know. If you think you can continue this, then do so.’” His words really stuck with me.”

“I’ve had the encouragement and support of my Lambda DKE friends all along the way,” he said. “It’s that social aspect of being a DKE that was and continues to be most important to me.”

“Almost all of my friends who I am still friends with are DKEs,” Carlie concurred. “Tony Smith, Russell Selover, Mark ... all from the fraternity. That’s a wonderful thing. I had a much better time at Kenyon than I would have had otherwise.”

INTERNATIONAL

DKE International’s Turner Spears recently visited Gambier to check in on Lambda’s recovery and filed this report with Headquarters:

If you’re a longtime reader, you’re familiar with the Lambda chapter’s battle with the College to stay active at Kenyon after some very questionable hazing charges. This battle went on for about 3 years but is finally behind us after a 17-person pledge class. This is by far the largest class I’ve heard of at Lambda while on staff and probably one of the largest in their recent history. This was the cherry on top of the experience for **Andrew Kotler** and **Winston Reid** – graduating seniors who stuck with the chapter through the uncertain years and were able to successfully revitalize the group. I can’t say enough about the support of all the alumni, and the chapter reiterated this to me many times during my brief visit.

It was a real treat for me to see the Lambda Lodge in person. The original lodge has a small claim to fame – just the oldest fraternity lodge in America dating back to 1874. The existing structure is built on the same site. I believe it’s a cardinal sin to describe the inside in writing, but I did laugh at how long it took us to get in. In true Deke form, we did this in the pitch dark to get the full experience. Overall, the chapter is in a great spot, and we look forward to supporting the new leadership into a new golden era (and maybe a Delta award for most improved chapter in the meantime).

Jeff Spear '87 Honored By DKE International

Now therefore, by resolution of the Board of Directors of Delta Kappa Epsilon International Fraternity, we do hereby declare March 4th, 2022, to be Jeffrey George Spear Day, to be recognized by all his DKE Brothers with thanks for his generosity, loyalty and friendship and to be celebrated in a manner appropriate to this special occasion (the full proclamation can be found on the Lambda DKE Facebook page).



Mason Morjikian – Lambda '88

Chairman of the Board / DKE International

IN MEMORIAM

Lambda DKE Mourns the Passing of Eleanor Robinson

Community leader, environmental advocate, chorister, recording artist, teacher, athlete, and coach, Eleanor was the wife of Rev. Canon Mark K.J. Robinson '81, daughter-in-law of Lambda Deke Jefferson D. Robinson, and mother of three daughters, including Sewell Robinson Bourneuf, Kenyon '12. Like Mark, generations of DKE men have been supported by women possessed of both great character and a sufficient sense of adventure to want to marry them. Eleanor had these and many other fine qualities."

After Mark and Eleanor moved to Old Lyme, CT in 2012, she founded an Audubon Center on the Connecticut River Estuary. The environmental education program began out of her car's trunk. Today, the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center reaches more than 4,000 children and families annually.



"Celebratory Ecology calls each of us to spend time outdoors, to observe colors, movement, presences and absence of species, and yes, to simply enjoy the bounty," Eleanor remarked at the Center's 2016 opening. "We celebrate ecology and are inspired to do all within our power to protect and learn about this essential life-giving ecosystem."

Mark said Eleanor "had lots of fun being a DKE-ette mother, and my father's daughter-in-law as well as my bride." In addition, "She loved walking to the Lodge and hearing my stories that I could share."

A celebration of Eleanor's life will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 2:00 pm at St. James Episcopal Church in New London, CT.

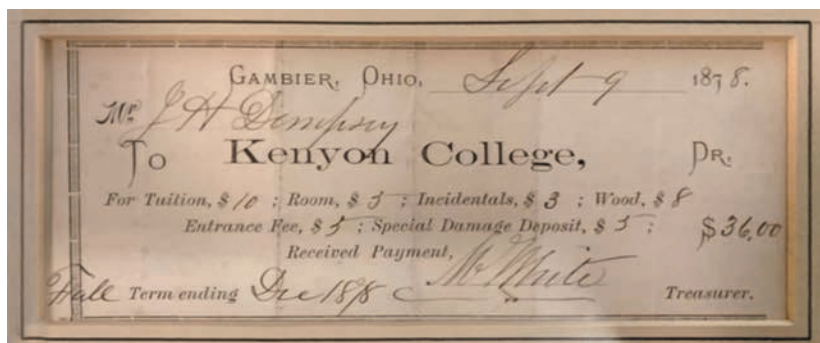
FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Cost of Tuition and Firewood

According to the Kenyon College website, the student cost for a semester on the Magic Mountain has reached over \$40,000. In the mid-70s it was \$2,500.

Jim Dempsey III '83 recently shared a treasure trove of documents belonging to his great grandfather James Dempsey (1882), one of which is a receipt for a semester at Kenyon in 1878 for \$36...in which Tuition was \$10 and Firewood \$8.

We'll have more of Jim's amazing collection in future editions of the e-Letter and print newsletter. If you're not receiving our e-mail newsletter, subscribe the link <https://lambdadke.com/>.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER FROM SAM ADAMS '81

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Engagement), the conversation about DKE was quite positive. I am optimistic that we have turned the corner with the administration. I asked what the Alumni Association can do to support the continued success of the chapter. The answer was unequivocal: **stay involved.** They want us to provide guidance to the Actives, and (for those who are able) to visit with them on campus. Our engagement will support our chapter and promote good relations with the College. I have told them that we are in a new era and are recommitted to having DKEs be leaders on campus—as we have always been in the past. I hope you will consider a trip to Gambier and visit with our chapter. They would welcome you. A more formal reunion and celebration for all of us is in the planning stages.

Next Steps. Lambda chapter has important projects moving forward. These include:

- Completion of the patio outside the Lodge that will provide a gathering place for Brothers to have BBQs and host rush events.

- Roll-out of the Lambda Hall of Fame to recognize distinguished members throughout our history. Gregg Di Silvio is leading this effort.
- Restoration of historic books of the chapter that date back to the 1850s. This effort is being led by Biff Butler.
- Ongoing efforts to maintain the Lodge, add storage, and improve its security.

Our chapter's strength was tested these last few years but we have come through it stronger than ever. We are recovering our prestige, growing our presence on campus, restoring our Lodge, and—most importantly—renewing our DKE friendships across generations. Thank you for these efforts and for supporting the Alumni Association with your donations of time and money. You have restored DKE to its rightful place at Kenyon and helped secure its future.

ITB,

Sam Adams '81