

CAMP

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and more fun because everyone is there.”

Our daughter Jesenia has been a camper and a counselor for several years. That’s why, on many a hot summer evening, our family has headed out to Clapping Hands Farm for the weekly end-of-camp potluck. We’ve squeezed our contribution onto a table already overflowing with food and found a place in the shade to watch the presentation about to begin. Most times we’ve arrived feeling kinda droopy after a long week, but then Louise takes her place before



“There is a heartbeat to this place! And a wonderful cast of characters!”

Pam Fleischauer, parent

us: big smile, long braids and “Welcome! We’ve had a fabulous time at camp this week and we’d like to show you a little bit of what we’ve been doing!”

Suddenly revived, we all begin to witness the glorious show: kids skipping and dancing by with their embroidered, painted, hand printed, or constructed creations; shy ones laughing, little ones holding hands with big ones. There’s applause and more applause, followed by a skit or two, a puppet show or dance, and always some music. That music may be played for us by a couple of new drummers, some young ukulele enthusiasts along with their teacher and mentor, Sarah Perry, or perhaps a working musician jamming on guitar beside a brand new pianist who’s on a solar powered keyboard.

Finally, after spirit-filled introductions dosed with laughter and whoops of appreciation, we’re all released to reunite with our kids, explore, eat together and revel in the joy of that old “camp magic,”



the magic that goes on and on and on... just down the road at Clapping Hands Farm.

For more inspiration check out the homemade music video “Things We Do at Camp” at clappinghandsfarm.com starring...everyone! And, oh yeah, see you at camp!!

Audrey Bernier Schwankl is a freelance writer who also works at Pittsboro’s premier meeting place and co-op grocery store, Chatham Marketplace! She and her family live in Pittsboro and love Clapping Hands Farm.



Send your letters or articles to editor@chathamcountyline.org

Letters To The Editor:

Editor:

It’s hard to know where to start on Mr. Jeff Davidson’s February column, “Seething Cauldron of Hate”, but I have to start somewhere. First, the lies:

Mr. Davidson says that Democrats are “...touting open borders...” Not one single Democrat in the House or the Senate or any Governor’s office has ever spoken in favor of open borders. This is a typical Fox News and Republican talking point. It is a lie.

Mr. Davidson puts forth the notion that Democrats praise the activities of Antifa. Not one Democrat has ever done that. Tucker Carlson went so far as to say Nancy Pelosi is a supporter of Antifa. Another lie. Nancy Pelosi and any number of other Democrats have condemned Antifa. Democrats don’t have an Antifa problem, but Republicans do have a racist white supremacy problem.

Mr. Davidson says that Democrats suggest that college be free for everyone, that Medicare should be provided for all, and that all student debt should be forgiven. True of some Democrats, I will grant you, but not mainstream Democratic positions, and to suggest otherwise is a lie.

Mr. Davidson states that Democrats want to weaken the military. Not so. Democrats want to quit spending money on outdated cold-war military systems, they want to reduce nuclear arms, and they want to see the development of an anti-tactical missile defense system in the United States, among other things. Democratic administrations, including the Obama administration, have fought to increase resources for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to ensure that coordination between the VA and the Department of Defense creates a smooth

transition from active duty to civilian life for all soldiers. Democrats also believe in preserving and increasing health care and pension benefits for veterans. Most notably they seek to improve polytrauma, vision impairment, prosthetics, spinal cord injury, aging, and women’s health care plans. They want swift passage of military and veterans appropriations legislation so that all veterans can receive care in a timely manner, and to see PTSD treatments readily available. Democrats have created, and support, the Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Program. In fact it is Republicans who have been the obstructionists. In February 2014, for example, they filibustered a bill that would have increased spending on the VA. The ensuing scandal in the VA came in large part from that action.

Mr. Davidson asserts that Democrats want to convert this country into a socialist state. Not true. Democrats in general are in favor of having everybody pay their fair share of taxes to support the financing of public goods that will help improve everybody’s life, but no Democrat has ever said anything in favor of turning this country into a socialist state. Mr. Davidson would have you believe that Socialism has “never benefited a single generation in a single nation...” To the contrary. We have capitalism and socialism sitting side by side in this country, we have had for going on a hundred years, and everybody gets along just fine.

Mr. Davidson states, “When you consider the miraculous breakthroughs that have benefited people around the globe, from the smartphone, to the Internet, to pacemakers, to Lasik surgery, to the world’s best dental care, what would prompt you to believe that a socialist

society could ever engender entrepreneurs of the type that populate every state and every county in America?” I would like to remind Mr. Davidson that his computer, the internet, and the software that runs them both, along with a great many other things that we take for granted today, had their origins in a government-supported research program. He also mentions the great road system we have. Let me let you in on a little secret, Mr. Davidson: The roads were built by taxpayer money. Another socialist boondoggle I suppose?

I don’t mind if Mr. Davidson or anyone else criticizes Democrats. I have done it myself. I would only ask that they get the facts right. If I am wrong about any of the above, let Mr. Davidson cite credible sources. I don’t think he will, because I don’t think he can, but if he does, I will apologize.

Mr. Davidson’s headline is “Seething Cauldrons of Hate”. And he asks, “How much do you have to hate America, hate our way of life, and hate everything we stand for to imply that it all has to go?”

I don’t hate this country. I love this country. Every liberal and every Democrat I know loves this country. And because we love this country, we want it to be the best it can be, just the same as what we would want for any individual person whom we love. And this country is not the best it can be. Not by a long shot. We are not implying that it all has to go. No sir. All we want is a better life for everybody. If that makes us socialists, so be it. Call me a socialist. I’ll wear the label with pride.

Michael Barnes
Pittsboro, NC

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