

January 7, 1974

May and Walter M. Weis
500 East 77 Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Weis:

The Metropolitan Recreation Association, the successor of the New Jersey and New York Locals of The Nature Friends, is appreciative of your magnanimous contribution to the AEU Conference Center in Midvale, New Jersey.

The Center, formerly Camp Midvale, was born as the result of the tireless efforts of a band of immigrants, Americans by choice. They were working people who dreamt of a better life and sought rewarding labor, equality, peace and the blessings of nature for all. They were practical dreamers, and half a century ago pooled their meager resources toward the first payment on their favorite hiking stopover, now the AEU Conference Center. They cleared the land, built the cabins, preserved the trails, dug and built our fabulous swimming pool, with the help of and for the exclusive use of all who worked for their livelihood regardless of their origin or beliefs. Ecologically, it is noteworthy that the 72 acre preserve was then bought to safeguard the fresh water of the whole area, and the trees that lined the approach to the Conference Center, were transplanted by Nature Friends' members in cooperation with FDR's Reforestation program.

When it became impractical for the MRA to maintain Camp Midvale, our course of action was consistent with the original motivation of those who built this camp. All offers to sell the camp for cold cash were rejected. The MRA wanted to preserve the Camp and its objectives. Toward that end, we contributed the approximately 125 acres to the AEU.

In appreciation of your impressive contribution, our membership by unanimous decision extends to both of you honorary membership in our organization. It is our fervent hope that the relative neglect of the Center at this writing will give way to increasing cooperation by all parties toward a flourishing AEU Conference Center. We extend to you our sincerest wishes for many more fruitful years of humanitarian achievement.

Sincerely,

Jack Osterweil, President

Corinne Eckstein, Secretary

Metropolitan Recreation Association
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