

Camp de Benneville Pines

Connection

Your Unitarian Universalist Mountain Retreat

Spring/Summer 2007

Great Events Happen at de Benneville!

In this edition, articles about 5 wonderful events at de Benneville, stories from campers, an update on the Raise the Roof Capital Campaign, as well as registration forms for the PSWD Summer Youth Camps and all our spring/summer activities.



Ellen Snortland Speaks/Performs at the Women's Retreat

Ellen Snortland says that she decided to become a "Renaissance Woman" at age 8. Looking over her resume and the biographical information on her web page (www.snortland.com), you'll know she has achieved her goal.

Ellen has worked as an author, an actor and an activist. With her regular column, "Consider This", in the alternative press *Pasadena Weekly*, she has covered topics as varied as the 66 year love story between her aunt and uncle in North Dakota, environmentally responsible building/development and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. She's not all talk either. As a recent

example of her ongoing activism, Ellen hosted a fundraising dinner for her local HIV/AIDS service center in her home.

Ellen's book, Beauty Bites Beast: Awakening the Warrior within Women and Girls is a natural extension of her work as an advocate and women's activist. Tackling the issue of violence against women, Beauty Bites Beast supports the idea that all women have the ability to defend themselves, both verbally and physically. Ellen says, "It is not the female's size, it is her culturally induced ignorance that makes her think she is helpless." Gloria Steinem in her review of the book states, "Why are females of other species as fierce in self-defense as males?" Ellen Snortland takes on the politics of learned

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Mark Lewis Sharing Our Stories at Family Camp

Storyteller Mark Lewis is a familiar face at de Benneville. He's been on the staff of Camp Bravo, the summer theater arts camp for teens, since its first year using our facility.

This summer, we're honored to have Mark with us for an additional week as the Theme Speaker for our UU Family Camp.

Mark comes to us with many gifts. He has worked with major companies creating new ideas for products, toys, films and entertainment. He has been a commercial art director for several major corporations. He has worked as an arts educator, teaching imagination and storytelling, for both Camp Bravo and several Los Angeles area school districts. Mark has numerous credits as an actor and a voice talent. Mark is also a writer. He has four books to his credit as well as songs and poetry. He has created a web-based creative writing program for Hewlett-Packard.

First and foremost, Mark is a storyteller. His website (www.laughingmooninc.com) says Mark's goal is "to re-awaken the art of storytelling in the world of today and to re-introduce this world to it's imagination." Mark's successful show, "Word Pictures" received two Emmy Awards.

It is Mark's gift for telling stories and his ability to share this gift that we're looking forward to enjoying at Family Camp this summer.

During the week-long camp, Mark will be

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Camp de Benneville Pines

2007 Calendar of Events

March 2007

- 2-4 **Long Beach UU Congregational Retreat**
For info, contact office@uucfb.org or (562) 597-8445
- 9-11 **Camp available for lease**
- 16-18 **Camp GetAway Just for Women**
For info, see article on page 4 or www.campgetaway.com
- 23-25 **Girl Scout Mother-Daughter Retreat**
See advertisement on pg 10 for additional info
- Conejo Valley UU RE Retreat** (Private - Craig's Cabin)
- 30-4/1 **San Dieguito UU Congregational Retreat**
For info, contact office@uufsd.org or (858) 755-9225

April 2007

- 6 - 8 **Camp available for lease**
- Mickey Family Reunion** (Private - Craig's Cabin)
- 13 - 15 **Rainbow Family Camp**
See advertisement on pg 10 for additional info
- 16 - 19 **Camp for Homeschooling Families**
See advertisement on pg 11 for additional info
- 20 - 22 **UU Men's Retreat**
See advertisement on pg 11 for additional info
- 27 - 29 **Camp Recovery**
See advertisement on pg 12 for additional info

May 2007

- 4 - 6 **UU Women's Retreat**
See article on pg 1 and advertisement on pg 5 for additional info
- 7 - 10 **Prototypes Recovery House** (Private)
- 11 - 13 **Work Weekend** - Everyone welcome (ages 11+)
For info, contact the camp office at caroline@uucamp.org or (909) 794-2928
- 18 - 20 **Monte Vista Congregational Retreat**
For info, contact mail@montevistauu.org, (909) 626-0520
- 25 - 28 **Camp Bravo Theatre Arts Educators' Weekend** (Private)

June 2007

- 1 - 3 **First UU Church San Diego Congregational Retreat**
For info, contact mail@firstuusanadiego.org or (619) 298-9978
- 4 - 6 **New City School** (Private)
- 8 - 10 **Pacific Unitarian Church Congregational Retreat**
For info, contact admin@pacificunitarian.org or (310) 378-9449
- 15 - 17 **Santa Monica UU Church Congregational Retreat**
For info, contact office@uusm.org or (310) 829-5436
- 20 - 23 **Anaheim Stake LDS Young Women's Camp** (Private)
- 24 - 30 **Camp Bravo Theater Arts Camp for Teens - Week 1**
For info, contact www.campbravo.org or (888) 442-7286

July 2007

- 1 - 7 **Camp Bravo Theater Arts Camp for Teens - Week 2**
For info, contact www.campbravo.org or (888) 442-7286
- PSWD Summer YoUUth Camps**
- 8 - 14 **Counselor-in-Training Program**
See advertisement on pg 12 for additional info
- Elementary** (Grades 2 - 6)
- 15 - 21 **Middle School** (Grades 6 - 9)
- 22 - 28 **YRUU/Sr High** (Grades 10 - 12)
See advertisement on pg 13 for additional info
- 29 - 8/4 **UU Family Camp**
See article on pg 1 and advertisement on pg 8 for additional info

August 2007

- 5 - 11 **Camp Bravo Theater Arts Camp for Teens - Week 3**
- 12 - 18 **Camp Bravo Theater Arts Camp for Teens - Week 4**
For info, contact www.campbravo.org or (888) 442-7286
- 19 - 24 **PSWIRL**
See article on pg 6 for additional info
- Summer Art Camp for Adults**
See article on pg 5 and advertisement on pg 4 for additional info
- 24 - 26 **Neighborhood UU Church Summer Retreat**
For info, e-mail Melinda.Goddard@clearmansrestaurants.com
or call (626) 449-3470
- 28 - 30 **Camp available for lease**
- 31 - 9/3 **CampOUT**
See advertisement on pg 14 for additional info

September 2007

- 7 - 9 **Yoga & Meditation Retreat**
See advertisement on pg 14 for additional info
- 14 - 16 **12-Step Fall Mountain Retreat**
For info, contact deedgell@yahoo.com or (714) 323-012
- 21 - 23 **Camp GetAway Just for Women**
For info, see article on page 4 or www.campgetaway.com
- 24 - 28 **Odyssey Charter School** (Private)
- 28 - 30 **Conejo Valley & Orange Coast UU Retreat**
For info, contact www.cvuuf.org, (805) 492-8751
or uu@ocuuc.org, (949) 646-4652

October 2007

- 1 - 5 **Camp Bravo/La Jolla Country Day School** (Private)
- 5 - 7 **LA/Valley Cluster UU Retreat**
For info, contact louisepell@yahoo.com or (661) 273-1068
- 12 - 14 **Camp available for lease**
- 19 - 21 **Women Together** (Private)
- 22 - 25 **Camp for Homeschooling Families**
For info, contact caroline@uucamp.org or (909) 794-2928
- 26 - 28 **Work Weekend** - Everyone welcome (ages 11+)
For info, contact the camp office at caroline@uucamp.org or (909) 794-2928
- PSWD DRE Leadership Retreat**
For info, contact teralittle@worldnet.att.net or (626) 840-5412

Registration information for any of the retreats listed may be obtained by calling the camp office at (909) 794-2928, e-mailing caroline@uucamp.org or from the camp's website at www.uucamp.org
Most event details can be found in this newsletter.
For registration forms, see page 15.

"Raise the Roof" Moving Towards It's Goal

The de Benneville Pines Board of Directors is entering it's second year of the capital fundraising campaign called "Raise the Roof". The drive has an ambitious goal of \$350,000 to be reached by December of 2008. While the campaign is making progress toward this goal, there are still significant donations needed.

Here's How We Can Meet Our Goal

Category	# Donors	Amount
Over \$20,000	1	\$25,000
\$15,000-20,000	1	\$17,500
\$10,000-15,000	1	\$12,500
\$ 7,500-10,000	3	\$25,500
\$ 5,000-7,500	5	\$34,000
\$ 3,000-5,000	15	\$60,000
\$ 1,500-3,000	40	\$70,000
\$ 1,000-1,500	45	\$54,000
\$ 500-1,000	50	\$37,500
\$ 500 or less	56	\$14,000
	Total	\$350,000

The \$350,000 to be raised is for much needed repairs for the Director's Cabin (\$150,000), the camp roads (\$125,000) and the plumbing system (\$75,000).

In the past several years, the camp facility has blossomed. Steady bookings (and income) have allowed de Benneville to make much-needed improvements in the camper cabins, decks and walking paths. The staff cabin has also been redecorated and upgraded. Generous donations have allowed the camp to add a new spa, make repairs and upgrades to the pool, put

new roofs on many of the cabins, build Craig's Cabin, improve bathrooms, purchase new mattresses and add new furnaces to the camper cabins. We have one of the nicest facilities on the mountain.

Steady bookings have also put additional stress on the camp's infrastructure. The roads are increasingly rutted and washed out. The plumbing, as it gets older, has more and more problems. While improvements have been made in the camper and staff cabins, the Director's Cabin, one of the oldest buildings in camp, built in the 1930's, has not been upgraded. The decision to concentrate on improving the camper areas of the camp has helped the camp increase and maintain bookings but ultimately, the permanent staff must have adequate housing. The Director's Cabin must be clean, comfortable and a safe home for our lead staff person.

While many donations are yet to be received, improvements in the Director's Cabin have begun. This fall, during Work Weekend, the old roof was removed. A few weeks later the contractor came by and capped the cabin with a new, solid, fire-retardant roof. The previous roof had been flammable wood shingles over a lattice frame!

Another improvement currently being worked on is an upgrade of the front entry.



New roof & entry "in progress"

The original "mudroom" in the cabin was not structurally sound. It had an uneven floor that had caused at least one injury. Reconfiguring the entry has allowed a more open feeling in the cabin's common area as well. New flooring, a new door and improved insulation have upgraded the energy efficiency of the mudroom. Motion detection lights and energy efficient bulbs have further upgraded the cabin's look and coziness.

Much can be done to upgrade the camp's look and comfort. Unfortunately, major improvements will be needed to complete the camp's safety and efficiency improvements. These major upgrades require a substantial investment and help from the camp's donors and supporters. Please do what you can to help. A generous investment of any amount will be appreciated. Donors of \$10,000 or more will be celebrated with a plaque of appreciation on our memorial walkway.

Use the form below to make your donation. Thank you!

Camp de Benneville Pines Donation Form

Donor Name(s):				
Donation Type	Pledge/Donation 2007	For 2008	For 2009	Amount
Raise the Roof Capital CAMPaign	\$	\$	\$	\$
Share the Vision Annual Fund Drive	\$	\$	\$	\$
Campfire Lighter's Endowment Fund	\$	\$	\$	\$
Other Donation	\$	\$	\$	\$
			Total Enclosed/To be Charged	\$
Address		Home Phone		
City/State/Zip		Cell Phone		
If you would like to receive confirmation that your donation has been received or if you would like to charge a credit card for your donation, please include an e-mail address		E-Mail		
UU Congregation/Camp Affiliation		Camp de Benneville Pines is a 501(c)3 Non-profit Corporation. Your donation may be tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor.		
To use a credit card, complete the following: Card#		Expiration Date	Security Code: 3 digits M/V/D 4 digits AMEX	
To make your donation with a credit card Phone: (909) 794-2928 Fax: (909) 794-2418 E-Mail: caroline@uucamp.org		To make your donation by mail (check or credit card) Camp de Benneville Pines 41750 Jenks Lake Road West Angelus Oaks, CA 92305		

Massages, Scrapbooking and Archery...Oh My!

Camp GetAway Retreats for Women Finds a New Home at de Benneville

Submitted by Patti Londre

Kids aren't the only ones who get to shoot bows and arrows, hike, swim, tie dye and enjoy S'mores around the campfire. Thanks to **Camp GetAway**, now in its eleventh year, women flock to camp too. What is the attraction beyond the standard? Massages, facials, manicures, "Feminars," crafts, chatting for hours with friends, maybe some wine and cheese with cabinmates, even napping – AND no makeup, no cooking, no chores, no laundry, no stress.

Women both young and young-at-heart have found a slice of heaven in **Camp GetAway**.



Campers arrive in desperate need of a little R&R, grown-up gal style...hiking to the lake, catching up on scrapbooking, participating in a dance class, competing in archery tournaments, tie dying, practicing yoga, enjoying a



therapeutic massage, voraciously reading, watching "chick flicks" or engaging in youthful horseplay.

Happy to have found a new home at Camp de Benneville Pines, "Fearless Leader" Patti Londre is excited. "The karma at de Benneville is perfect for our campers."

At any given time there are at least two to three activities taking place, all easy to keep track of on the handy itinerary that campers wear around their necks for easy access. If women are craving much needed "me time" to relax with no interruptions: that's ok too! The steaming hot jacuzzi under the pines is a perfect place to start. That's the beauty of **Camp GetAway**: the term "get-away" is up for

interpretation depending on the desires of each camper. Campers are encouraged to do as much or as little as they please.

Many campers choose to bring sisters, cousins, moms, daughters, co-workers, sorority sisters, even their grandmas to share the weekend, while others come alone and gain new friends. Either way, it's a win-win situation!

Want to join the fun? You deserve it! **Camp GetAway's** next weekend is March 16-18. Cost is \$325 per camper (\$295 early bird), plus additional modest fees for certain crafts and spa treatments. All meals and lodging are included, along with plenty of fun activities.

For information, visit www.CampGetAway.com or call 310-471-3138 x 103.



Sunday, August 19 -
Friday, August 24, 2007

Art Camp *for Adults*

6 Day Intensive
Limited to 16 adults
All Levels Welcome

For additional information, see article on page 5

Cost: \$425 per person

Includes all activities, meals & lodging

Cancellation: \$50 fee before 7/15/2007

No Refund After 7/15/2007

Use Adult Event Registration Form on page 15

Ellen Snortland at the Women's Retreat Continued from page 1

helplessness, and clears a path back to natural female strength."

Looking over comments from readers on the Amazon.com web site, Ellen seems to have written clearly, making a strong impact and keeping her audience entertained at the same time.

When Ellen comes to de Benneville for the Women's Retreat in May, her keynote address and an afternoon discussion group will focus on the right of every woman to be safe and how we can each take back our courage and the responsibility for a safe passage through the world.

In the evening, Ellen will entertain us with her one-woman show, "Now that She's Gone: Unraveling the Mystery of My Mother". The play, written and performed by Ellen, is an exploration of her "often wacky, irreverent and sometimes tortuous relationship with her Norwegian-American mother." Reviewed as "passionate, poignant and funny in turns", Ellen has been described as "a Lily Tomlin/Garrison Keillor/Eve Ensler hybrid".

Ellen's many credits include a JD degree from Loyola Law School, participation in several UN conferences as a delegate, board member of the Impact Foundation and work

on several commissions on women's issues. She has been a commentator in both the print and broadcast media, an actor, producer and writer for the entertainment industry, a self-defense instructor, public speaker and college professor. De Benneville is honored to welcome Ellen to our Women's Retreat. We look forward to meeting this renaissance woman.

To learn more about Ellen, visit her website at www.snortland.com

To read her weekly column "Consider This" go to the *Pasadena Weekly* website at www.pasadenaweekly.com

UU Women's Retreat

Friday, May 4 - Sunday, May 6, 2007

A weekend in the mountains just for you!

Cost \$150 per person (use Adult Event form on pg 15)
includes food, lodging and activities

Deduct \$15 before 4/1/2007

Extra Day: add \$20 per person
Arrive Thursday evening - Lodging only (no meals)

Craig's Cabin or Cabin 6: add \$25 per person

Cancellation: Refund less \$50 fee before 4/15/07
No Refund after 4/15/07

- Art • Archery • Belly Dancing
- Crafts • Drumming
- Hiking • Massage (add'l fee)
- Workshops • Writing • Yoga

- Ellen Snortland with Beauty Bites Beast
& "Now That She's Gone"
- Jane Roberts with 34 Million Friends

Summer Art Camp for Adults

See Flier pg 4

Submitted by Laura Janes, de Benneville Resident Artist

This August, there will be a new event at de Benneville: an intensive six-day Art Camp for only 16 adults. Organized by Laura Janes, de Benneville's Resident Artist, the Art Camp will be held during PSWIRL week, Sunday, August 19 - Friday, August 24, 2007.

Each day includes two hours of "Life Drawing", two hours of "Drawing & Painting in the Forest" and a one hour discussion with a guest lecturer. During the evenings, art campers will participate in a two-hour critique and recap of work accomplished during the day.

Early mornings and late afternoons will be free for art campers to attend PSWIRL events, relax in the hot tub, swim in the pool or work on projects begun during scheduled classes.

Guest lectures will include Louis Weiner

discussing digital photography for documenting artwork; Jodi Bonassi talking about how to get work into art shows and galleries; and a field trip to Serenity Place Gallery in Big Bear, where gallery owner Cindy Jones will explain what she looks for in artists and art work and how to successfully approach gallery owners.

The week will conclude with an exhibition of work produced during the art camp for the PSWIRL campers and each other.

All levels of artists are encouraged to attend. Beginners will receive instruction in fundamental skills, intermediate level artists will gain more skills to build on those already developed and the advanced artist will have an opportunity to brush up on anything he or she feels needs work. In addition to a wonderful

art program, enjoy spending time with other artists in a beautiful forest environment. This is a rare opportunity for only 16 artists to experience.



Peace from the Inside Out: The Wisdom of the East

PSWIRL with Theme Speaker Rev. John Morehouse



Each summer, PSWIRL (the Pacific Southwest Institute of Religious Liberals) offers an opportunity for adults to attend summer camp. Held at de Benneville since the 1960's, PSWIRL provides liberal-minded adults an experience that is both intellectually stimulating and lots of fun.

This year, PSWIRL has invited the Reverend John Morehouse, minister at the Pacific Unitarian Church in Palos Verdes, to be the Theme Speaker. As a spiritual leader with many years studying and teaching eastern religion, as well as his experience living in India, "Rev. John" brings a rich knowledge to his topic.

On each of four mornings at PSWIRL, Rev. Morehouse's lectures will focus on the unique teachings of two of the world's great religious leaders, Lao Tsu and the Buddha. He will begin by discussing the meaning of peace with an introduction to Eastern Philosophy. On Tuesday, his topic will be "Peace in the Heart: The Lives of Lao Tsu and the Buddha". Wednesday will be "Peace in the home: Principles and Practice of Taoism and Buddhism". The series will conclude with "Peace between Neighbors: Practicing Non-attachment" on Thursday.

Rev. Morehouse will be in attendance during the entire PSWIRL week, with many opportunities for campers to engage him in discussion or ask questions about the topic. A regular "Talk Back" session is scheduled as well.

PSWIRL is not all seriousness! Along with the Theme Talks each morning, there are many other activities. Workshops lined up for this summer include: Creative Writing, Folk Dancing and Square Dancing, daily nature walks, Massage, Yoga and Qi Jong Movement, Dream Work, Self Expression Through Art, Improvisation, Drumming, Origami and Watercolor Painting. An Astronomy Workshop presented by Dr. Peter Landecker will include two nights viewing through telescopes, an astronomy question and answer session, as well as a field trip to the solar observatory in Big Bear.

Not only are there plenty of workshops to attend, campers are

encouraged to relax at the pool, soak in the hot tub, sing and socialize during Happy Hour, donate to the Silent Auction, display their talents at the Talent Show or just sit and enjoy the forest.

The PSWIRL web site (www.pswirl.org) says that the camp is "an extended family, in an atmosphere of mutual respect and acceptance, dedicated to personal growth, developing a larger social consciousness, and welcoming diverse ideas." Join PSWIRL and folks from throughout the PSWD this summer for a stimulating and entertaining week at camp.



**If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations.**

**If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities**

**If there is to be peace in the cities
There must be peace between neighbors**

**If there is to be peace between neighbors
There must be peace in the home.**

**If there is to be peace in the home
There must be peace in the heart. – Lao Tsu**



Registration Information
at
www.pswirl.org

*p***SWIRL 2007**
a Swirl of Activities

Sunday, August 19 - Friday, August 24, 2007



Work Weekend is a Family Affair for the Johnsons

Dear Janet,

On behalf of our family, we'd like to tell you just how much we enjoyed our "Work Weekend" at de Benneville. Claire, Jaimee, Gene and I found ourselves tackling jobs as varied as climbing ladders to paint a new building, slicing branches with a powerful extension saw, moving bundles of branches, organizing games, assisting Laura with little jobs at the



Jaimee helps in the store

camp store, and our favorite: planting over 100 spring bulbs. Each job allowed us to use our talents and muscles. Latent skills even surfaced when needed.

The girls enjoyed mixing work and play: sitting down rubbing Dakota's belly was a treat.

Meals gave us a chance to mingle and chat with UU's of all ages. Being surrounded by towering pines, clear blue skies and fellow UU's rounded out the experience for us. Our



The Johnson Family

efforts to strengthen Camp de Benneville, invigorated and renewed us. We look forward to the next "Work Weekend" in May.

The staff was warm, welcoming and accommodating. Thank you.

**Mary Ruth, Gene,
Claire & Jaimee Johnson**



Claire paints a shed

Brian Seimans' Eagle Scout Project: A Retaining Wall Outside Homet Lodge

Brian was required to raise the funds for his project, determine the equipment and supplies needed, figure out how to do the building, recruit volunteers, as well as supervise and participate in the actual work. Good job, Brian! We now have a retaining wall to keep the bank from deteriorating. Thanks to you and your helpers.



*Digging the trench.
There sure are a lot of rocks in this mountain!*



Setting the posts in concrete



Laying the poles

Brian's Life Ambitions

- **School:** Computer Science Degree from top university such as UCLA or UCR
- **Work:** Computer software programming for Blizzard Entertainment, a computer gaming company
- **Family:** Marry and have children; at least one son so he can participate in scouting with him
- **Previous Accomplishments:**
 - High School Cross Country and Track Teams--Team Captain, Scholar Athlete
 - High School Chess Club
 - High School Band--played saxophone
 - Church Youth Group and Acolyte
 - Rotary Club--local service projects and visited Nicaragua for their International Service Project
 - Currently enrolled in Riverside Community College

The wall is done!



Brian Seimens was awarded his Eagle Pin on Saturday, January 13, 2007. Congratulations!

Mark Lewis at Family Camp

Continued from page 1

inviting us to tell our stories. He feels that telling our personal and family stories can be a way of exploring and sharing what is most meaningful in our lives. Mark believes that sharing stories leads to a greater connection between individuals and families, building a strong sense of community.

Each morning, Mark will discuss the theme "Magical Connections: Sharing our Stories Together". Several afternoons, he will offer family workshops and one evening will organize a camper participation storytelling event.

Camp Deans, Amy Brunell and Lisa Ward, are excited to head the committee organizing the camp schedule. In the 1970's, they



Mark Lewis
Telling Stories at the fire circle

watched their parents in leadership roles at de Benneville. Returning now, with their own children, Family Camp has special meaning.

Amy and Lisa have recruited a great staff, blending campers from the 1970's and loyal attendees from the past couple of decades.

Camp activities will include not-to-be missed whole-camp adventures, nature and pool time, UU discussions and worship, and fun-filled evening activities in addition to Mark's special offerings.

Pre-registration has been strong, so we're expecting the camp to fill. Register Now! Don't miss out on spending a week with Mark Lewis and all your friends (and soon-to-be friends) at Family Camp 2007.

An Evening with Mark Lewis

Saturday

March 24, 2007

Proceeds to provide scholarships for
Camp Bravo Theater Arts Camp
held at Camp de Benneville Pines

El Portal Theater
North Hollywood, CA
Tickets available at
www.campbravo.org



For More Info
contact the camp office
caroline@uucamp.org
(909) 794-2928

To Register

Use registration form on pg 15
Include \$50 non-refundable deposit
for each person
Full payment due before 7/1/07

\$305 per adult
\$290 per teen (13-18)
\$280 per youth (3-12)
\$100 per infant (0-2)

Upgrades:

Craig's Cabin \$80 per person
Cabin 6 \$50 per person
Double Bed 5/7/8 \$50 per room

I Want to Sleep Spiritually

by Eve Bushman (previously submitted to her local newspaper)

**I want to sleep, to rest, to just close my eyes,
Without interruption.**

Maybe to read or eat first to relax.

To let my lids fall, let my cheeks relax,

My jaw to slack, my mind to blank,

My tongue to drop, my chin to collapse,

My bed to envelop me, my pillow to caress me.

My body from toes to chin to fall

Into a deep dream.

The author's first poem. Written under the prompt of "High Speed Free Write" from Richard Weekly's "Writers For Life" course given at Camp de Benneville Pines Unitarian Universalist Mountain Retreat, October 7, 2006

In reading this columnist, who would have thought that a wine aficionado, satirist of Santa Clarita Valley culture and all-around trouble-maker, could possibly have something to contribute to the Religion Page? If you're a stalwart reader, you may remember when I was searching for a little religion for myself and my family....and the Santa Clarita Valley is a hotbed of religious choices.

I found myself most comfortable in the arms of the Unitarian Universalists (UU's), the religion I had grown up with as a child. They've made my family more than comfortable for the better part of this last year. Our year of religious experience culminated in our very first religious retreat. We shared our time with members from at least three other UU churches in and around the Santa Clarita Valley in what was called the "LA/Valley Cluster UU Retreat". Please read on to see how a Newbie did it.

Camp de Benneville Pines in Angelus Oaks is probably like other camp retreat facilities that many religious people have attended. What made it different for me was seeing it for the first time and being with many people who had been coming to camp for years. I found that I was just as curious about connecting with them as they were curious about me.

We arrived at dinner time on Friday night. We were too late for the Sing-a-long but not too late for a hot supper and what was coined "Inter-generational games". While Ed got settled in our cabin, raised the thermostat and checked out the fridge, he was text-messaged by our daughter to get down to the lodge ASAP. We had to figure out what famous name was labeled on our backs!

While Samantha was Shrek, I had a hard time helping Dottie figure out that she was

Luke Skywalker. I was labeled Anna Karenina. Finding someone who knew what clues to give me felt daunting for a moment. But lucky me: a new friend appeared on the horizon who not only read Russian novels, but only had to give me three great clues to help me figure it out. A spiritual moment had already occurred! "Anna Karenina" was my favorite book twenty-five years ago! And guess what? I was currently halfway through re-reading the 30 or so CD audio book in my car. Eerie...I had a hard time falling to sleep that night!

In the morning we enjoyed the minister from our local Santa Clarita Valley UU Church, Reverend Ricky Hoyt, give Grace before breakfast. We were going to get this blessing before every meal! We formed a circle outside in a natural wooded arena, sang, heard his heartfelt words and felt so warmly comforted and relaxed--inwardly cozy though outwardly cold. What a wonderful opportunity to center ourselves, three times a day!

We joined new friends and old for a short walk to nearby Jenk's Lake; unfortunately missing Rev. Hoyt's class, "Finding our Way: Landmarks on the Spiritual Journey". I think one point of getting away from home and being in nature is that it can bring a spiritual calmness in and of itself. Our group certainly did well. The kids took turns holding onto the camp dog's leash. The parents were not constantly parenting, but were able to enjoy the quiet.

After lunch, the kids had choices between going to the library, learning archery, swimming, participating in a children's program or stealing RJ's handmade sign from the "Fort" he had constructed (Yes, the fort won out). I headed to the "Being a UU Parent" workshop. Lynne Webber, the Religious Education Director for the SCV church, after listening to each parent's concerns, led us through a couple of exercises. We discovered that we each hold very similar values for our children that many religious, and even non-religious, families may have. We also, in another exercise, learned that the room we spend the most time in as a family may not have any, or enough, symbols of our faith or our values.

Later, I participated in "Writers for Life" and wrote the above poem. The workshop was offered by our very own local SCV high school

teacher, Richard Weekly. His exercises made us think in poetic detail. The "High Speed Free Write" forced us to push to our limits quickly before "time!" was declared. Richard read a few poems, including one of his own, and had us write down the phrases that made us think. He said he would have preferred to do the exercises outdoors so we could really get into nature but couldn't find a space where there were enough rocks to lean on.

That evening we had a Social Hour, giving us further opportunities to meet new people and reconnect with our own church members. Later that evening, the Talent Show was "Inter-generational" with older participants doing Burns and Allen, playing an antique Swedish violin, and singing songs that didn't require editing while our younger group offered skits mimicking UU Idol, what you could put on a Matzo, making noises that cannot be predicted and an entirely new rendition of the Dunkin' Donut song. I am proud to say that I led the bravos for "Noises that Cannot be Predicted". It was another late night to bed.

The next morning, being Sunday and our final day together, full outdoor services were held. My youngster and a few others had difficulty leaving their "fort" but soon found that it was worth it. Our camaraderie had culminated with music and Rev. Ricky Hoyt's thought provoking service on how individual churches should connect and support each other.

It was time to pack up. With warm thoughts and promises to return, we said our goodbyes, silently trying to memorialize everyone and everything. Then down the mountain and on the freeway, to home, our own beds and blissful, peaceful, relaxing, spiritual sleep.

Eve and her daughter, Sam



For information about the UU Church of Santa Clarita Valley, go to www.uuofscv.org or call 661-254-7866.



Girl Scout Camps

Winter Snow (Whoope!) Camp
Feb 2 - 4, 2007

Spring Mother/Daughter Camp
March 23 - 25, 2007

Two weekends especially for Girl Scouts!

Leaders bring your troop for a chance to play, learn, grow and have fun together.
De Benneville provides your food and a warm, snug place to sleep.
Roast marshmallows, sing, work on badges, sled in the snow, look at the stars
or play games by the fire. A memorable weekend!

Registration:
Please use the Family Event form on pg 15
Cost: \$50 per person
includes Fri/Sat lodging, Sat breakfast thru Sun breakfast meals
Additional Information:
Please include your troop number and level

For additional information, contact:
Caroline at (909) 794-2928 or
caroline@uucamp.org

Cancellation: Full refund for individual cancellations up to 30 days before camp.
\$5 per person cancellation fee for troop cancellations. No refund for cancellations less than 30 days before camp.



Rainbow Family Camp

A Weekend Camp for LGBT Families

Friday, April 13 - Sunday, April 15, 2007

Activities Include

* Arts & Crafts

* Outdoor Sports

* Hiking

* Indoor Games

* Parent Rap Group

* Movies

* Talent Show

* Lots of Fun!

Registration:
\$115 Adults - \$80 Teens (13 - 19) - \$40 Kids (3 - 12)
Kids under 3 are free
Upgrade - \$40 per adult, Craig's Cabin or Cabin 6
Cancellation - \$50 per family before 3/30/2007
No refunds after 3/30/2007
Payment accepted by check only

Use Family Event form on pg 15
Make your check to "Camp de Benneville Pines"
Mail to: Robert Valadez
Family Services Program
1625 N Schrader Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90028
For additional information, contact:
familyservices@lagaycenter.org or (323) 860-7397



Camp for Homeschooling Families

Monday - Thursday

April 16 - 19, 2007

Join families who homeschool for a fun week at camp!
The schedule is relaxed, allowing plenty of time for the kids to explore and the parents to talk.

Hiking, archery, crafts, tie dying, nature, games, talent show---volunteer to offer your favorite event.

There are always plenty of new friends to meet.

For additional information, contact:

Caroline at (909) 794-2928

or caroline@uucamp.org

Registration:

\$80 per person, ages 3+, Children under 2 free

Maximum \$320 per family

Includes all activities, lodging & meals

Upgrade:

\$20 per person, Craig's Cabin/Cabin 6

Cancellation Fee

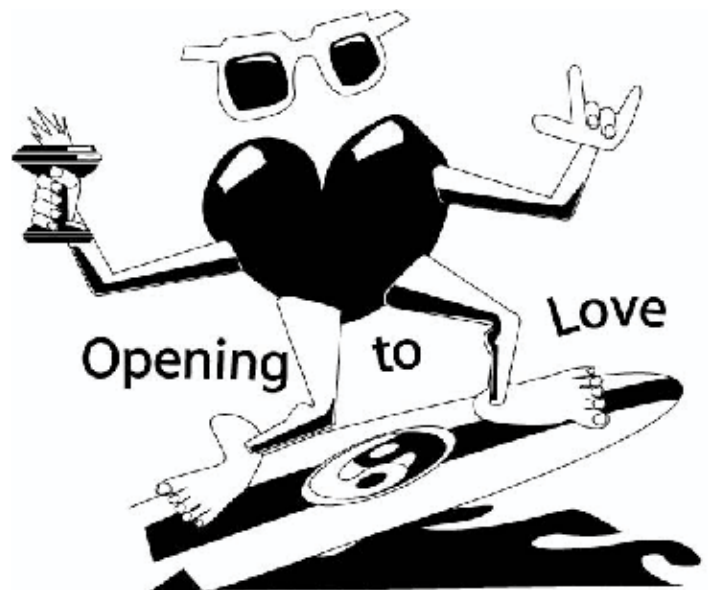
\$50 per family before April 1, 2007

No Refunds after April 1, 2007

Use Family Event Form on pg 15

UU Men's Spring Renewal

April 20-22, 2007



Join us for a spring weekend at de Benneville.

Together we'll explore our gut feelings:
What it is that touches and enflames our
souls, gives meaning to our lives?

As usual, the weekend will include work-
shops, deep sharing, music and drumming,
silence, ritual, sweat lodge, songs, laughter,
and great food. Small "kinship" groups and
large circles will assist us in discovering and
developing that which makes us whole.

*Preference for Craig's Cabin will be allotted to elders
and those who need to be close to the lodge

** No man will be turned away for financial reasons.
If you are in a position to help, please include a donation

Cost: \$150

Add \$25 for Craig's Cabin *

UUMF Membership Dues \$36

Use the Adult Event form on pg 15

Mail with your check to:

First UU Church of San Diego

Attn: UU Men's Federation

4190 Front Street

San Diego, CA 92103

For additional information,
contact: Mike Dorfi

mdorfi@cox.net or (619) 466-5952



Friday, April 27 - Sunday, April 30, 2007

A weekend of self-care where you and your inner child can "Celebrate Your Recovery". Share with others. Grow, heal, play, discover, reflect, dance, have fun and work on yourself. Like summer camp for the kid within you! All persons from ACA, CODA and similar 12-step programs are invited.

Immerse yourself in your recovery through workshops, 12-step meetings, arts & crafts, music, drumming, relaxing, hiking, body movement, dancing, volleyball and lots of fellowship while enjoying the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains.

For More Information, go to
www.camprecoveryinfo.com

Cost: \$145 per person

includes food, lodging, activities and t-shirt or canvas tote bag

Add \$100 per room Craig's Cabin (separate check please)

Deduct \$15 before 3/25/07

Deduct \$5 pp 3+ /envelope

Register by phone after 4/20/07

Mail with Check to:

Camp Recovery

P.O. Box 1307

Garden Grove, CA 92842

Cancellation:

No Refunds after 3/30/07

Registrations may be transferred or donated

*Do you love working with kids? Do you have tremendous leadership skills?
Do you want to be just like your favorite counselor? C.I.T. IS FOR YOU!*

Counselor-in-Training Program

with co-facilitators Kim St Clair & Robin Darling

Sunday, July 8 thru Saturday, July 14, 2007

The Counselor-in-Training (CIT) program is accepting registrations from prospective counselors between the ages of 15 - 18. CIT provides training in a range of leadership skills with hands-on experience during Elementary Camp. In addition to learning how to be top-notch counselors, CITs get time to bond with each other and to become an integral part of the Elementary Camp community.

After registration, prospective counselors will be sent an application form. This must be returned by June 1, 2007, along with two references. Only 10 spaces are available, so a selection process will be utilized (preference will be given to applicants 16 and older and those with experience working with children). Acceptance notifications will be made by June 15, 2007. Deposit will be refunded for applicants not selected.

A CIT is considered a camper and must complete all camper forms. A confirmation packet with the required forms will be mailed to successful applicants prior to the camp start date.

For additional information:
contact Kim St. Clair
(602) 741-2539
redirector@phoenixuu.org



Cost: \$195 per person
(includes food, lodging and all program materials).

Optional: Sweatshirt \$25, T-shirt \$12. Include size request

Donation: Any amount to help campers with limited funds.

To register: complete the YoUUth form on pg 15

Submit by 5/25/07

with **\$50 per person**

non-refundable deposit



PSWD Summer Youth Camps



Elementary July 8 - 14, 2007

Many Paths - One Faith

Dean: Kevin Drewery

Spend a week laughing, playing, and learning a little about several of the world's religions in our great wilderness setting. We are going to look at Unitarian Universalism through the lens of different spiritual practices. There will be special worships, pool, tie-dying, carnival, archery, art, music, and more!

For youth completing grades 2-6

Middle School July 15 - 21, 2007

The Music in our Lives

Dean: Riley McLaughlin

Asst Dean: Bridgit Paparella

Program Coord: Robin Darling

We'll have fun exploring the ways music enhances our lives, builds our identities, heals us and celebrates who we are.

For youth completing grades 6-9

Sr High July 22 - 28, 2007

Camp of Rock n' Roll: Revol*UU*tion

Youth Deans:

Andrea Friedman/David Pickus

Adult Dean: Kim St Clair

We'll explore the relationship between music and societal change, such as during the cultural revolution of the 1960's. We'll emphasize UU principles: how we can use them to better our community and how small things we do can help solve larger issues.

For youth completing
grades 10-12

Registration Information

Registration:

Use the "YoUUth Camp" form on pg 15

Cost: \$355 per person

Deduct \$30 per person
if postmarked/received by e-mail or fax by 4/7/2007

Sibling Discount: \$15
Same form/One per family

Optional: Sweatshirt \$25 / T-shirt \$12
Please include size request on form

Donation: any amount to help campers w/limited funds

Submit registration with \$50 per person
non-refundable deposit or pay in full

All camps run Sunday - Saturday

For more information, contact Caroline
(909) 794-2928 or caroline@uucamp.org

CampOUT - Labor Day Weekend Camp for Lesbians

Join in the fun with your Tribe
& make Friendships that last a Lifetime!

*August 31 -
September 3, 2007*

A great mix of Lesbian Singles and Couples that makes
for fabulous company!

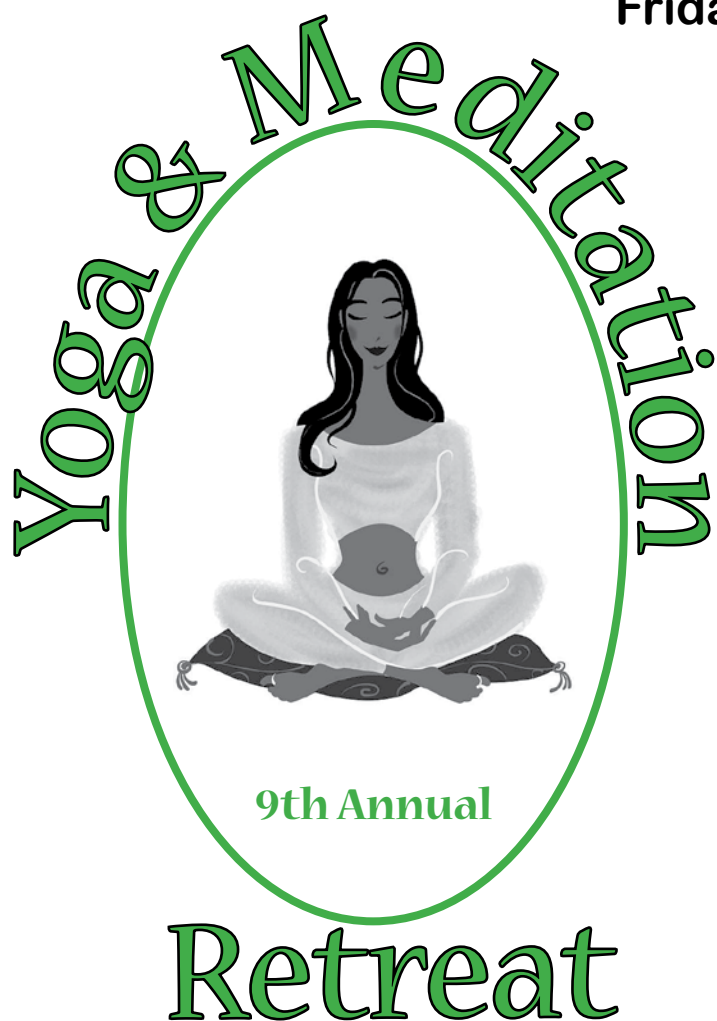
Lodging & Meals all included for this very affordable
experience, including great individual and group
activities



- Welcome Party
- Sports Activities
(Basketball, Volleyball, Hiking, Swimming)
- Group Activities
(Arts & Crafts, Karaoke, "Monte Carlo" Games)
- Relax in the beautiful natural setting!

We look forward to meeting you soon. E-mail us today:

info@campOUT2006.com



Friday, September 7 - Sunday, September 9, 2007

Two Levels of Yoga (beginner & Intermediate)

- * Reiki Healing Circle
- * Tai Chi * Art From the Heart
- * Early Morning Meditation
- Pool & Hot Tub * Hiking * Friendship**
- * Sitting in Stillness * Good Food

Therapeutic massage, reflexology & tarot card reading
available for an additional charge

Program provided by Blue Mud Yoga Studio

Cost: \$175 per person

Registrations sent by 8/10/2007, **deduct \$20**
Includes food, lodging & activities

Upgrades: \$30 per person
Craig's Cabin or Cabin 6

Cancellation Policy:
\$50 fee per person before 8/10/2007
No refund after 8/10/07

Event Name:				Event Dates:				
Attendee Names	Special Diet, Allergies or Medical Needs	Fee	Upgrade	Extra Day	Early Reg Discount	Friend Discount	Donation	Total Due
								\$
								\$
								\$
								\$
Total enclosed/To be charged								\$

Address		Home Phone	
City & State		Cell Phone	
Zip	If you would like to receive confirmation that we have received your registration or if you would like to charge your fees, please include an e-mail address.		E-Mail
Circle Requests: Double Bed (upgrade fee may apply) Carpool (if available) Cabin 6 Craig's Cabin Bottom Bunk		Additional information	
UU Congregation:			
Roommates:			

To pay via credit card, call, fax or e-mail your registration information to: Phone (909) 794-2928 Fax (909) 794-2418 or caroline@uucamp.org

Family Event Registration Form

Event Name:				Event Dates:				
Attendee Names	Special Diet, Allergies or Medical Needs	Adult = A or Child's Age	Fee	Upgrade	Extra Day	Early Reg Discount	Donation	Total Due
								\$
								\$
								\$
								\$
Total enclosed/To be charged								\$

Address		Home Phone	
City & State		Cell Phone	
Zip	If you would like to receive confirmation that we have received your registration or if you would like to charge your fees, please include an e-mail address.		E-Mail
Circle Requests: Double Bed (upgrade fee may apply) Carpool (if available) Cabin 6 Craig's Cabin Bottom Bunk		Additional information:	
UU Congregation:			
Cabinmates:			

To pay by mail, return your registration form with a check to: Camp de Benneville Pines, 41750 Jenks Lake Rd West, Angelus Oaks, CA 92305

YoUUth Camp Registration Form

Camp Name:						Camp Dates:				
Attendee Names	Special Diet, Allergies or Medical Needs	Birth Date	Current Grade	M/F	Fee	Early Reg Discount	Sibling Disc (1 per family)	T-Shirt \$12 Sweatshirt \$25	Scholarship Fund Donation	Total Due
										\$
										\$
										\$
If you have a specail/high needs child, please let us know. We will have someone contact you to determine the best way to support your child and the family.							Total enclosed/To be charged		\$	

Parent's Name(s)	
Address	
Home Phone	
City & State	
Cell Phone	
Zip	If you would like to receive confirmation that we have received your registration or if you would like to charge your fees, please include an e-mail address.
First time camper? Yes / No	UU Congregation:
Do you need a PSWD scholarship? Yes / No	
Scholarships are awarded on the basis of need and a camper's willingness to raise money for him/herself. Please send scholarship requests to Tera Little at teralittle@worldnet.att.net or call (626) 840-5412.	
Cabinmates:	

Additional information: (shirt size, etc.)	
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Designed by Caroline Quintanilla
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Pg1 - Ellen Snortland, Mark Lewis
Pg3 - David Dopps / Pg4 - Patti Londre
Pg5 - Laura Janes / Pg6 - Rev John Morehouse, Peter Landecker, PSWIRL
Pg7 - Mary Ruth Johnson, Brian Seimans
Pg8 - Camp Bravo / Pg9 - Eve Bushman
Pg11 - Andy Pletcher / Pg14 - CampOUT

Camp de Benneville Pines
Board of Directors
2006-2007

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Richard Cole

Vice President

John Schaibly

Secretary

Joan Stredler

Treasurer

Eric Klatt

Members at Large

Margaret Armstrong

Dave English

Glenn Noreen

Gil Speer

Clarice Turney

Camp Staff

Executive Director

Janet James

uucamp@aol.com

Administrative Assistant

Caroline Quintanilla

caroline@uucamp.org

Lead Cook

Marvin Gardenhire

Maintenance

Danny Candelaria

Our Mission:

The mission of Camp de Benneville Pines is to provide a mountain retreat where Unitarian Universalist principles and values are lived and celebrated in community.

Camp Purpose

- To provide a place to relax and recreate in life-affirming ways
- To provide a central gathering place for the Pacific Southwest District
- To provide a place for promoting life-long spiritual growth
- To develop leaders through volunteer opportunities/experiences
- To conserve a wilderness setting
- To extend UU influence in the larger community
- To encourage the expression of diverse ideas in a safe atmosphere of mutual respect
- To facilitate the ongoing process of community building within and among UU societies



This facility is operated under a Special Use permit on land under the jurisdiction

of the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.

Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The living tradition we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teaching which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolaters of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

How to Contact Us

*Camp de Benneville Pines
41750 Jenks Lake Road West
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305*

Camp Office Number
909-794-2928

Camp Lodge/Kitchen
909-794-8712

Camp Maintenance Shop
909-794-4530

Camp E-mail
uucamp@aol.com

Camp Website
www.uucamp.org

We're in the Movies!

The new de Benneville Pines movie, produced by Richard Roller & Diane Rowland, will be shown in Riverside at the District Assembly, April 27 - 29, 2007

Make a Difference at Camp

RSVP to attend
(909) 794-2928 or
caroline@uucamp.org

Work Weekend

Go Paperless

Subscribe to the online version of the Connection. Instead of paper in your mailbox, get an e-mail with a link to the web Connection. View it all, print only what you need to! Subscribe by sending your e-mail to caroline@uucamp.org

Fri May 11 - Sun May 13, 2007