

Camp de Benneville Pines

Connection

Fall 2010/Winter 2011

Your Unitarian Universalist Mountain Retreat

Circle of Life:

Reflections on Youth Camp Reunions

by Candace Kearns Read

There's a place along Highway 38 outside of Redlands, California, off a little street called Jenks Lake Road. It's an old Boy Scout camp that the Universalists bought in The Sixties. My mother started taking me there when I was 6, and in strangely deep and psychic ways, it's where I grew up. The camp is called de Benneville, and I could chant you the chant, but it's not really publishable, and besides, it wouldn't be the same in print as it is with dozens of liberal religious types screaming it at the top of their lungs. You just had to be there, to experience a peaceful morning walk from the cabins to the lodge, or hear the rush of the stream flowing over the boulders, which we would lie on for hours in the sun, writing in our journals and reaching transcendent places.

Now, thirty-something years later, we return there for reunions. While the Love and Peace is still alive among us, much has been lost in the crossover from cassettes to CDs, from Dolphin shorts to Ugg boots, from Carter to Obama. There's the fact that we're all just a wee bit older now, and saddled with children, mortgages, dead-end jobs or brilliantly ascending careers. Most of us have landed somewhere in the middle, fortified enough by our spiritual upbringing in the woods to have found contentment later in life.

And that is mostly what we celebrate when we come together now. We celebrate our past, certainly, and we celebrate our accomplishments, as parents, leaders, and positive contributors to our ever-ailing society. But more intensely, we celebrate how our past made us who we are today, and the fact that the roaring fire in the big stone hearth of our lodge has been stoked for all these years. It must mean something eternal. Certainly it helps us reach something timeless and soaring, and allows us to get past our deteriorating bodies, the ache of how long ago our youth actually was and how impossible it will be to ever really recover it. Just by coming together again, we distill that pain down to its origin of joy, community and insight, each finding a place where the passage of time once again holds promise.

Of course, at these gatherings, we can't help but check out how well, or poorly, each of us has aged. It's amazing how, um, different your dear friends look with bald spots and paunchy bellies, wrinkles and varicose veins. It's not always pleasant to see what's happened to us over the years. Then there are those who haven't aged much at all, or who actually

somehow look hotter in middle age than they did as teenagers. In some ways it's a masochistic endeavor, a self-induced wake-up call. The fond memories we have of our youth are now revised, with newer, less enchanting images of a bunch of middle-aged UUs.

The worst thing about reuniting with all these old friends and loved ones is recognizing the toll that life's hardships and struggles has taken on each of us. In one way or another, we've all had heartbreak and disappointment, and sometime worse. Cancer, divorce, losing friends and relatives, battles with substance abuse or alcoholism in ourselves or others, career highs and lows ... few of us have been left unscathed by these or other losses.

While it might take some effort to get over the macabre changes our bodies, minds and psyches are experiencing, it's possible to still see the light shine within each and every one of us, reminding us of the timeless and transcendent nature of the human spirit. One step into that lodge again, and suddenly, it's clear as a mountain cloud: The bright eyed, dreamy youth filled with boundless energy may be totally and irrevocably gone, but the essence of our childlike spirits lives on. We may look ridiculous horsing around in the lodge, not to mention soaking in the hot tub, but that's part of the circle of life, and it's okay. At least we're all sagging together.

Over the course of a three day weekend, we find ways to recharge the battery of our magical memories. We may not be as innocent or as pure as we were back then, and we're certainly not as free and full of possibility. But we can still play cards, folk dance, hike to the stream, and stand in a circle crying while singing a song. We can still stay up too late, hit a ping pong ball, choke up over a note in our paper-bag mailbox, and hug 100 people simultaneously.

If nothing else, the power of these gatherings is simply in showing up. Just by being together again, we feel the commonality, and it helps us pass the test of time. It helps us get centered and spiritually grounded again, as we are infused with new light, new memories, and new love. It's a simple but awesome trip to take, and it can empower us through to the next stage and the next and the next, and on into the foreseeable future, when, older still, we will once again gather together, and join hands in the circle of life.

Candace Kearns Read (formerly Corrigan) grew up in the Santa Monica UU Community Church, and attended Kiddie Camp, Jr. High Camp, LRY, and YRUU camps from 1972-1987.



LRY camp circa 1974



LRY reunion circa 2008

Non-profit
Organization
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Camp de Benneville Pines

41750 Jenks Lake Road West
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305

Address Service Requested

REUNION of YOUTH CAMPERS

🕯 March 11 - 13, 2011 🕯

See the ad on Page 4

Camp de Benneville Pines

Calendar of Events Fall 2010 through Spring 2011

September 2010

- 3 – 6 **PSWD Young Adults Camp: Fan the Flame**
For info: <http://connectuu.com>
- 10 – 12 **Yoga & Wellness Retreat**
For info: <http://uucamp.org> or registrar@uucamp.org
- 17 – 19 **Adult Children of Alcoholics Retreat**
For info: <http://adultchildren.org> or fmrchair@gmail.com
- 24 – 26 **UU Channel Island Cluster Retreat**
For info: dave@barker.nu

October 2010

- 1 – 3 **Camp Get Away for Mothers & Others**
For info: patti@londre.com or (310) 351-5151
- 8 – 10 **UU LA Valley Cluster Retreat**
For info: louisepell@yahoo.com
- 10 – 13 **Camp Bravo El Rancho School Camp (Private)**
- 14 **Diamond Bar High School Pathways Academy (Private)**
- 15 – 17 **Tapestry/Orange Coast UU Congregational Retreat**
For info: KarenUU@cox.net or admin@tapestryuu.org
- 22 – 24 **Healing Souls Women & Power**
For info: healingsoulofamerica@gmail.com
- 25 – 29 **Prototype Recovery House (Private)**
- 29 – 31 **Work Weekend**
For info: <http://uucamp.org> or registrar@uucamp.org
Also see advertisement on page 4

November 2010

- 5 – 7 **Music in the Mountains Folk Music Weekend**
For info: registrar@uucamp.org
Also see advertisement on page 4
- 12 – 14 **Fullerton/Long Beach/Las Vegas UU Retreat**
For info: tthorward@ngsnet.com
- 19 – 21 **Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance (Private)**
- 25 – 28 **Thanksgiving Holiday Celebration**
For info: registrar@uucamp.org
Also see advertisement on page 4

December 2010

- 3 – 5 **PSWD Jr. High Fall Camp and Coming of Age Retreat**
For info: <http://uucamp.org> or registrar@uucamp.org
Also see advertisement on page 5
- 10 – 12 *Available for Lease*
- 17 – 19 *Available for Lease*
- 27 – 1/1 **PSWD Sr. High Winter Camp**
For info: <http://uucamp.org> or registrar@uucamp.org
Also see advertisement on page 5

January 2011

- 7 – 9: *Camp Available for Lease*
- 13 – 17: **Society for Creative Anachronism (Private)**
- 21 – 23: *Camp Available for Lease*
- 28 – 30: **Cub Scout Pack 5 (Private)**

February 2011

- 4 – 6 **Neighborhood UU Winter Family Fun**
For info: cgaulke@adelphia.net
- 11 – 13 **Girl Scouts of Huntington Beach (Private)**
- 19 – 21 **PSWD Winter Family Camp/Elementary Camp**
For info: <http://uucamp.org> or registrar@uucamp.org
Also see advertisement on page 5
- 25 – 27 **Riverside YMCA Family Camp (Private)**
Cherokee Nation of Orange (Private)
First Congregational Church of Redlands (Private)

March 2011

- 4 – 6 **Ohr HaTorah School Retreat (Private) (partial camp)**
- 4 – 6 *Available for Lease*
- 10 – 13 **LRY Reunion of Campers 70s & 80s**
For info: carlbailey@yahoo.com
Also see advertisement on page 4
- 18 – 20 **Girl Scout Song Swap Weekend**
For info: <http://uucamp.org> or registrar@uucamp.org
Also see advertisement on page 6
- 25 – 27 **Rainbow Family Camp**
For info: <http://uucamp.org> or registrar@uucamp.org
Also see advertisement on page 6

April 2011

- 1 – 3 **UU San Dieguito Retreat**
For info: ksturch@san.rr.com
- 8 – 10 **UU Monte Vista/Riverside Retreat**
For info: UnitarianUniversalist@Verizon.net or uucr@juno.com
- 15 – 17 **UU Men's Fellowship Retreat**
For info: mdorfi@cox.net
- 22 – 24 **Wedding and Family Reunion (Private)**
- 25 – 28 **Prototypes Recovery House (Private)**
- 29 – 5/1 **Camp Blog Away**
For info: patti@londre.com or (310) 351-5151

May 2011

- 2 – 4 **Volunteer Work Camp – Mid-Week**
Open to all volunteers to help camp get ready for summer
For info: <http://uucamp.org> or registrar@uucamp.org
- 6 – 8 **Camp Recovery**
For info: <http://camprecovery.org>
- 12 **Diamond Bar High School Pathways Academy (Private)**
- 13 – 15 **UU Women's Retreat**
For info: <http://uucamp.org> or registrar@uucamp.org
- 27 – 30 **Camp Bravo Theater Arts Educator's Retreat**
For info: <http://campbravo.org>

June 2011

- 3 – 5 **First UU San Diego Congregational Retreat**
For info: (619) 298-9978 or mail@firstuusandiego.org
- 6 – 9 **Homeschool Camp**
For info: <http://uucamp.org> or registrar@uucamp.org

Registration information for any of the retreats listed may be obtained by calling the camp registrar at (909) 794-1252, e-mailing registrar@uucamp.org, or from the camp's website at <http://www.uucamp.org>.

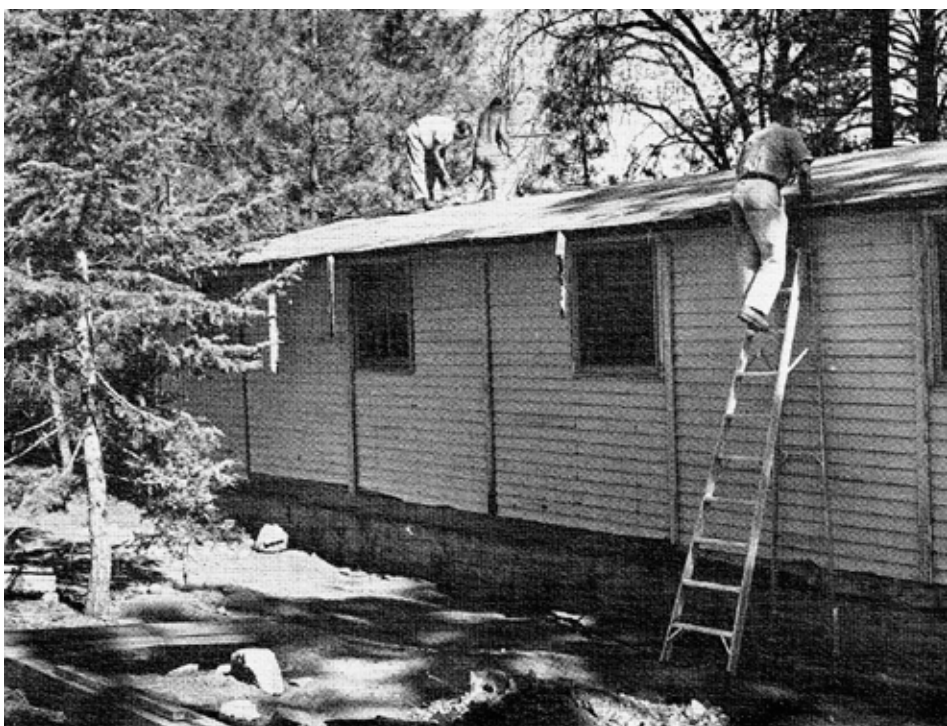
Most event details can be found in this newsletter.
Registration forms are on page 7.

Coming of Age: Fifty Years of Camp de Benneville Pines

by Dr. Ross Quinn, Vice President, Board of Trustees

Our beloved Camp de Benneville Pines has come of age, like those of us who have grown up with her. I refer to the camp as her, despite the fact that I in general don't believe in anthropomorphizing inanimate objects, because I have come to understand that my feelings toward the Camp are more like those I have for a beloved person. Plus the Camp, just like us human folk, is growing, maturing, and changing – and we are part of that process.

Our Camp turns 50 in 2011. This is also the 50th anniversary of the merger of the Unitarians and Universalists into one denomination. This is not entirely an accident. The purchase of our Camp grew out of the need felt by PSWIRL, the Pacific Southwest Institute of Religious Liberals, to have a Camp available more than one week per year. PSWIRL was composed of Universalists, Unitarians, Ethical Culturalists, and others. Every summer they sponsored a one-week family camp at Camp Radford, which they rented from its owner, the City of Los Angeles. In Southern California at least, the co-mingling of all these folks for a week in PSWIRL family camp provided an extra person-to-person impetus for the merger of our two denominations in 1961, and created and nurtured the dream of having



A roofing job on one of the cabins. From a brochure printed in the 1960s. Photo by Mildred Mead.

our own PSWD camp. That dream was realized with the purchase of our beloved Camp de Benneville Pines in 1961 by the Universalists.

I remember going to the Radford summer camps in 1959 and 1960, as a precocious 10 and 11 year old kid. I also remember visiting the then-vacant Camp Arataba, which was being sold by the Boy Scouts after a fire destroyed their central lodge. My father, John Quinn, who is now 89, was on the first PSWD Board which purchased our Camp. Driving up to Arataba with Dave English when I was 11 or 12, I was impressed with the Ponderosa Pines, especially one which grew immediately to the east of what is now the kitchen. This tree was charred black at least 50 feet up on the side facing the previous lodge, from the heat of the fire which had burned that lodge to the ground. We all remarked about how fortunate it was that the entire forest had not burned. Arataba was pretty spartan: the only buildings were the caretaker's cabin, the infirmary, the building that is now the Coffee House, and the bath house next to the pool. Where Homet Lodge is now, there was just a concrete floor, "the slab" as it was universally called then. There were no cabins, just tent platforms with iron rack bunks and canvas tents. Between the Coffee House and slab there was a communal sink with three garden hose type faucets on each side, where you could wash before eating – cold water only. There was not much more.

In the following years, enormous amounts of volunteer labor gradually created the Camp we know today. The cabins were trucked in from decommissioned military bases, placed on foundations and knit together with porches and new roofs to support the snow; Homet Lodge was built;



An earlier generation of happy campers, from a brochure printed in the 1960s. Photo by Mildred Mead.

and trenches dug by hand for water, electric, and sewer lines throughout the Camp. Later came the hot tubs, Craig's Cabin, and countless improvements in everything from furniture, to walkways with lights, to redesigned porches and interiors of many cabins, just to name a few. The Camp has grown up, and is more beautiful and versatile than ever.

We who have seen the Camp grow up are ourselves now all grown up. At age 61, a grandfather, I am among the youngest who still have those memories of the early years. And unfortunately, with every succeeding year, there are fewer and fewer of us who personally knew these things, and the pace of loss seems to accelerate.

I not infrequently think deeply about what I learned at Camp, both with my family and with my LRY friends, lessons whose value I did not consciously appreciate until much later in life. There are the obvious yet crucial lessons: the capacity of ordinary people to accomplish impossibly large tasks by cooperating; the value in sticking doggedly to a job to get it done; the joy of dedicating myself, suborning myself, really, to a goal larger than me. In other words, I learned the power and blessing of community. There were also the more pragmatic learnings: the body memory of how to use a 10 lb sledge hammer and pick; how to use a splitting maul with wedges to split 4 foot rounds when the hydraulic splitter was down; how to conserve energy and find the efficient pace that leads to long steady activity at 7,000 feet of altitude. And always there was the forest, the surrounding wilderness mountain and Hathaway Creek at the Camp's east boundary. Walking these places, in every possible light and season, taught me, before it was even written, a visceral knowledge of our great Seventh Principle. In Camp, over the years, I learned much about the core of life, how to be open and inspired, to love and to be loved. This all has served me well, even if I was physically away from de Benneville from about 1968 until 2005, 37 years apart from a deep wellspring. Being away, I now realize, gave me perspective on all that I had been given at Camp. I came of age both in the Camp, and also in community with it. Although I left, Camp never left me.

George Bernard Shaw once wrote: "I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it what I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before

(continued on page 6)

***Want to help secure the
next 50 years of
Camp de Benneville Pines?***

***Turn to the back page for
information about
an exciting limited-time
matching gift opportunity!***



Work Weekend

Friday - Sunday
October 29 - 31, 2010

Your Help is Needed!

Skilled and unskilled, everyone is welcome
and appreciated (ages 11+ for safety)

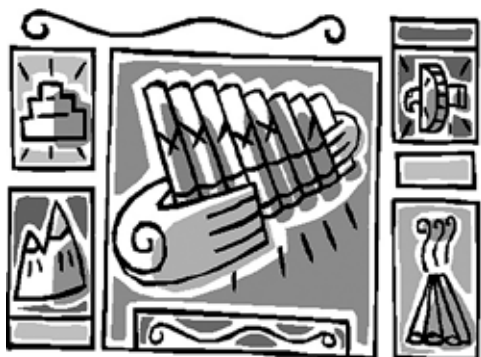
Delicious food and comfortable
accommodations are provided - **FREE!**

Register online at <http://uucamp.org>



Music in the Mountains

Friday - Sunday
November 5 - 7, 2010



Acoustic & Vocal Music Weekend

Sing, play, jam and dance, all day and into
the night. Meet musicians and singers
from all over So CA and beyond –
new friends and great music!

\$98/adult * \$80/youth (ages 3 - 17)
\$35 additional for Craig's or Cabin 6

Thanksgiving Celebration



Thursday - Sunday
November 25 - 28, 2010

Our annual celebration for families, singles,
couples and young adults. Workshops,
activities, and special events. Great food ...
starting with a feast on Thursday evening. A
long weekend of relaxing fun.

\$190/adult * \$140/youth (ages 3-17)
Arrive: Wed +\$20 * Friday -\$20
Craig's/Cabin 6 +\$35/adult
Double Bed in 5/7/8 +\$35/room

REUNION of YOUTH CAMPERS **March 11 - 13, 2011**

For the staff and campers of LRY, YRUU, Jr. High and Kiddie Camps in the late 1960s - 1980s

"And the seasons they go round and round
And the painted ponies go up and down
We're captive on the carousel of time ..."

Help kick off de Benneville Pines' 50th Anniversary Year with a winter reunion! Warm and toasty ... gather around the ol' lodge fireplace to rejoice, renew and return. Time to recharge. Time to play in the mountains again, and perhaps play in the snow! Time to relax and tell old stories ... time to reunite and touch hearts once again. Time to recall the good times and old memories ... Time to make new memories together.

Whether you've been to Camp recently or you haven't been back for years, we welcome you home. We'll have workshops, all-camp activities, dancing, music and plenty of time to gather and just hang out. Bring old camp photos – the camp needs them for their 50th anniversary archives. Bring photos of your families. There is also an early arrival option for a more extended and relaxed weekend.

De Benneville Pines – it is where we all started, struggled, changed, learned and found the momentum to move on. It's a place where you can return again and again. A place where time stands still and you feel like you have been transported to a sacred place of meaning. Please take this time for you, and **DON'T MISS OUT** on the 50th year of Camp, and the kickoff to an extraordinary year of celebration! Come join the circle again ... "and go round and round and round in the circle game."

Cost: \$185 per person. Deduct \$30 if registering before 12/15/2010. Thursday afternoon arrival: add \$45 per person. \$75 non-refundable deposit required to hold reservation. No refunds after March 1, 2011. Add \$10 or more for the scholarship fund to help others come to camp. Add a donation in any amount for the Water Works! Capital Campaign for the new water system. Use your credit card for easy registration. For additional information and to register, visit www.uucamp.org – click on Come To Camp, then Reunion of Youth Campers. Download a flier or send a flier onto a friend. To contact the camp registrar directly, email registrar@uucamp.org or leave a phone message at 909-794-1252.

Coming of Age Retreat: **Find YoUUr Own Beat!**

Friday–Sunday, December 3–5, 2010
Junior High, Grades 7–8

Not just for Coming of Age groups, any youth in Junior High or Middle School is welcome to attend this weekend.

Music leads the way as campers rock, roll, and shimmy their way through worship, art, hikes, cooperative games and more.

For Coming of Age groups, this weekend serves as a intensive retreat for your youth and their facilitators.

**Deans: Michael Alvarado
and Sara LaWall**



PSWD Family and Elementary Winter Camp

Saturday–Monday, February 19–21, 2011

Inspired UUs!

Grades 3–6; Grades K–2 if accompanied by parents



Whether you are a family with elementary-aged children, or you have an elementary-aged camper who is longing for a weekend away from home, this is the place to be! Snow angels, hot cocoa, inspired worship, sledding, talent show, wintery hikes – our talented program staff have a perfect weekend planned for you and your family. For the campers who want to come on their own, we have trained cabin counselors who supervise them throughout the weekend. Come to camp and become Inspired UUs!

Dean: Celeste Plumlee

PSWD Fall 2010/Winter 2011 YoUUth and Family Camps

Meeting new friends, connecting with others, trail blazing, sharing, playing, exploring, learning, growing, snow shoeing, nurturing ... Being!

A typical day at camp includes: Breakfast, Spirit Circle, Social Justice Workshops, Lunch, Covenant Groups, Free Time (snow play, sledging, fort building, etc.), Snack, Fun-shops (ex: Frisbee Golf, crafts, music, guest speaker, etc.), Worship, Dinner, Evening Activities (Talent Show, stargazing, night hiking, singing, dancing, game playing ...)

Registration Information

Costs:

- Jr. High/Coming of Age: YoUUth \$145, YoUUth Advisor: \$120
- Sr. High: \$390
- Family/Elementary: Child \$145, Parent \$120, accompanying child \$85

Submit registration with a \$75 per person non-refundable deposit. Balance due at check in. No refunds after check-in.

Register online at <http://uucamp.org>

Senior High Camp: YoUUr CommUUnity Connected

Monday – Saturday, December 27, 2010 – January 1, 2011
Grades 9 – 12

Ring in the New Year with amazing Unitarian Universalist youth from the Pacific Southwest District! Worship, Community Building, Learning, Leadership, and Social Action form the foundation of our dynamic youth ministry program. High school youth leaders organize, plan and run the camp, with the wisdom and support of experienced adult advisor staff.

Adult Dean: Kathe Larick





Rainbow Family Camp – A Weekend for BGLT Families and Their Allies

Friday, March 25 – Sunday, March 27, 2011

This exciting fun-filled weekend presents an opportunity for families with gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or transgender parents/guardians to gather together to build a community that is safe and free from the pressures of everyday life. Enjoy dozens of activities in this beautiful outdoor setting or just relax with family members and friends. Join in common meals and participate in discussions with other folks with similar points of view. The weekend is relaxed and offers an atmosphere of mutual respect and kindness.

Activities include: Arts & crafts, hiking, movies, talent show, parent socials, outdoor sports activities, indoor games, community meals, sometimes snow ... and lots of fun!

Cost: Adults: \$130; Teens (13 - 19): \$100; Kids (3 - 12): \$70 Under 3 are free! Price includes meals, lodging and all activities

Register online at <http://uucamp.org> (click on "Come To Camp") or fill out the form on page 7 of this newsletter and mail it to the address on the form with a check payable to "Camp de Benneville Pines." Reservations are accepted until camp is full.

For questions, call (323) 993-7409 or e-mail familyservices@lagaycenter.org

Rainbow Family Camp is sponsored by the LA Gay & Lesbian Center's Family Services Program and Camp de Benneville Pines.

Song Swap

For Girl Scouts and their Leaders

March 18-20, 2011

Bring your troop to camp for a chance to sing, play, dance and have fun together. The Girl Scout Song Swap offers girls and their leaders a chance to learn all the old GS songs of yesteryear, as well as share fun campfire songs. Girls will learn new songs with their troop members and share them in a community sing-a-long and songshare.

There will be music, music, music! Storytelling, roasting marshmallows, sledding in the snow, looking at the stars, swaps and games are all included in this weekend.

Camp de Benneville Pines will provide the food and a warm, snug place to sleep, and the girls will provide all the energy and excitement that comes along with a camp full of 100 enthusiastic Girl Scouts!

Cost:

\$69/youth (ages 3 - 17), \$89/adult
Includes food, lodging and activities,
Friday dinner – Sunday breakfast
Please include your troop number
and level on the registration form

Cancellation:

Full refund for individual cancellations
before 2/10/11
\$5 per person cancellation fee for troop
cancellations at any time.
No refunds after 2/10/11

Coming of Age

(continued from page 3)

handing it on to future generations." I have lately given this notion a lot of thought, and I too have concluded that my life is not my own; rather, it truly belongs to the community out of which my life was created and nurtured. I feel this new-found perspective indicates that I have truly come of age, and matured.

At this time in my life, I am working on several personal goals. Primary among them is ensuring the financial security of myself and those I love after I retire, and later, after my death. In my other life, that of a Camp de Benneville Board member, I lament that our precious Camp is not quite so well prepared for the future. The Camp has only a modest endowment fund to provide a necessary cushion. It brings in enough to pay its bills and handle minor improvements, but generates little extra for the future. It has no equivalent of a Social Security payment, and certainly no cash-value insurance policy. And while it is true that the Camp now has no major debts, neither does it have the financial resources, in this very difficult time, to pay such a debt back should it be necessary to incur one once again. These are things a mature, 50 year old organization should have, and should be able to do.

Four generations of UUs and others have now known our Camp. My father's generation is passing on, and it is our turn, our duty, really, to sustain that which sustains us. As I have grown up with and through our Camp, it seems natural to me that my life belongs to the Camp and its community as it does to my family, and to me. It is my fervent hope that this 50 year anniversary will mark the beginning of a collective realization of the central role that our Camp de Benneville Pines has played, and continues to play, in developing and maintaining the foundational values of our lives. I hope that we honor the living dream that so many of our elders sacrificed to provide for us.

"From those to whom much has been given, much is expected." This Biblical aphorism has always rung true to my heart. In our UU Camp, we all have been given a gift of incalculable value. Now that we have come of age, it is our turn to make this gift "burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations." Let's use our Camp de Benneville Pines more this year than we did last year, let's fill each end every Camp

and function. Let's remember de Benneville in our church offerings. Let's fill the work weekends with strong and willing hands. Let's give all that we can to the annual fund drives and the new capital campaign. (*Also see the back page of this newsletter for a special donation opportunity.*)

But most of all, let's come to Camp to seek the holy: to walk the woods, the paths in quietness at dawn, the creek, the labyrinth, the well head, maybe the Forsee Creek trail up the Mountain. To let the spiritual essence of our wilderness cathedral of pine and mountain and sky open us, move us, change us, and sustain us. And, once slowed down into a more natural rhythm of life, away from the frenetic pace of our work-a-day lives, to let the fellowship of those who have also come here lift us, with heart-felt conversation, and songs, and silliness, with the joy of being together.

How many of us swayed and hugged and cried together at the closing ceremonies of our LRY Fed and ConCon conferences? I know I did, and I always swore I would bring the love of our Mountain down into the real world of high school. And I always wondered at how quickly it all seemed to fade in the face of the "real world" down here. But, my friends, my message to you is this: how we are and how we interact in Camp *is* the real world! It is utterly in tune with who we truly are, and who we want to be, when our true spiritual selves are not bent down, twisted and distorted with the pain and weight and necessity of sustaining our roles as members of 21st century society. It is the down-the-hill society that is false, out of synch with the inner me. Camp de Benneville Pines and LRY validated me, let me glimpse who I truly am, and reinforced the spiritual, true feelings of my heart. Our Camp experiences shout out this truth, though it took me almost 40 years to hear it. Now I carry the Camp with me consciously, and return as frequently as I can, to heal and to hear the Creek.

This is the spiritual essence of our Camp, and of our LRY experiences. It is intentional, healing, true, and spiritual, because we make it so, because this is who we truly are. This is our shining gift to ourselves, and to those generations who follow after us, just as we have received it from the visionaries who created Camp de Benneville Pines and bequeathed it to us and our denomination. So let's come together to celebrate this unique, precious heritage. Let us "make of it a splendid torch" from that "little liberal light of mine" which was first lit at de Benneville Pines – and let us resolve to carry that torch, in good times and bad, before we too must hand it off. 🕯



Chasing the Sun

“It was Spring for like a year and a half,” she says, laughing.
She is telling us about her four years at sea with her family, and how they packed up everything, rented their house, took the kids and sailed away. They saw the world and now they know how to send e-mail from a cell phone fitted with an Italian chip.

Standing on snowshoes, with all the others,
I think about what it would be like
to chase the sun for that long,
from Croatia to St. Lucia, and points in between.
We are here this weekend
to crawl into the sleeping bags
of each other’s lives,
a reunion of old friends,
getting older all the time.

We have to ask a lot of questions,
So we can catch up, get a good picture
of what each other’s lives are like now.

We are out in a cabin in the high country of Colorado,
the sun is shining its March warmth,
and we are all traipsing through the deep wet snow,
falling clumsily and laughing.
We push each other down
more than we help each other up.
It’s more fun that way,
and besides, we help each other plenty when we’re not on snowshoes.
We live up and down the California coast,
where we are all from,
except for three of us, who have moved here, to Colorado.
We have two kids,
or we are raising our boyfriend’s daughter half-time,
or we have one child, or a baby,
or we don’t have any kids, because we are a lesbian,
and we chose a partner who doesn’t want any kids.

We were all kids together,
at a camp in the mountains near LA,
where we met twenty or thirty years ago.
We know all about kids,
because we still are, and always will be.

I am 40, and they are here to help me bear the weight of it.
They have all passed this milestone already
So they know how.
They make me laugh with raunchy jokes
They give me gifts that shine,
and songs I remember, from the good old days.
At sunset, they light a candle and we sit in a circle to pray about our pasts and our futures.
As darkness draws down,
they give me a necklace, the stones infused with each of their spirits.

And I realize, in the dark of this circle, that I am chasing that sun
like the one who sailed after it
and when I hold their hands and cry in their arms, it works.
It works.

—Candace Kearns Read

Register online with a credit card and guarantee your reservation immediately – <http://uucamp.org>, click on “Come To Camp.”
Or use the mail-in form below. Most events require a \$75 per person non-refundable deposit.
Your payment in full will be required 30 days before the event.

Adult & Family Event Registration Form

Event Name:				Event Dates:				
Attendee Name	Special Diet, Allergies or Medical Needs	Adult=A or Child’s DOB	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:	Craig’s Cabin	Cabin 6	Double Bed	(upgrade may apply)		Bottom Bunk	Carpool (if available)	
Cabinmates:	Additional Information:							
UU Congregation								
To use a credit card, complete the following:				Expiration Date		Security Code (3 digits MC/VISA/DISC; 4 digits AMEX)		
Card #/Type (VISA/MC/DISC/AMEX)								
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 To pay via credit card, call, fax or e-mail registration information to: Phone (909) 794-1252 Fax (866) 481-2508 Email registrar@uucamp.org								

PSWD YoUUth Camp Registration Form

Camp Name:						Camp Dates:				
Attendee Name	Special Diet, Allergies or Medical Needs	Birth Date	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 special or 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.					E-Mail				
First Time Camper?	Yes	/	No	Do you need a PSWD Scholarship?		Yes		No		
Cabinmates:	Additional Information: (shirt size, etc.)									
UU Congregation										
To use a credit card, complete the following:						Expiration Date		Security Code (3 digits MC/VISA/DISC; 4 digits AMEX)		
Card #/Type (VISA/MC/DISC/AMEX)										



Camp de Benneville Pines
Board of Directors
2009-2010

President
Tom Thorward

Vice President
Dr. Ross Quinn

Secretary
Karen Quinn

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Eric Klatt

Members at Large
Nuna Bosler
Susan Emswiller
Chris Heaton
Glenn Noreen
Joan Stredler

Camp Staff

Executive Director
Janet James
uucamp@aol.com

Caretaker
Ray Morales

Lead Cook
Marvin Gardenhire

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 idolatries 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.

How to Contact Us

Camp de Benneville Pines
41750 Jenks Lake Rd W
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305

Office & Group Reservations
909-794-2928 (phone)
909-794-2418 (fax)
uucamp@aol.com (email)

Lodge/Kitchen
909-794-8712

Maintenance Shop
909-794-4530

Event Registration
909-794-1252 (phone)
909-794-2418 (fax)
registrar@uucamp.org (email)

Camp Website
www.uucamp.org

Water Works! Limited-Time Matching Gift Challenge!



A generous anonymous donor has issued a challenge:
If the Camp de Benneville Pines "Water Works" fund raises a total of
\$100,000

between October 1, 2010 and January 31, 2011, it will be matched!

Give and double your donation!

To find out more about Water Works! or to make a donation,
visit <http://uucamp.org> and click on the "Water Works!" spigot
or phone 909-794-2928