

Camp de Benneville Pines

# Connection

Spring/Summer/Fall 2012

Your Unitarian Universalist Mountain Retreat

## Golden Opportunity: Our 50th Anniversary

by Tom Thoward, President, Camp de Benneville Pines Board of Directors

A 50th wedding anniversary is often referred to as a golden anniversary. In the Olympics, a gold medal is the highest honor. If something is considered superlative, it is said to set the gold standard. I could go on with such analogies, but the point is that by any measure Camp de Benneville Pines is in its golden age.

Camp de Benneville Pines has just passed its 50th year of operation since its founding in 1961. In that historic year there were many momentous events that would shape the future. Not only did the Unitarians and Universalists merge, but John F. Kennedy started his term of office as President and launched both the Peace Corps and the moon race. In the southern United States people were participating in Freedom Marches to try to end racial inequality, while in contrast the Soviets began building a wall in Berlin to prevent its citizens from seeking freedom in the West. While a number of Americans were digging bomb shelters, some Unitarian Universalists from the Pacific Southwest District, being of a more optimistic mind, began building a mountain retreat that would bestow beauty, joy, and serenity, on our community for many generations to come.

The purchase of what was to become Camp de Benneville Pines from the Boy Scouts of America for \$40,000 (around \$300,000 in today's dollars) was just the beginning. It took the generosity of major donors such as Mrs. Theresa Homet Patterson, who donated \$40,000 to rebuild the lodge, and many others who contributed cash and sweat equity to realize the dream of owning a beautiful mountain retreat for UUs and their friends. (Please read the article by the Rev. Ray Manker, elsewhere in this issue, for more details about the creation of the camp).

The road for Camp de Benneville Pines from its humble beginnings to the present has not been without its bumps. In this regard, it is not that different from the life of its namesake, George de Benneville. De Benneville was an 18th century Universalist, born into a noble family in Europe. At several times in his life, de Benneville narrowly escaped death. The first time, at the tender age of nineteen, he was condemned as a heretic in France and sentenced to death by decapitation. At the last moment, while his head was on the chopping block, he was granted a reprieve by King Louis XV and encouraged to leave France. His second near-death experience occurred in his thirties while pursuing his second (or was it third) career as a physician in Germany. He contracted a fever from a patient and after several days was pronounced dead and prepared for



burial. After forty-two hours in his coffin, he arose (apparently from the dead) and resumed his life. He later moved to America, married, produced six children and, up until his actual death at 90, led colonial Pennsylvania and New Jersey toward a deeper understanding of Universalism. He may even have befriended John Murray, who is credited with preaching the first Universalist sermon in America, which in turn led to the establishment of the Universalist denomination.

Camp de Benneville has also had its "near-death" experiences. By the mid 1990s the Camp was heavily in debt and had an ongoing negative cash flow. Faced with the possibility that the Pacific Southwest District would have to use its limited resources to subsidize the Camp operations even more, the District, with good justification, determined that the Camp should be sold and its assets liquidated to cover outstanding debts. Fortunately, there were camp supporters among those voting at the District meeting when this proposal was put forward. These visionary people could clearly see that, although well reasoned, the arguments for divestiture were shortsighted. They realized that once lost, the extraordinary resource represented by Camp de Benneville could never be regained. The proposal was voted down.

Shortly after that turning point the Camp Board of Directors determined that what was needed was a professional camp manager with outstanding people, organizational and financial management skills. They needed, in short, a person with rare talent to turn the Camp around. Here is the part of the story that can only be described as a result of "divine intervention," because if the right person had not come forward at that point, the Camp would be history.

A member of the Conejo Valley UU Church who had been a camp director at a nearby Girl Scout camp in the 1980s heard about Camp de Benneville's need and remembered an outstanding gal who had worked for her at the GS camp as a college student. They had not talked for several years, but she called her former employee and mentioned the job opening.

(continued on page 3)

Non-Profit  
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Camp de Benneville Pines

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# Camp de Benneville Pines

## Calendar of Events 2012

### March

- 2 – 5 **Long Beach UU Church Retreat**  
For info: [office@uucfb.org](mailto:office@uucfb.org)
- 2 – 5 **Ohr Ha Torah Winter Camp** (private)
- 9 – 11 **Peninsula Girl Scouts Winter Camp** (private)  
*Craig's Cabin available for lease*
- 16 – 18 **Girl Scout Song Swap Retreat**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)
- 16 – 18 **Conejo UU Women's Retreat** (private)
- 23 – 25 **Rainbow Family Camp**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 4 for additional information*
- 30 – 4/1 **San Dieguito UU Church Retreat**  
For info: [office@uufsd.org](mailto:office@uufsd.org)

### April

- 6 – 8 *Available for lease*
- 13 – 15 **UU Men's Fellowship**  
For info: [mdorfi@cox.net](mailto:mdorfi@cox.net)  
*See advertisement on page 4 for additional information*
- 20 – 22 **UU Women's Retreat**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 4 for additional information*
- 27 – 29 **Camp Recovery 12-step**  
For info: [camprecovery.org](http://camprecovery.org)  
*See advertisement on page 4 for additional information*

### May

- 4 – 6 **Camp Blog-Away School**  
For info: [patti@londre.com](mailto:patti@londre.com)
- 10 **Pathways Academy** (private)
- 11 – 13 **Work Weekend**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 10 for additional information*
- 18 – 20 **Riverside & Monte Vista UU Church Retreat**  
For info: [uucr@juno.com](mailto:uucr@juno.com) or  
[unitarian.universalist@verizon.net](mailto:unitarian.universalist@verizon.net)
- 26 – 28 **Girl Scout Summer Kick-Off**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)
- 29 – 31 **Gospel Music Choir Retreat**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 5 for additional information*

### June

- 1 – 3 **San Diego & Chalice UU Church Retreat**  
For info: [mail@firstuusandiego.org](mailto:mail@firstuusandiego.org)
- 5 – 7 **New City Charter School Camp** (private)
- 8 – 10 **PUC & Anaheim UU Church Retreat**  
For info: [admin@pacificunitarian.org](mailto:admin@pacificunitarian.org)
- 17 – 23 **Camp Bravo Week I**  
For info: [campbravo.org](http://campbravo.org) or [info@campbravo.org](mailto:info@campbravo.org)
- 24 – 30 **Camp Bravo Week II**  
For info: [campbravo.org](http://campbravo.org) or [info@campbravo.org](mailto:info@campbravo.org)

### July

- 1 – 7 **PSWD Elementary Summer Camp**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 8 for additional information*
- 1 – 7 **PSWD Counselor in Training**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 8 for additional information*
- 8 – 14 **PSWD Junior High Summer Camp**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 8 for additional information*
- 15 – 21 **PSWD Senior High Summer Camp**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 8 for additional information*

### July (continued)

- 22 – 28 **PSWD Family Summer Camp**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 5 for additional information*
- 29 – 8/4 **Camp Bravo Week III**  
For info: [campbravo.org](http://campbravo.org) or [info@campbravo.org](mailto:info@campbravo.org)

### August

- 5 – 11 **Camp Bravo Week IV**  
For info: [campbravo.org](http://campbravo.org) or [info@campbravo.org](mailto:info@campbravo.org)
- 12 – 17 **PSWIRL/Art Camp**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 5 for additional information*
- 19 – 23 **Homeschool Summer Camp**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 9 for additional information*
- 24 – 26 **Neighborhood UU Church Retreat**  
For info: [judy.wallace@uuneighborhood.org](mailto:judy.wallace@uuneighborhood.org)
- 31 – 9/3 **PSWD Young Adult Retreat**  
For info: [connectuu.com](http://connectuu.com) or [laurenfway@gmail.com](mailto:laurenfway@gmail.com)  
*See advertisement on page 9 for additional information*

### September

- 7 – 9 **Yoga & Wellness Retreat**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 9 for additional information*
- 14 – 16 **Adult Children of Alcoholics 12-step**  
For info: [adultchildren.org](http://adultchildren.org) or [fmrchair@gmail.com](mailto:fmrchair@gmail.com)  
*See advertisement on page 9 for additional information*
- 17 – 20 **El Rancho Camp Bravo** (private)
- 21 – 23 **Santa Monica & Palomar UU Church Retreat**  
For info: [office@uusm.org](mailto:office@uusm.org) or [jacki.weber@gmail.com](mailto:jacki.weber@gmail.com)
- 28 – 30 **Channel Island Cluster UU Church Retreat**  
For info: [inorbit@ix.netcom.com](mailto:inorbit@ix.netcom.com) or [dave@barker.nu](mailto:dave@barker.nu)

### October

- 5 – 7 **Tapestry/Orange/Laguna UU Church Retreat**  
For info: [admin@tapestryuu.org](mailto:admin@tapestryuu.org) or [karenuu@cox.net](mailto:karenuu@cox.net) or  
[office@uulagunabeach.org](mailto:office@uulagunabeach.org)
- 12 – 14 **LA Valley Cluster UU Church Retreat**  
For info: [louisepell@yahoo.com](mailto:louisepell@yahoo.com)
- 19 – 21 **Ziegler Wedding** (private)
- 26 – 28 **Work Weekend**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 10 for additional information*

### November

- 2 – 4 **Folk Music Retreat**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 10 for additional information*
- 9 – 11 **Fullerton UU Church Retreat**  
For info: [uucf@uucfullerton.org](mailto:uucf@uucfullerton.org)
- 16 – 18 *Available For Lease*
- 21 – 25 **Thanksgiving Family Celebration**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 10 for additional information*
- 30 – 12/2 **PSWD Jr. High Winter Camp**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)

### December

- 7 – 9 *Available For Lease*
- 14 – 16 *Available For Lease*
- 21 – 23 *Available For Lease*
- 27 – 1/1/13 **PSWD Senior High Winter Camp**  
For info: [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)  
*See advertisement on page 10 for additional information*



That former employee, as you have probably guessed, was Janet James, then one of the top selling real estate salespersons in Redlands. Janet was not interested in leaving a successful career to manage a nearly defunct camp in the wilderness. But she did agree to meet with the President of the Camp Board, Birdie Reed, and the camp's business manager, Ed Ewers, to discuss the Camp's needs. Janet had attended two programs at de Benneville, was familiar with the site, and had some thoughts about what the Camp needed to become viable. She met with the Camp's representatives in a nearby restaurant and shared her ideas for a couple of hours. She left the meeting thinking she had done her part and wished them well in their talent search.

After that meeting, the Camp Board of Directors diligently continued their search for just the right Camp Director for almost six months. They wanted someone who could implement the many ideas that Janet had given them. Finally, to the Board's great credit, they realized that the person they were looking for was Janet. She was called back, this time to meet with eight Board members, and after a lengthy meeting at Throop Church, Janet was offered the job, and to her own amazement, accepted. She remembers thinking on her way home, "What have I done, leaving a fabulous career in real estate to work for an outfit that admitted they don't know how they can even pay me?" But her husband Bob, hearing of her decision said: "Well, you need to find out what's right for you. You can always go back to real estate, if it doesn't work out." That was over sixteen years ago.

During Janet's tenure, the Camp went from a huge money drain to a viable, vibrant business with a diversified client base. The Camp is now in use nearly every weekend throughout the year and pretty much 24/7 during the summer months. During the past decade or more, the Camp has generated a positive cash flow every single year, in good times and bad. This is a remarkable achievement, especially over the last several years during a major economic downturn. Many Camps in the area have either closed or greatly curtailed operations during this same period.

But one thing that Janet (or anyone else) could not do was generate sufficient net income from Camp operations alone to fund replacement of its aging infrastructure. This led to the Camp's second "near-death experience." When I took over as Board President in 2009, the Camp's underground



Tom Thoward and Rev. Ken Manker.

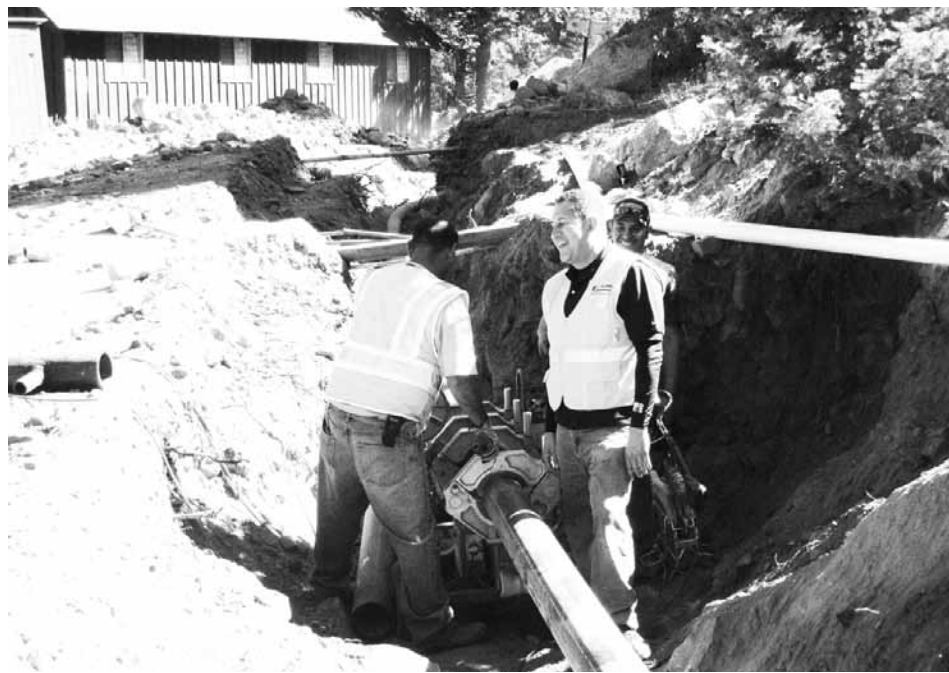


Janet James promotes the "Water Works!" campaign.

water system, some of which predated the purchase from the Boy Scouts, was on the verge of complete failure. The Camp's maintenance department had patched the pipes in many places, but it was starting to feel like a game of whack-a-mole, where as soon as you got one problem taken care of, another would pop up someplace else. A complete breakdown in the system would have meant a cessation in Camp operations, camp user contract defaults and loss of revenue. There was a very real possibility that the Camp could not survive a catastrophe of that magnitude.

2009 did not seem like a propitious year to begin a major fund raising

drive. Many people were feeling the pinch of economic hard times. So it was with some uncertainty that the de Benneville Board of Directors in late 2009 launched what became known as the "Water Works!" capital campaign. I'll admit that when I stood in front of the District Assembly in the spring of 2010 and announced our goal to raise \$450,000, I felt a bit presumptuous. No campaign in the history of the Camp had ever raised much more than half that amount. Yet, our project goals were clear. We needed to enlarge the mains from 2" to 6" to meet current codes. We needed more water storage capacity for fire suppression. We would have to at least repair, and ideally, pave the camp road after digging it up for the water mains. And it didn't make sense to dig a trench and not deal with electric, gas and communications utilities at the same time. Finally, we elected to use materials that would last many generations – we didn't want to ever have to do this all again. Yep, close to a half million dollars or more was definitely needed! At the time, I thought it would take at least three years to raise that sum. We knew we would need some additional



The proceeds of the Water Works! project in action: laying the new water mains

fund raising talent and were fortunate to find Rev. Rick Hoyt of the First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles to lead our campaign.

You could have knocked me over with a feather when merely a year later we had not only met our goal but had shot well past it, thanks in part to two individual major donors who each contributed \$100,000 or more; the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY that provided a \$100,000 grant to top off our campaign; and the more than 300 others who more than matched those amounts. Camp de Benneville Pines had been figuratively showered in gold.

And so it was that in the summer of 2011, the Camp Director, the Board of Directors and a notable volunteer, in the person of Andy French from the First UU Church in San Diego, began planning for the actual construction of the new water system and replacement of all underground utilities. First, there was some additional engineering work to be done to get ready to go out for bids, then actual bidding and contractor selection. By late September we had selected E.L. Engineering, a small local company in La Verne, CA, to do the work. They were selected because of favorable pricing and their willingness to meet our schedule demands (which included keeping the Camp open during the project). Construction began in early October. By the end of 2011, the first phase of the project was complete: we had replaced the water system, gas and electric utilities. For the first time in more than a decade, the Camp is secure from the threat of losing its precious water supply.

So in the first year after our Golden Anniversary, Camp supporters and other lovers of Camp de Benneville have been given (and given themselves) a golden opportunity. What will we do with the Camp's new lease on life? Utility experts tell us that the new water mains will last 100 years or more. What will the next 100 years be like and how will Camp de Benneville continue to contribute to our and future generations' quality of life? Before completion of the Water Works! project, it would have been impossible to obtain a permit to expand any of our buildings or to initiate new construction. Our old 2" water pipes simply did not have the water carrying capacity to meet current construction requirements. Our new 6" water mains and 6 new standard fire hydrants do satisfy current codes, so anything (within the US Forest Service's parameters) is possible.

You may recall that several years ago money was raised to improve the Director's cabin. That money is still in the bank, but the goal of expanding and bringing that dwelling up to code could not be realized prior to the completion of the water project. Limitations of our old water system prevented us from obtaining a building permit, and our Director continues to live in sub-standard housing. Now we can turn our attention and resources to that and other projects that actually improve the lives of campers and camp staff.

What else can we imagine for the future of de Benneville? Perhaps we envision a learning center with expanded classroom space where UUs from around the country can come to learn environmental strategies to put the seventh principle into practice. Perhaps we see in our imaginations a performing arts pavilion where our nation's youth can perfect their art, and visiting speakers can address audiences in acoustical comfort. Camp de Benneville Pines is unique in the UU world: a financially vibrant retreat center offering good food and many other creature comforts, located on the very edge of an alpine wilderness and within easy reach of one of the nation's largest population centers. The future of the Camp is now wide open and limited only by our collective vision and pooled resources. "Water Works!" has taught us all that our combined will and generosity can accomplish the seemingly impossible. Let's use that knowledge to shape the Camp's future and leave a legacy of hope, beauty, serenity, community and personal growth for ourselves and future generations.





## Rainbow Family Camp: A Weekend for LGBT Families and Their Allies

Friday, March 23 – Sunday March 25, 2012



Join us for an exciting fun-filled weekend where families with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender parents/guardians gather together to build community with other LGBT parented families. Get a chance to enjoy dozens of activities in this beautiful outdoor setting or just relax with family members and friends. Share common meals and get to know other families like yours. The weekend is relaxed and offers an atmosphere of mutual respect and kindness.

Price includes meals, lodging and all activities. Accommodations are family-style, with 3 to 9 private rooms per cabin with shared indoor bathrooms.

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

### Pricing Information:

**Adults \$130; Teens (13–19) \$100; Kids (3–12) \$70; under 3 free!**

**Upgraded accommodations (Cabin 6 or Craig's Cabin): additional \$25/adult**

**Cancellation fee: \$50/family**

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

Register online at <http://uucamp.org> (click on "Register for Camp") or fill out the form on page 11 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.

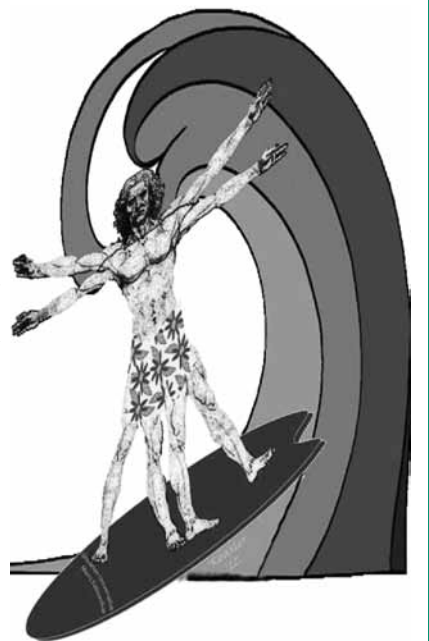
For further information, call (323) 860-3662 or email Tannia Esparza at [tesparza@lagaycenter.org](mailto:tesparza@lagaycenter.org).

## UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal Crests to Troughs: Riding the Waves of Our Lives

Friday April 13 – Sunday April 15, 2012

What wave of uncertainty are you surfing — financial disaster, relationships, health or old age issues? Riding the crest or about to crash? Join us in the beauty of the mountains and the safety and fellowship of our Brothers at Camp de Benneville Pines to unpack these issues and support each other. Our Renewal weekend welcomes men of all ages, backgrounds, and diversities. As usual, the weekend will include workshops, deep sharing, music and drumming, silence, ritual, sweat lodge, songs, laughter, and great food.

To ensure your space, please download a registration form from <http://bit.ly/HFDVMI>, fill it out, and send it to us at the address on the form along with your payment. It is our policy to support attendance by men who may have financial difficulties. For information on scholarship assistance or for questions about this event, please contact Mike Dorfi at (619) 466-5952 and [mdorfi@cox.net](mailto:mdorfi@cox.net).



## PSWD Women's Retreat

**"Your Faith Matters" – Keynote Speaker: Rev. Jennifer Owen-O'Quill**

Friday, April 20 – Sunday, April 22, 2012

*What does it take to have a faith that is strong? A resilient faith? A faith that can carry us through hardship and help us piece together meaning in our turbulent, unpredictable lives?*

Rev. Jennifer's passion is to inspire people to want a faith-life that reshapes their lives, and to equip people with the tools they need to build a faith that can fill their life with meaning and purpose. She wants us all to thrive and grow through every age and stage in life.

Join other women in nurturing old and new friendships. Treat yourself to a fun-filled weekend just for you! Read, relax or participate in activities such as belly dancing, drumming, singing, dancing, hiking, playing, listening, sharing and attending a variety of workshops. Soak your bones in the hot

tub or schedule a private massage. "Zen away" tension and stress with an acupuncture facial and aroma therapy session.

**Cost: \$175 per person**

**(Cabin 6 and Craig's Cabin are SOLD OUT)**

**Arrive a day early just to relax – \$20 pp lodging (no meals, bring your own food)**

**Payment in full must be received 2 weeks prior to event**

**Cancellation Policy: \$75 before 3/15/2012;**

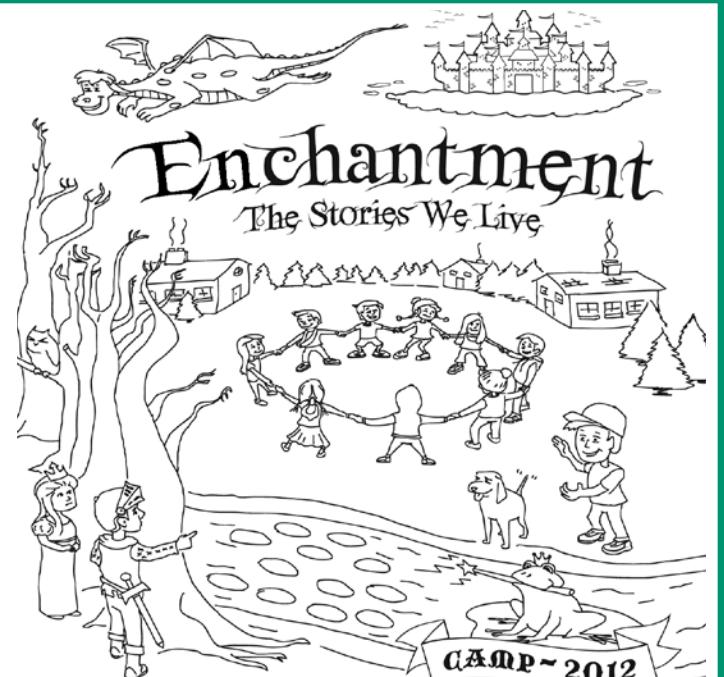
**NO REFUND after 3/15/2012**

Visit <http://uucamp.org> and click on "Register for Camp" or use the registration form on page 11 of this newsletter. Call camp if you have any questions: 909-794-1252.

## April 27 – 29 ♦ 24th Annual Camp Recovery 2012

A weekend of self-care where you and your "inner" child have the opportunity to grow, heal, play, discover, reflect, and work on yourselves. This year's camp program is "Enchantment – The Stories We Live" as we venture deeper into our recovery with enthusiasm through workshops, 12-step meetings, crafts, music, drumming, hiking, body movement, dancing, and fellowship in the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains. All persons from ACA, CoDA and similar 12-step programs are invited.

Registration & Information: <http://camprecovery.org>





# Gospel in the Pines

May 29 – 31, 2012

Since the 18th century, Gospel music has been a spiritually sustaining force. Illiterate slaves used call and response hymns as a code to alert others when and where a bid for freedom would take place, as well as singing the songs to each other to foster strength and keep hope alive. Out of this fervent, soul-stirring tradition came ragtime, blues, jazz and other modern music styles. Gospel music is the only genre to outlive its original purpose, and continues today as a bringer of joyful inspiration.

Featured guest Ken Anderson has led Gospel music internationally. He is Music Director at the University of California San Diego and for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Choir of San Diego, and is on the music faculty of Grossmont College.

Come join your voice with others in the pristine pine mountains for a weekend of soul and song. Bring others from your church or choir to share a room.

**Cost \$150 per person. Upgrade to Craig's Cabin or Cabin 6: \$25 pp.**

**To register, visit <http://uucamp.org> and click on Register for Camp, or fill out the form on page 11 in this newsletter and mail in with your check.**



## PSWD Family Summer Camp: "Exploring Sacred Spaces"

**Sunday, July 22 – Saturday, July 28, 2012** ☪ **Dean: Amy Brunell** ☪ **Minister: Rev. Susan Manker-Seal**

*I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order. --John Burroughs*

What calls us to particular environments? Why do we choose to go to the mountain? Our outdoor environment creates space to take time to notice the color of the sky, the song of birds or the laughter of children. The relationship of nature and the spiritual is sacred. Some of us are revived with familiar sounds and scents, others of us are explorers, off to find new spaces. At Family Camp, we have the time and space to explore this important relationship of nature and the spiritual. Come to Family Camp to laugh, sing, play and put your senses in order.

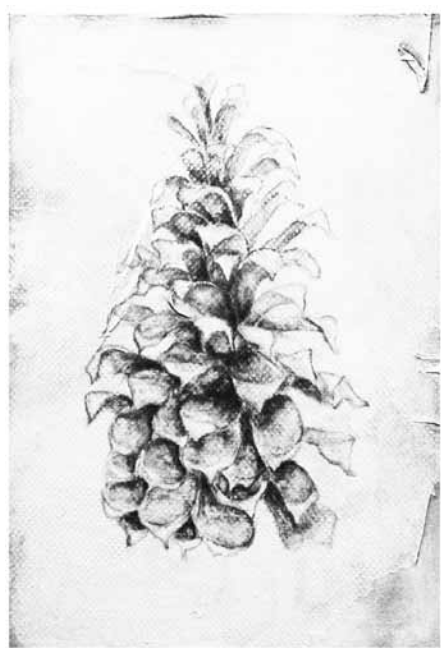
Price includes lodging, all meals, all workshops and activities, including hiking, swimming, canoeing, playing, music making, archery and arts & crafts. Oh yes, and all the R & R you can fit into the week! Register early, this camp sells out.

Cost: \$345 per adult • \$305 teen (13 – 18)  
\$295 child (3 – 12) • \$100 baby/toddler (0 – 2)  
Craig's Cabin upgrade: \$80 pp • Cabin 6 upgrade: \$50 pp  
Double bed in cabins 5, 7, 8: \$50 per room  
\$100 discount/family if registered by 4/30/12  
\$75 non refundable deposit per person to hold space,  
payment plans available.

Reservation must be paid in full one week prior to event start date

To register, visit <http://uucamp.org> and click on Register for Camp or fill out the form on page 11 of this newsletter and mail in.

Questions? 909-794-1252 or [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org).



## ART CAMP 6

August 12 - 17, 2012

A 5 day intensive for Artists with Artists  
**ALL LEVELS WELCOME!**

**Cost: \$550.00**

**Includes food, lodging, program and art supplies**

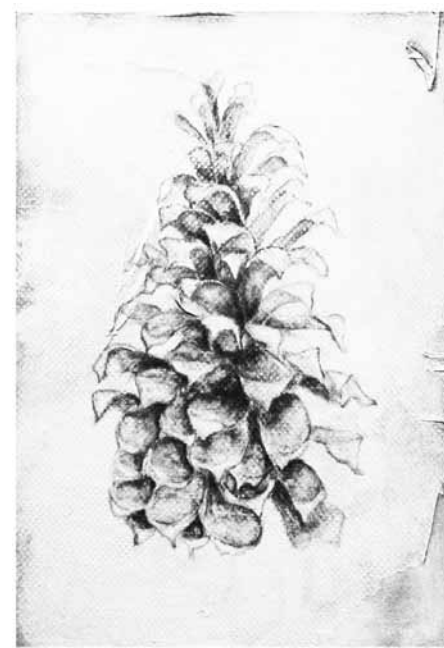
**\$75 pp cancellation fee before July 15**

**No refund after August 1**

**All fees must be paid by August 1**

To register, visit <http://uucamp.org> and click on Register for Camp or fill out the form on page 11 of this newsletter and mail in.

Questions? 909-794-1252 or [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org).



## Summer Camp for Grownups!

**Sunday, August 12 through Friday, August 17, 2012**

**Keynote Speakers: Rev. Matthew Crary**

**"What's Going On?"**

PSWIRL welcomes you to their annual event at beautiful Camp de Benneville Pines. The rich program begins daily with theme speaker Rev. Matthew Crary sharing his views and inspiring participants to think about our social and ethical responsibilities in today's world. Other activities include:

Swimming, relaxing in the hot tub, evening folk dancing, music and singing, social hour, talent show, trip to Big Bear Solar Observatory, yoga, meditation, card games, informative workshops and a whole lot more!

Prices include all meals and workshops for the week. Four full afternoons of Landscape Photography instruction and practice are available for an extra fee.

Full details available at <http://pswirl.org>.

To register, visit <http://uucamp.org> and click on "Register for Camp."





Rev. Ray Manker speaking at the Camp dedication ceremony, 1961.

## From the Beginning

By Rev. Ray Manker

My first Unitarian connection was in Toledo, Ohio as an Associate Minister under Arthur Olson. I then had a Unitarian church of my own in Wayland, Massachusetts. After that I wanted to get back to a warmer, more southern area. I came out to California in 1955 to Riverside, historically a Universalist church, which had also taken in Unitarians prior to the merger. I'd been there a short time when the Universalist regional director asked me if I would do some district work. So I coordinated Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, and west Texas. Before the merger came along, the Unitarians asked me to do the same job for them. So I did that as well, while still having my church in Riverside. As a result, I became the first District Executive for the PSWD, since I was there when things first started. Most of the congregations in this area had merged about two years before the denomination did. That made it easier for me as well. After the main merger came along I was asked to continue being the regional director, but I said no, I wanted to go back to parish ministry. So Arthur Olsen was hired, the person I'd worked with in Toledo, Ohio, and he became the second District Executive.

The Pacific Southwest Institute of Religious Liberals (PSWIRL) was using Camp Radford as a summer family camp, not too far from de Benneville. They came to me during one meeting at Radford and said "Ray, we've decided we have to have a camp of our own," as Radford had become too small, and asked me to go out and find a site. I formed a committee and we started searching, and we found a Boy Scout camp, Camp Arataba. It was at about 6800 feet and seemed to be ideal. It had lost its main lodge to a fire; a wealthy donor had then given the Boy Scouts a new camp on a ridge near Lake Arrowhead, and so they put Arataba up for sale. We decided to go ahead with purchasing it.

The Universalists had just sold two of their buildings, one each in Los Angeles and Hollywood. Since there were so few Universalist churches left in California, the money from the two sales was sent on to headquarters, but it was held for use in Southern California. So when we wanted to buy de Benneville, the Universalists wrote to headquarters to ask for the money, a sum of \$40,000. Since the merger was just about to happen, they agreed to let us use the money, but instead of a gift, they called it a long-term loan with no interest or due date. Eventually, in 1986, with the help of Peter Haslund, UUA trustee from PSWD at the time, they just wrote off the loan. But the money originally came from the Universalists, and I wanted to make sure a Universalist name was on the camp. We chose George de Benneville, and hence the name Camp de Benneville Pines.

We needed some place to sleep besides just the tent platforms, and found that the US Government was selling WWII buildings at March and Edwards Air Force Bases. We had to bring all of these buildings in by truck and find a place for each of them. Fortunately, the district churches were heavily supportive of the new camp, and sent up teams of teens and adults

to help with the building, as well as digging by hand a new sewer and water system. I was the first camp manager. Once the improvements were done, we had a dedication ceremony, and from then on it was heavily used by all the same churches who currently use it today. PSWIRL was pretty much the first and most regular user, continuing as a family camp; a second family camp was started by Religious Educators.

The USFS told us that we had to be open all year or else make the camp available for other groups to use when we weren't using it. So the camp became year-round from its earliest days, even though that was not the original plan. We needed someone to stay in camp for year-round operations. We heard about someone in Minnesota who was willing to come do so, so we hired him and he stayed on-site. He initially moved into the nurse's cabin, which was an original Boy Scout building.

Once we committed to year-round use, we had to winterize the transplanted buildings, as they had been living quarters down on the high desert. We had several people who were excellent builders. I remember one, Bob Land from Anaheim, who designed new porches for the cabins. We had to put foundations under the cabins, tear all the siding off for insulation, and then put new siding on. All the roofs had to be redesigned and replaced to carry the snow load. The swimming pool and bathhouse were already on site, and that was one of the main things everyone loved about the camp. There was an excellent well in existence too.

Mrs. Homet Patterson of Throop Church was approached about paying for a new lodge, and she agreed after hearing of our vision and visiting the site. She asked that we name the building after her maiden name, Homet. The only other original structure on the site was the little cabin which is now used by the Camp Director. It is a cute little house from the outside, but it certainly has its problems on the inside. If I remember correctly, it only has a bedroom, bath and small kitchen.

In 1963, after I declined the District Executive position, and Arthur Olsen came from Phoenix to take it, the Phoenix church was left open. So the Phoenix church hired me! I retired from First Church Phoenix in 1990.

The first year I was in Arizona, I brought my young people to summer camp at de Benneville. So Phoenix church members were involved from the beginning. First Church was a big church and took most of my time, so I wasn't very active in the district after that. But both the PSWD and de Benneville Pines have managed well without my ongoing input, and for that I am forever grateful.



PSWIRL at Camp de Benneville Pines, August 1962

## Growing the Faith, One Camp at a Time

By Tera Little, PSWD-UUA Field Staff

I first became a UU in 1994 in Arkansas. My son was born that year, and his dad and I said "Oh my gosh, what are we going to do? We need to take the baby to church." I was very involved with La Leche League, and lots of those moms went to the UU church in Fayetteville. They said, "You're going to love it. Our minister doesn't mind if our nursing moms sit right up in the front row." I went and fell in love the very first Sunday. Adrian's dad wasn't so sure, since he was Episcopalian and missed all the ritual, but it was my place. A few years later I became their DRE.

I came to California in August 1999, because I was hired as the Program Consultant for the district. How I came to be hired started when I came to de Benneville in 1998 for a Con Con, a continental youth conference for high school youth. I served as a youth advisor and was one of the first people to sleep in Craig's Cabin. It had bunk beds but no living room furniture, so we had all of our meetings sitting on the floor. At that time I became aware that the PSWD had just done a search for a program



consultant and hadn't found anyone. Phyllis Daniel, a member of the UU Church of Long Beach who was on the UUA board at that time, overheard me saying that I might be willing to move for a job. "My district's going to hire a person next year, are you interested?" I thought that sounded perfect, so while I was at Con Con I talked to Janet James about her vision for Camp de Benneville. Later that year the UUA flew me out to San Diego for an interview, and I found out that weekend that I had been hired. It was very exciting!

The job started as  $\frac{3}{4}$  of my salary paid by the district and  $\frac{1}{4}$  paid by de Benneville. After three years of the district and de Benneville in partnership, it was decided that the most logical step for growth was for the district to take the youth camps under its umbrella, so de Benneville could focus on what it does really well: run a great facility. After a couple of years, I became full-time for the UUA, running all the youth camps at de Benneville. One good thing it allowed for was more ministry to be associated with the youth camps, and it helped us coordinate more of our district resources for RE. For me, it was much easier to have just one board to report to.

At the time I was hired there were five youth camps – three in the summer, plus a Senior High and a combined Elementary/Junior High camp in the winter. At the first Elementary/Junior High camp I attended,

(continued on page 7)



# Camp Weddings 2011: Love Was in the Air



## The CannonBall Wedding

by Sara Ball and Jayson Cannon



We chose to get married at de Benneville Pines because we wanted our wedding to be a representation of ourselves. We love the outdoors, togetherness of family and friends, and of course group activities. Sara and her family have fond memories of attending family camp at de Benneville Pines in the early 90s, and her mom and aunt attended family camp there in the 60s! Several of our guests were also de Benneville Pines veterans, which goes to show that this place is a foundation of happy memories and strong, lasting relationships. As a couple, we could think of nothing more memorable than spending a care-free weekend celebrating the beginning of “us,” and the coming together of two amazing families.

The weekend of May 20 – 22, 2011 was perfectly delightful. Highlights included archery, Frisbee golf, s’mores, and a costume-themed scavenger hunt. Instead of a guest book, we had everyone decorate a tile which we turned into a coffee table. Sunday morning, the wedding ceremony was a beautiful culmination of the perfect weekend we had all spent together. Officiated by Sara’s dad, Ron Ball, the ceremony on the 22nd finished with a “boom” when we lit the “unity cannon.”

Then everyone headed into the dining hall for an incredible brunch – the food was absolutely elegant and amazing, from home-made quiche to fresh fruit salad and more. We were particularly touched by the staff’s genuine happiness for us and pride in sharing our special day. Six months later, we still have people telling us it was the best wedding they have ever attended. Now we look forward to a long and happy life, and we will always have the memories of de Benneville Pines at the beginning.



## Falling in Love (and Getting Married) at Camp

By Christine and Alex Haider-Winnett

When we got engaged three years ago, we were still living in Washington, DC. We loved Washington and knew plenty of beautiful places there to hold a wedding. However, we both agreed that the only place we could imagine getting married was at Camp de Benneville Pines. We had met ten years earlier in Homet Lodge during Senior High Camp. Two years after that, we were walking near Craig’s Cabin when Alex finally told Christine that she’d always been his “camp crush.” As we grew older, de Benneville remained an important part of our lives and we returned several times to be camp counselors. De Benneville had been the setting of so many of our most important memories, it seemed only fitting that it should be the setting of our wedding as well.

Our wedding was on April 23, 2011. We spent the entire Easter weekend at de Benneville with our family and friends, including a strong contingent of camp alums. While Alex’s family has been going to de Benneville for decades, most of Christine’s family had never been before and it was so special getting to share this place with our loved ones. One of our favorite parts of the wedding was introducing newcomers to some of our favorite de Benneville traditions. For dessert, we served de Benneville’s famous root beer floats, and part of the reception consisted of a Camp-style “Talent Show.” A group of camp alumni even sang “The Circle Game” with us on the morning after our wedding before we all headed down the hill.

We’re so grateful to everyone at Camp de Benneville Pines for giving us one more wonderful memory, and we look forward to someday teaching our children to love de Benneville as much as we do.

## Growing the Faith (continued from page 6)

Carolyn Reed, who was the Dean, and I determined we needed to separate the Elementary and Junior High Camps. And by the next winter we did, and they have remained separate since, with the Junior High Winter Camp turning into a Coming of Age Retreat.

I’ve seen a couple of big moments in the life of the youth camps, just since I’ve been here. One came in 2003 when we did what we called “A Summit about a Mountain.” We gathered together a group of 20 stakeholders – youth, young adults, youth advisors, religious professionals, and lay people. We spent a whole weekend in Craig’s Cabin with Jesse Jaeger, who at that time was the UUA Director of Youth Programs, as our facilitator. We really looked at our vision for growth for the camps, not just in numbers but in depth of faith. Out of that weekend came a strong commitment to incorporate multiculturalism, faith formation, and a focus on our UU identity. I think we’ve done really well with that in the last decade.

Part of what helped make that happen was having a full-time person on district staff who was dedicated to this purpose. But it also took the hands and help of so many committed volunteers over the years. I hesitate to name anyone because I do not want to leave people out. However, two people really worked hard to create intentional UU camping communities. One was Kevin Drewery. He had just started his job as the DRE in Las Vegas when he came to the Summit, and promptly got hooked on camp. He was either Dean or Chaplain at camp from 2003 until a couple of years ago, when he passed away. He played a very crucial role in bringing UU identity and meaningful worship to the camp. He was really close to the campers and staff, and along with Rev. Jim Grant developed a compelling model of camper-led and created worship. The other person is Kim St.

Clair from Arizona, who was also a DRE at the time. She refocused and led our Counselor-in-Training program for many years, as well as served as Adult Dean for Senior High Camps. The CIT program alone really helped transform the camp. We developed an ongoing corps of young people intent on being counselors with a UU identity. Having this level of commitment from volunteers and staff, people who really believed in the vision, was a blessing.

Four years ago all of these young adults who had been through the CIT program and Senior High Camp, and who were now too old to come to youth camp, asked “Where’s our camp?” That was a great question, and with the help and steady support of Alice King, the Director of Campus and Young Adult Ministry at First UU San Diego, we jumped in. That first year it was very nerve-wracking to sign a contract with the camp for \$11,000 to lease the Labor Day weekend, but we took the risk. This past September we had our fourth, very successful, Young Adult camp with over 110 people in attendance, and we are in the midst of planning for our fifth. Two years ago de Benneville and PSWD decided that the district should take on sponsoring a Family Camp as well, so we now have a full age-range of high quality camps that the district sponsors.

When I took this job I knew absolutely nothing about camping ministries, and it scared me to death. But it was the part of my job that terrified me the most that has turned out to be the most fulfilling. One day I won’t serve our PSWD-UUA as Field Staff. It will be so hard to leave everything “camp” behind. I graduated from seminary in May 2010 and was ordained as a UU Minister in September 2011. I hope to do parish ministry at some point, and I’m really torn between two loves, the ministry with our district and camp and the parish ministry. Only time will tell, but for now, I’m here and looking forward to another exciting year of youth camping ministry.

## Elementary Summer Camp: "The Gifts We Bring"

**Sunday, July 1 – Saturday, July 7**

**Dean: Celeste Plumlee**

Come hike, laugh, swim, sing and build community with other UU elementary kids from all over the PSWD. While fully embracing the UU values of social justice and environmental responsibility, we will also honor the gifts that we bring to the world as individuals and take time to celebrate our love for ourselves. "For each person is a blessing and there is great joy in getting to be exactly who we are meant to be!"

Campers are well cared for by trained camp counselors.



## Junior High Summer Camp "Global Summit"

**Sunday, July 8 – Saturday, July 14**

**Dean: Barbara Braswell**

All week long campers will have an opportunity to participate in a simulation of real world decision making on a global scale. Working together, our junior high campers will learn how they really can create a fair and peaceful world. Campers will also participate in swimming, hiking, canoeing, archery, crafts and more!

A well trained staff facilitates the week.

## PSWD Summer YoUuth Camps

### Registration Information

Cost \$390

Deduct \$35 if registering before 4/30/12

Sibling discount \$15 (one per family)

Submit registration with a \$75 non-refundable deposit.

No refunds after check-in.

Balance of fees due one week prior to event start date.

Elementary Camp: Campers completing grades 2 – 5

Junior High Camp: Campers completing grades 6 – 8

Senior High Camp: Campers completing grades 9 – 12

**Registration Form on Page 11**

## Senior High Summer Camp: "Summer of LUUV"



**Sunday, July 15 – Saturday, July 21**  
**YoUuth Deans: Hayley Metcalf and Daniel Martin**  
**Adult Deans: James Forrest and John Waters**

Love yourself ... Love your family ... Love your neighbors ...

Join with other yoUuth from around the district to celebrate LUUV and how "love really does make the world go round."

We can't wait to see you at summer camp and to learn all about you. Meet friends from all over the district and enjoy a summer week of LUUV!



## PSWD's Counselor-in-Training Program

**Sunday, July 1 – Saturday, July 7, 2012**

Do you love to work with kids? Do you have leadership skills? Do you want to be just like your favorite counselor? Then ... C.I.T. is for YOU!

Join Facilitator Emma Rosloff for a week of intensive learning, sharing and fun. Learn about the history of Camp de Benneville Pines, develop age-appropriate workshops and workshops, master conflict resolution skills and discover tips on leading successful camp programs. In addition to learning how to be top-notch counselors, CITs get time to bond with each other and become an integral part of the Elementary Camp Community.

CITs will also plan several all-camp events for the Elementary Campers. Training will take place in the first half of the day. In the afternoon, CITs will assist cabin counselors and program staff to gain practical experience. Space is limited to 8 participants. All applicants must be between the ages of 15 and 18.

Cost: \$245 (no early-bird pricing). \$75 deposit is required to register; application sent upon receipt of registration. Deposit refunded if applicant is not selected. To learn more, go to <http://uucamp.org> and click on "Register for Camp."



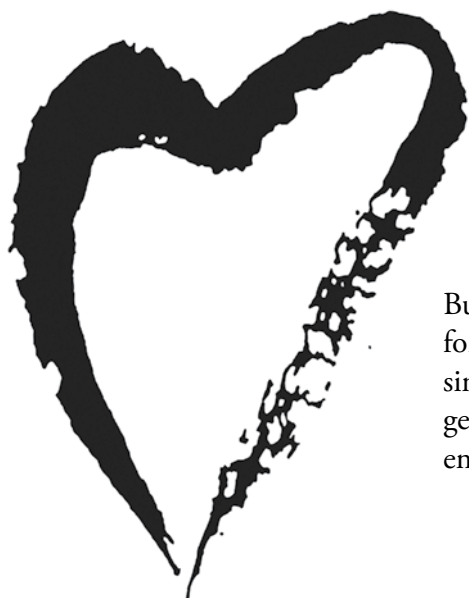
## "Summer Rendezvous" A Camp for Homeschooling Families

Deans: Catherine Hanna and Kellie Rountree

Sunday, August 19 – Thursday, August 23, 2012

Come join other like-minded families for an exciting time exploring nature, relaxing and having fun! Splash in the refreshing pool, shoot a bulls-eye at archery, bask in a boat at the lake, frolic in the forest. Homeschooling families with kids (and grandparents!) of all ages come together to share experiences. Each family is encouraged to lead an activity based on their interests: hiking and crafts, games and enrichment activities, educational and environmental programs. Enjoy "family time" while the camp staff handles kitchen duty! You will appreciate the delicious home cooked meals. Each family is assigned their own room with bunk beds. Some double beds are available.

Visit <http://uucamp.org> and click on "Register for Camp" to view all registration details. Discount pricing is available through June 17. This camp is limited to 100 participants. Camp fees include lodging, meals and most camp activities.



## PSWD Young Adult Camp: "Standing on the Side of Love"

Coordinator: Lauren Way  
August 31 – September 3, 2012

Building Community, Deepening Faith, Creating Justice ... the fifth annual young adult camp is an opportunity for 18 – 35 year old PSWD UUs to connect, dance, explore spirituality, delve into social justice issues, worship, sing, play, hug, nap, craft, laugh, cry, watch shooting stars, reunite with old friends, meet new friends ... maybe get caught in a rainstorm? It is our long weekend to feel at home in the mountains. Together we stand. All with an emphasis on what it means to love with our whole selves: to stand for love, by love, with love, in love.

To register, visit <http://www.connectuu.com>

Cost is \$160 - \$250 sliding scale

For more information contact Lauren Way, [laurenfway@gmail.com](mailto:laurenfway@gmail.com)

## "Ignite the Light! Reveal Your Heart!"

Friday, September 7 – Sunday, September 9, 2012 ♦ Dean: Lisa Harris

*There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it*  
-Edith Wharton

It's important to take time to go inward and connect with your inner light, and then to carry its spark into the world. Your heart is the vessel that holds this magnificent power, the radiant light of your true Self. Explore the art of revealing this light through yoga, meditation, time in nature, and a variety of other de-light-ful workshops.

Join us for a weekend of connecting to each other and to our bodies. Enjoy splashing in the pool, soaking in the hot tub, stretching in the forest, walking the labyrinth, meditating at the lake, relaxing with a massage. Good food and good company await you.

Cost: \$180 per person (\$165 pp by June 30). Price includes food, lodging, classes and activities (additional fee for massage, acupuncture, individual instruction). Upgrades: \$30 pp for Craig's Cabin and Cabin 6. Thursday arrival \$20 pp (Lodging only, bring picnic food. Friday dinner is first meal). Non refundable deposit: \$75 pp must accompany reservation. Payment in full required by 8/15/12. No refunds after 8/16/12



## 12-Step Fall Mountain Retreat

Friday, September 16 – Sunday September 18, 2012

A weekend of self-care where you and your "inner child" can grow, heal, play, discover, reflect and work on yourself.

We journey deeper into our recovery with enthusiasm through workshops, 12-step meetings, crafts, music, drumming, hiking, body movement, dancing and fellowship.

All persons from ACA, CODA and similar 12-step programs are invited.

For information and pricing:

<http://www.adultchildren.org> or [fmrchair@gmail.com](mailto:fmrchair@gmail.com)





## Work Weekends 2012

Spring Work Camp: Friday, May 11 – Sunday, May 13

Fall Work Camp: Friday, October 26 – Sunday, October 28

Get out in the great outdoors and give yourself a little workout! Each year, the Camp hosts two work weekends, and the invitation is open to those ages 11 and older. Skilled and unskilled labor is welcome. Rake leaves, paint buildings, clean rain gutters, split wood, dust out the cobwebs ... ready the camp for winter or spiff up the place for summer. We have room for 60 energetic souls.

Delicious food and comfortable accommodations are provided to you in exchange for the sweat of your brow! Camp de Benneville Pines was built by the loving hands of volunteers ... and the tradition lives on with those who choose to help with taking good care of her.

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



## Music in the Mountains

November 2 – 4, 2012

There is something truly inspiring about a creative weekend of music-making together. Join us to elevate and celebrate the traditions of acoustic folk music at a memorable weekend of live folk/pop acoustic music. All levels of fiddlers, guitar and banjo players, percussionists, other instrumentalists and singers will attend scheduled workshops and jam in spontaneous groups throughout the weekend. Those who wish to perform may do so at the Saturday night Hoot. This amazing weekend is so reasonably priced that you can hardly justify staying home! Lodging, meals, workshops are all included in the price.

For details and pricing: go to <http://uucamp.org> and click on “Register for Camp.”

## Thanksgiving Celebration: A Family Tradition

Thursday, November 22 – Sunday, November 25, 2012

Our intergenerational camp offered over the Thanksgiving holiday and weekend has become a tradition for many families. Enjoy a hassle-free Thanksgiving that will be the best you have ever experienced. The talented camp staff will take care of the shopping, meal planning, cooking and dishes ... and you get to enjoy your family and friends. Best of all, the prices are quite reasonable.

Attendees are asked to volunteer their services and talents by presenting a program or workshop over the weekend. Relax by the roaring lodge fire or get up and get energized on a hike in the crisp autumn air.

Adults: \$190 \* Youth (3 to 17): \$140 \* Children under 3: Free \* Arrive Wednesday: add \$20 pp (no food service offered until Thursday dinner) \* Arrive Friday: subtract \$20 pp \* Craig's Cabin/Cabin 6: add \$35 per adult \* Double bed in cabins 5, 7, 8 (two people required): add \$35 per room \* Non refundable deposit of \$75 per person is due at time of registration \* Cancellations must be received by October 25 for balance refund \* Register online or send in the form on page 11 of this newsletter, or go to <http://uucamp.org> and click on “Register for Camp.”



## Save These Dates for Winter Fun 2012 – 2013

PSWD Jr. High Winter Camp  
November 30 – December 2, 2012

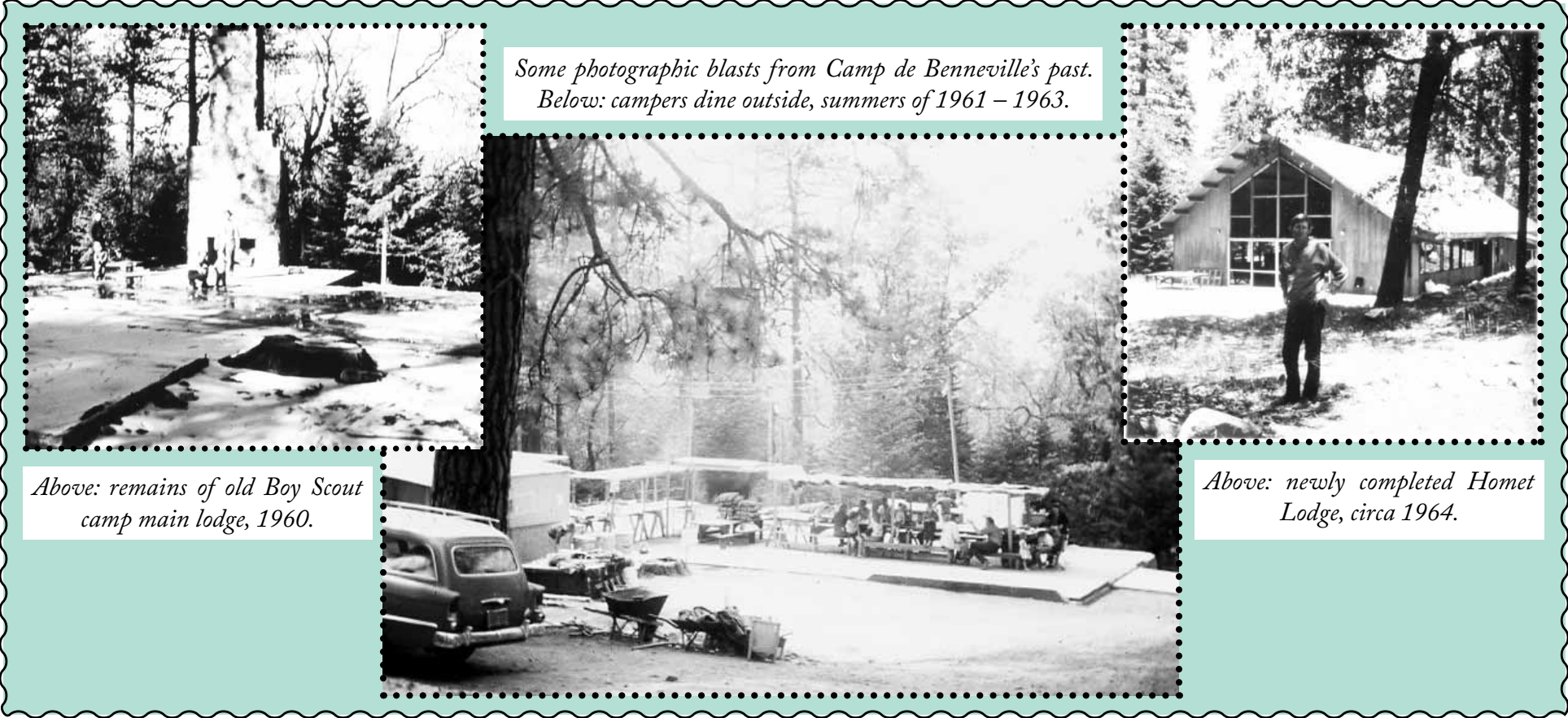
PSWD Sr. High Winter Camp  
December 27, 2012 – January 1, 2013

PSWD Elementary/Family Winter Camp  
February 16 – 18, 2013

Watch our website for details – <http://uucamp.org>







Register online with a credit card and guarantee your reservation immediately – <http://uucamp.org>, click on “Register for 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 prior to 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](mailto: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		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 <a href="mailto:teral@att.net">teral@att.net</a> or (626) 840-5412	
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  
2011 – 2012

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**Vice President**

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*Niel Lynch*

*Louise Klatt*

*Orlando Rice*

*Barbara McLaughlin*

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**Executive Director**

*Janet James*

[uucamp@aol.com](mailto:uucamp@aol.com)

**Caretaker**

*Randy Carroll-Bradd*

**Lead Cook**

*Diane Rutigliano*

**Office Assistant:**

*Shenoa Carroll-Bradd*

## 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.

## Message from Janet James, Camp Executive Director

The idea of a unified Unitarian Universalist faith was talked about for many years, but it was not until 1961 that the symmetry and beauty of combining these two liberal religious faiths became irresistible to members, and Unitarian Universalism sprang into being in the United States.

Here in the Southwest, religious liberals were exploring the possibility of acquiring their own property in the San Bernardino Mountains to use as a new summer camp. The combination of the two faiths and the sale of Universalist properties in the LA area provided the resources needed to carry out this plan, and so Camp de Benneville Pines was born in 1961.

If the merger of Unitarianism and Universalism provided the "family structure" in the form of the UUA's Pacific Southwest District, then Camp de Benneville Pines can be seen as its offspring. Our District and our Camp have grown together, and they have made steady progress over the last 16 years toward realizing their full potential together.

We stand now at a point in history when the UUA is beginning to fully understand the importance of outdoor ministry to the future of our religious community and faith. Our Camp provides a portal through which our members can reconnect with nature and begin to consider how we can live the Seventh Principle of our faith and make a contribution to restoring a balance with

our natural world. It is also a place where bonds between our religious heritage and our families and youth are developed and strengthened.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the manager of Camp de Benneville Pines since July 1, 1995. I have learned so much about our UU faith and have gained the friendship of so many wonderful people throughout the PSWD. The Camp has come of age, and the buildings that were so lovingly placed and remodeled in the early 1960s have been well loved and well used by hundreds of thousands of campers over the last 50 years. Camp feels cozy and warm, and it looks settled yet tenderly cared for. It has a vibrant pulse, and I believe the Camp to be the collective heart of the PSWD Churches.

It is my hope that many more generations of UUs will fill the camp over the next five decades, as the board and I set the course for another 50 years of growth and development up on the mountain top.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org) (email)

Camp Website  
[www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org)