

Camp de Benneville Pines

Connection

Spring/Summer/Fall 2013

Your Unitarian Universalist Mountain Retreat

A Long and Winding Road

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

“Fantastic!”

“An amazing achievement!”

“One of the most significant capital improvements at de Benneville in many years!”

That’s how the attendees at last fall’s “Music in the Mountains” weekend at Camp de Benneville Pines described the newly paved roads throughout the Camp. As luck would have it, the “Music in the Mountains” campers were the first group of significant size to visit after the road paving project was completed on October 26th, and the superlatives just wouldn’t quit.

It has been a long journey to arrive at this milestone, which is the completion of the second major phase of the Water Works! capital improvement project. The first phase was, as you may recall, the replacement of all of our Camp’s underground utilities,

most importantly the water mains, but also encompassing the gas, electric and communications lines as well. Those of us who planned this project realized from the outset that the major excavation needed to bury our water lines three feet below the surface would severely damage the existing dirt roads, which were none too good to begin with. We budgeted the project and raised funds with this reality in mind. The utility project was essentially completed in the fall of 2011, but winter closed in early and there was no opportunity to pave at that time. Winter also lingered late in the spring of 2012 and then the busy summer began, so paving was still impossible.

The summer of 2012 confirmed our worst fears regarding the stability of a dirt road that had been disturbed by excavation. Severe summer rainstorms washed a considerable amount of the new road base down to Jenks Lake Road and beyond. What remained of our Camp loop road and the entrance road to the parking lot was severely rutted and eroded, as those who visited our many camps last summer can attest. I didn’t hear back about any actual damage to cars from a trip through camp, but I’m sure the passengers were well shaken up by the experience.

Toward the end of the summer, we began soliciting bids to repair and pave the Camp roads. We selected the winning bid in September and began the project on October 22, 2012.

Long before we broke ground on the Water Works! project we had requested permission from the U.S. Forest Service to do the paving. They quickly granted permission for the Camp loop because there was some evidence of prior paving efforts. But the road from the top of the parking lot to Jenks Lake Road was another matter. A week before the paving was set to begin, we still did not have permission to pave that final, vital section. Because I knew that the two paving segments would cost us significantly more if done at different times, I asked Janet James, our Camp Executive Director, to make one last



appeal to the Forest Service. Just at the last possible moment, after actual grading of the Camp loop had begun, we finally received permission to pave all of our Camp roads. I’m not quite sure how Janet pulled this magic off, but I was very grateful for the result.

Having all the Camp roads paved has major implications for future Camp operations and use. It’s not just the convenience of a smooth ride through Camp. Formerly, thick clouds of choking dust drifted into our lodge and cabins in the summer with every passing vehicle. Severe erosion from our roads due to heavy rains in the warmer months damaged the environment, and required significant annual expenditures to replace lost road base. Winter snow plowing was extraordinarily difficult and removed additional road base. People with mobility issues found it exceedingly difficult to traverse our uneven and treacherous roads, and those with walkers and wheelchairs found it almost impossible. All that is now behind us, and most parts of our Camp are now accessible to everyone who can manage the 6,800 foot altitude.

Several people at “Music in the Mountains” thanked me personally for the fabulous metamorphosis the Camp has undergone. But the thanks were misdirected. The real thanks goes to the two anonymous major donors that each contributed \$100,000 or more to challenge other donors to reach and surpass our Water Works! capital drive goals.

Thanks also belongs to the Congregation at Shelter Rock in

(continued on page 3)

Non-Profit
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Camp de Benneville Pines

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Address Service Requested



Camp de Benneville Pines

Calendar of Events 2013

March

- 1 – 3 **Long Beach UU Church Retreat**
For info: office@uucblb.org
- 7 – 11 **Winter Homeschool Celebration**
- 15 – 17 **Girl Scout Song Swap**
- 15 – 17 **Women of Conejo Valley UU Church** *Craig's Cabin*
- 22 – 24 **Rainbow Family Camp**
See advertisement on page 4 for additional information
- 25 – 29 *Camp available for lease*
- 29 – 31 *Camp available for lease*

April

- 1 – 5 *Camp available for lease*
- 5 – 7 **UU San Dieguito Church Retreat**
For info: (858) 755-9225 office@uufsd.org
- 12 – 14 **UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal**
For info: (619) 466-5952 mdorfi@cox.net
See advertisement on page 4 for additional information
- 18 – 19 **UUCST Retreat** *Craig's Cabin*
- 19 – 21 **Girl Scout Retreat Yorba Linda Service Unit**
- 26 – 28 **Camp Recovery 12 - Step Retreat**
For more info: www.camprecovery.org
See advertisement on page 4 for additional information

May

- 3 – 5 **UU Women's Spring Renewal**
See advertisement on page 4 for additional information
- 9 **Pathways Academy** (private)
- 10 – 12 **Spring Work Weekend**
See advertisement on page 10 for additional information
- 16 – 18 **Gospel in the Pines**
See advertisement on page 5 for additional information
- 24 – 26 **Camp Blog Away for Food Bloggers**
For info: (310) 351-5151 patti@londre.com
- 31 - June 2 **UU San Diego/Chalice Church Retreat**
For info: (619) 298-9978 mail@firstuusandiego.org

June

- 4 – 6 **New City Schools** (private)
- 7 – 9 **Pacific Unitarian/Anaheim Church Retreat**
For info: (310) 378-9449 admin@pacificunitarian.org
- 10 – 14 *Camp Available for Lease*
- 16 – 22 **Camp Bravo Week I**
For info: (800) 654-1055 info@campbravo.org
- 23 – 29 **Camp Bravo Week II**
For info: (800) 654-1055 info@campbravo.org

July

- June 30 – 6 **PSWD Elementary Summer Youth Camp**
See advertisement on page 8 for additional information
- June 30 – 6 **PSWD Counselor in Training Program**
See advertisement on page 8 for additional information
- 7 – 13 **PSWD Junior High Summer Youth Camp**
See advertisement on page 8 for additional information
- 14 – 20 **PSWD Senior High Summer Youth Camp**
See advertisement on page 8 for additional information
- 21 – 27 **PSWD Family Summer Camp**
See advertisement on page 5 for additional information
- 28 – Aug 3 **Camp Bravo Week III**
For info: (800) 654-1055 info@campbravo.org

August

- 4 – 10 **Camp Bravo Week IV**
For info: (800) 654-1055 info@campbravo.org
- 11 – 15 **Summer Rendezvous Homeschool Camp**
See advertisement on page 9 for additional information
- 17 – 22 **PSWIRL Summer Camp for Grownups**
See advertisement on page 5 for additional information
- 17 – 22 **Art Camp** (for all levels)
See advertisement on page 5 for additional information
- 23 – 25 **UU Neighborhood Summer Retreat**
For info: (626) 449-3470 judy.wallace@uuneighborhood.org
- 27 – 29 *Camp Available for Lease*
- 30 – Sept 2 **PSWD Young Adults Retreat**
For info: (805) 485-1780 pswd@aol.com
See advertisement on page 9 for additional information

September

- 6 – 8 **Yoga & Wellness Retreat**
See advertisement on page 9 for additional information
- 9 – 12 **Camp Bravo El Rancho School Camp** (private)
- 13 – 15 **UU Santa Monica Church Retreat**
For info: (310) 829-5436 office@uusm.org
- 20 – 22 **ACA of Orange County 12-Step Retreat**
For info: fmrchair@gmail.com
see advertisement on page 9 for additional information
- 26 – 29 **UU Channel Island Cluster Fall Church Retreat**
For info: dave@barker.nu

October

- 4 – 6 **Tapestry/Orange/Laguna UU Church Retreat**
For info: (949) 646-4652 uu@ocuuc.org
- 10 **Pathways Academy Fall Kickoff** (private)
- 11 – 13 **LA Valley Cluster UU Church Retreat**
For info: clustercamp@ymail.com
- 18 – 20 **UU Monte Vista/Riverside Fall Church Retreat**
For info: (909) 626-0520 (951) 686-6515 uucr@juno.com
- 25 – 27 **PSWD Youth Camp Ministries Team** (Craig's Cabin)
- 25 – 27 **Fall Work Weekend**
See advertisement on page 10 for additional information

November

- 1 – 3 **Music in the Mountains Folk Music Retreat**
See advertisement on page 10 for additional information
- 8 – 10 **UU Fullerton Fall Church Retreat**
For info: (714) 871-7150 uucf@uucfullerton.org
- 15 – 17 **PSWD Jr. High Youth Camp**
See advertisement on page 10 for additional information
- 22 – 24 **UU Legislative Ministries Leadership Summit**
For info: (916) 441-0018
See advertisement on page 11 for additional information
- 28 – Dec 1 **Thanksgiving Family Celebration**
See advertisement on page 10 for additional information

December

- 6 – 8 *Camp Available For Lease*
- 13 – 16 *Camp Available For Lease*
- 20 – 22 *Camp Available For Lease*
- 27 – Jan 1 **PSWD Senior High Winter Youth Camp**
For info: registrar@uucamp.org
See advertisement on page 10 for additional information

2014

*Camp Available For Lease mid-week during school year
Some weekends available*

Winding Road *(continued from page 1)*

Manhasset, New York, who went well beyond their East Coast geographic base to award Camp de Benneville with an incredible \$100,000 grant. And finally, thanks goes to the hundreds of individual donors who made generous donations, large and small, raising nearly \$300,000 additional dollars to help us realize these marvelous capital improvements in our beloved Camp.

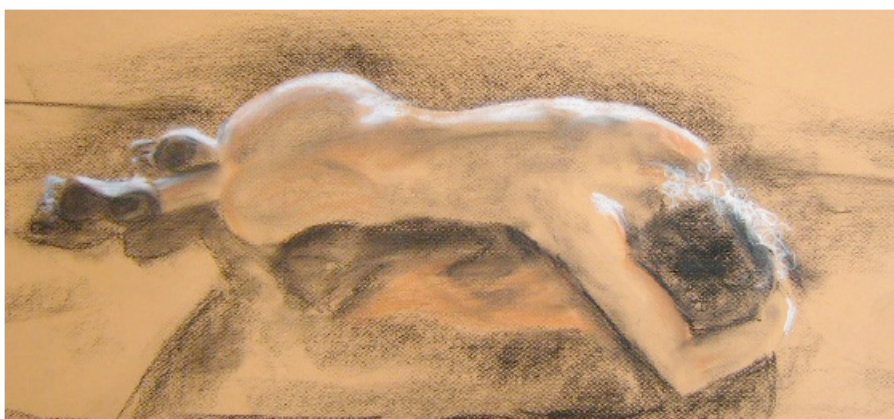
The success of our fundraising effort, and the careful management of phases I and II of the Water Works! implementation plan means that we still have money available to realize the third phase: installation of a second water storage tank and improvements at our mountain spring well head, high above the Camp. These improvements, once in place, will provide the security of redundancy in our water supply, as well as provide adequate water for emergency use, such as fire fighting. We could make these important improvements as early as fall 2013, but Forest Service approval is still pending and not yet assured. We will definitely keep you posted as to whether Janet can work her magic on the U.S. Forest Service one more time.

Camp has many projects in the pipeline for which money is still needed. These improvements include: a pavilion to provide outdoor workshop space during the summer, extensive indoor renovations in the staff house, a ramp providing wheel chair access to the PSWIRL meeting room, new internal plumbing in many cabins, a new roof on the staff house, new heating in Cabin #1, and restorative work on our 75-year-old swimming pool. These are all projects which will enhance the Camp's ability to deliver quality programming, or which will address the results of normal wear and tear on Camp facilities. We strive to keep our camper fees low so that as many families as possible can afford to attend, and to do so means we depend on donations from camp supporters. Even if you are not on one of our mailing lists, you can go to our website www.uucamp.org and click on the Donate button to make a credit card donation.

How I Found Myself at Art Camp

by Betsy Gilpin, Vice President, Camp de Benneville Pines Board of Directors

Laura Janes had recruited me as a volunteer to help her, and a crew of others, to repaint all the rooms in Craig's Cabin. We worked hard all day and I was totally worn out. But she wasn't done with me yet. "Would you like to tag along to a life-drawing class I am teaching at a Big Bear art gallery this evening?" Laura asked. Not knowing what I was getting myself into, but curious nonetheless, I replied, "Okay." So, in an exhausted state, I soon found myself with a piece of charcoal in my hand in front of an easel draped with newsprint, staring at someone without any clothes on. I began to draw. With fatigue overriding my brain and inhibitions, the results definitely were recognizable as a human being. I was hooked and eagerly signed up for the very first Art Camp during PSWIRL in August 2006.



The first night at camp, we learned what would happen each day, and received our art materials. We did not have to bring a thing as everything was provided. Mornings were for life-drawing, early afternoons for drawing in the forest, and later in the afternoon we attended talks by guest artists, either about their own work and careers or about the technical aspects of art: light, color, composition, perspective, etc. Evenings were for experimenting with different media provided by Laura or shared by others, or just hanging out. We were told that we were welcome to skip any of these activities and instead join the PSWIRL campers for their activities, or just kick back if we so desired. However, I was there to do art and art is what I did.



In the drawing segments (life-drawing, and drawing in the forest), we warmed up with some quick timed sketches of one, five and 10 minutes. In the life-drawing segment, the one-minute drawings were either gesture drawings or contour drawings. The gesture drawings seek to get the figure on the page in more or less the right posture and proportions, while for the contour drawings we did not look at our paper, only at the model, to train our eyes to follow the shapes. As we settled in, quiet reigned and soothing music calmed our anxiety during life-drawing, and the wind in the trees provided the music for drawing in the forest.

After the longer periods (10+ minutes), we paused after each drawing and looked at each other's work. This is when the real instruction takes place. Laura Janes has a gift for seeing something right about each person's work, and uses that something to point out an approach or technique to achieve the desired effect. Gradually we began to incorporate these things into our own drawings, and day by day, the results became more and more satisfying. Even the most basic beginners saw a metamorphosis and, by the last day, had several drawings of which they could be truly proud.

On Wednesday night, we selected drawings to be exhibited in the Lodge for the "Art Show" we hosted for the PSWIRLers on Thursday afternoon. Selecting the drawings for display was another new experience we were exposed to as budding artists. Each person put

the pieces they were willing to enter into the show in piles according to session: life-drawing, gesture, contour, and forest. Then we held up the first two from a given pile and voted for the best, then held up the best against the



next one, etc., until the very best piece remained. Yes, it could be painful, but that process is actually more objective than those used by art galleries to jury shows. In addition to the juried pictures, each artist could display a favorite piece on their easel as part of the show.

Excitement built as the windows at the southwest side of the lodge were covered and the pictures hung. While the music played and the corks were popped, the campers arrived and began to oooh and aaah. The artists, cleaned up and dressed in the best duds they brought to camp, were on hand to explain the classes and processes that produced the work shown. Some of the drawings even sold, which is a wonderful thrill for any artist.

Following my first Art Camp, I enrolled in additional classes offered by my local adult school and community college, but Art Camp remains special to me. There is something about being able to completely immerse oneself in the process of making art without the distractions of daily life, which is an incredible experience.

Be brave and try something new, come to Art Camp 2013! There's no telling what hidden talent you might discover.

See advertisement on Page 5 for more Art Camp information

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

Friday, March 22 – Sunday March 24, 2013



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 www.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 more information: call (323) 993-7430 or email familyservices@lagaycenter.org.

UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal

Guideposts through the Wilderness: Our Journey from Surviving to Thriving

Friday, April 12 – Sunday, April 14, 2013

Confused and frustrated about where we are headed? Depressed and anxious about the state of our lives, aging, our relationships, our country, and the ecology? You are not alone. Join us in the beauty of the mountains and in the 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. 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.



25th Annual Camp Recovery 2013

"Out of the Night, Into the Light"

Friday, April 26 – Sunday, April 28, 2013



A weekend of self-care where you and your "inner child" have the opportunity to grow, heal, play, discover, reflect, and work on yourself. This year's camp theme is "Out of the Night, Into the Light".

Join us 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.

For more information or to register:

www.camprecovery.org

PSWD Women's Retreat

"A Circle of Trust - Balancing Your Life"

Friday, May 3 - Sunday, May 5, 2013

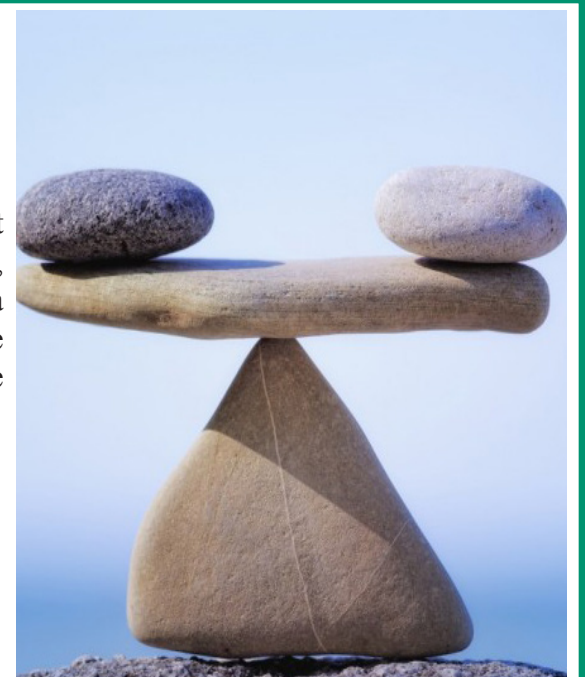
Join other women in nurturing old and making new friends. Treat yourself to a fun-filled weekend just for you! Relax or participate in activities such as belly dancing, drumming, singing, dancing, hiking, playing, listening, sharing and attending a variety of workshops. Soak in the hot tub or schedule a private massage, acupuncture, or aroma therapy session. Enjoy a break from cooking and dishes as the camp staff takes care of preparing the meals and doing the cleanup. There is so much to share with one another at our annual retreat. We hope you join us! Friends of UU's are welcome too!

\$175.00 per person

Craig's or Cabin 6 - \$30 pp additional

Thursday Arrival - \$20 pp lodging (no meals)

Cancellation Policy - \$75 fee before 4/3/2013 No Refund after 4/3/2013



Gospel in the Pines

Thursday, May 16 – Saturday, May 18, 2013

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 \$155 per person (includes meals, lodging, and programming)

To register, visit www.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 the Interdependent Web”

Sunday, July 21 – Saturday, July 27, 2013

UU’s affirm and promote seven key principles within our congregations, the seventh principle being: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. But who is included in our web? What does “respect” actually mean? What does it mean to be “interdependent”, and how can we teach our children?

At this year’s Family Camp, we’ll explore these questions to determine how each of us fits into the glorious whole. In our beautiful mountain setting, we can spend a week together making music, playing, tie-dyeing, appreciating nature, hiking, contemplating, swimming, worshipping, laughing, and helping each other discover our place in the interdependent web.

Register early, this camp sells out. Price includes lodging, meals, and workshops.

Cost:

\$345 per adult

\$305 teen (13 – 18)

\$295 child (3 – 12)

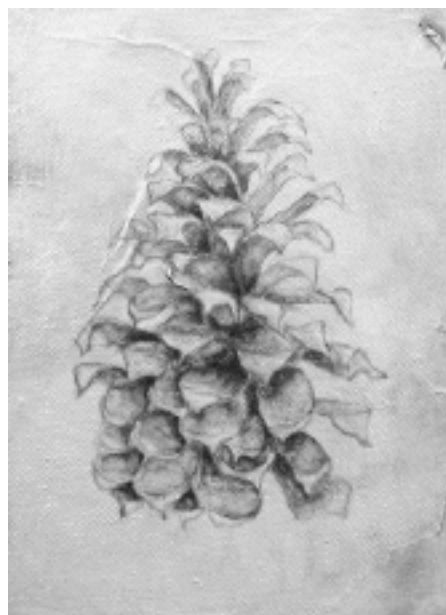
\$100 baby/toddler (0 – 2)

Craig’s Cabin upgrade: \$80 pp Cabin 6 upgrade: \$50 pp

Double bed in Cabins 5, 7, 8: \$50 per room

\$75 non refundable deposit per person required to hold space, payment plans available. Reservation must be paid in full one week prior to event start date. To register, visit www.uucamp.org and click on

Register for Camp or fill out the form on page 11 and mail in.



ART CAMP 6

Saturday, August 17 - Thursday, August 22, 2013

A 5-day intensive for Artists with Artists

ALL LEVELS WELCOME!

Cost: \$550.00

Includes food, lodging, program and art supplies

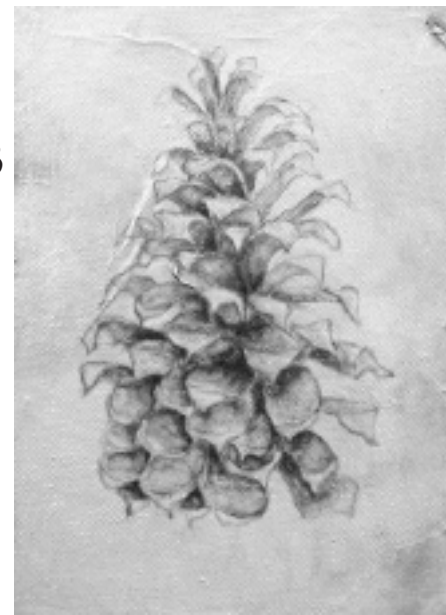
\$75 pp cancellation fee before July 15

No refund after August 1

All fees must be paid by August 1

To register, visit www.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.



Summer Camp for Grownups!

Saturday, August 17 through Thursday, August 22, 2013

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Tom Owen-Towle

“Self-Care: Tending to Our Whole Being”

PSWIRL welcomes you to their annual event at beautiful Camp de Benneville Pines. The rich program begins daily with theme speaker Rev. Tom Owen-Towle inspiring participants to nurture themselves spiritually and completely. 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.”

Camp ApUUcalypse: Winter Senior High Camp 2012

by Emrys Stanton, Volunteer Youth Camp Staff

The Zombie Apocalypse. The 2012 end-of-the-world prophecy. The collapse and rebirth of civilization captivates us and urges us to think of our own responses if the scenario presents itself. While many of us may not think of Camp de Benneville Pines as a suitable mountain stronghold in the event of something catastrophic (despite the recently improved water system), one group of UUs recently gave it a try.

Camp ApUUcalypse brought together seventy-five highschool age UUs to build, if only for six days, a community based on Unitarian Universalist values. Under the leadership of youth co-deans Asha Arora (UU Congregation of Phoenix) and Keane Regner (UU Congregation of Las Vegas), Camp ApUUcalypse urged the youth to “live like you were going to die.” Not in a reckless, frantic way, but by intentionally pushing ourselves to go beyond personal comfort zones.

Each winter and summer, de Benneville hosts Sr. High Camp. The camps are primarily run by a staff of youth leaders with support from a small group of adult advisors. Each camp features a different theme, but is based on a similar structure that combines activities, performances, discussions, play, and worship.

While some may see coming to camp as an opportunity to leave the stresses and distractions of the real world behind, it is unrealistic to be completely detached from life “down the mountain.” That is what makes camp such an important place since it gives our youth the opportunity to confront the good, the bad, the beauty, and the ugliness of life on their own terms.

Like many UU gatherings, campers create a covenant that will serve as a guide for the community. The covenant emphasizes the many ways that the youth want to create and maintain a



“safe space.” The basic idea is that camp should be respectful and affirming for everyone. Behaviors typically seen among teens—hazing or teasing—are virtually non-existent. If it does occur, it is quickly called out, and those involved are encouraged to meet with each other and work it out.

The youth staff includes two chaplains who are available throughout the week for the campers. This winter, over a dozen youth participated in a chaplain training curriculum, adding to the numbers of those who are willing and able to provide emotional support to their peers. This backdrop of support is essential for maintaining a safe space for everyone.

Another key feature of camp is the nightly worship services, where the dedication to Unitarian Universalist values inspires powerful and provocative homilies, including guided meditations, group activities, singing and reflections, all rooted in the theology of Unitarian Universalism.

Group discussions, called RAPs, are a highly anticipated part of camp where the youth chaplains facilitate candid and confidential conversations, ranging in topic from pop culture to deep sharing. These discussions give the youth insight into each other’s lives and help bond the community together.

Camp isn’t only introspective. This winter, camp provided many opportunities for play and fun, including snow fort construction, winter relay races, snow-person building, and sled races. There was also a talent show, a fundraiser auction, and a New Year’s Eve dance party. Arts and crafts, a camp work project, a movie night, and the weekbook overnight gave even more opportunities for the community to come together. On top of that, youth and adults hosted various workshops, covering topics from hip-hop dance to safe sex and STIs to pretzel baking to a discussion on autism and Asperger’s.

As with any UU event, social justice was included in the curriculum. Laura Jackson from Tapestry UU in Mission Viejo hosted two presentations: one on climate change and another about a visitation program for immigrants in detention. Campers can share their own insights into these issues, ask questions, and think about the ways they want to engage the world.



Counselors Eric Rosloff and Geoff Anderla

Reflecting on her week as the youth co-dean, Asha shared, “One thing that I personally appreciated was the way the community welcomed in new people with open arms. This was only my third camp at de Benneville but I was completely comfortable and accepted in the community. Camp de Benneville is so beautiful because, though we are unique individuals, we all feel at home.”

Another long-time UU camper, Geoff Anderla, had a similar feeling. Geoff attended Sr. High camp two decades ago, and now volunteers as an adult advisor. “As someone who went to camp as a youth,” he said, “it is always amazing to see how the connection with the safe space has stayed constant. One of the greatest experiences is seeing youth who come to camp for the first time and are a little hesitant, but by the end of camp are making plans to come back to the next camp.”

If the end of the world comes, or there is a major upheaval in society, head to the nearest UU camp. As this winter’s Camp ApUUcalypse demonstrated, the youth are eager to live in a world based on mutual respect, love, and affirmation. They are also capable of making that world possible by building community based on UU values.

PSWD offers a week-long summer program for senior high campers. See ad on page 8 for more details.

Honoring the Life of Celia Ward 1928 - 2013

by Reverend Greg Ward

Celia Beecher Karpf was born on May 17, 1928, to parents who had immigrated to the United States via Ellis Island. She was the loving and dedicated mother of three children, Doug, Greg and Lisa.

Being a teacher was a noble profession, but she found her passion when she found religion with Neighborhood UU Church of Pasadena. If one wanted to spend time with Celia during her children’s adolescence and early teens, it meant spending a great deal of time on Sunday afternoons, after church, waiting for her to get out of meetings. And, it meant spending one’s entire summer up at de Benneville Pines.

Her involvement with camp became a pivotal turning point in Celia’s life. She first volunteered in simple ways: being registrar for certain camps and reaching out to bring keynote speakers like Ric Masten to a retreat. Eventually, she moved on to leading workshops. She joined the Board of Directors and became one of the most ferocious advocates of the camp’s vision.



What made the greatest impact for Celia, and the camp, was her involvement with summer programming in the 1970’s. Utilizing her many talents, she designed two particular programs, Kiddie Camp and Jr. High Camp, which emphasized leadership development, empowerment and communication skills, imparting tools to develop deep relationships and lasting friendships.

But, perhaps, the greatest beneficiaries of her skills were those she helped train to be Counselors (CITs). Through communication skills like active listening, I-statements and clear feedback, Celia gave emerging leaders some of the skills that not only made them successful counselors, but successful navigators in their own emerging adulthood.

Celia Ward died on January 22, 2013, at the age of 85, but her camp legacy lives on as her group of CIT’s are now running programs at summer camp and sharing the magic of camp with their own families.



In Remembrance of Those We Lost

Remembering John Quinn

1920 - 2012

by Ross Quinn, Camp de Benneville Pines
Board of Directors Member

This has been a year of deep personal loss, the loss of some of those who founded and nurtured Camp de Benneville Pines. One of them was my father, John Quinn, who died at his Ventura home, with Karen and I at his side, on October 30, 2012, at age 91. His life was a constant effort to make things better for the people and organizations that he loved, including us, the Ventura church, the PSWD, and de Benneville.



Both my mother, Carol, and Dad were founding members of the Ventura UU Church, where he served as its first Board president. When I was young, probably 10 or 11, our family went to 2 week long PSWIRL Family Camps, which were held at Camp Radford, not far from de Benneville. In 1960, when the PSWIRL and Universalist Church decided to look for a place we could call our own, Dad was part of the search, along with Dave English, another Ventura Church founding member, and future de Benneville Board President. I remember seeing then-Camp Arataba with Dad and Dave in 1960, the year after its lodge had burned, before we UUs made it ours in 1961.

Dad was the first PSWD president of the merged UU denomination. I remember many trips to Throop Church in Pasadena for the PSWD meetings, during which the nascent PSWD found a way to buy a camp, making that dream a reality.

In those early years, the camp had no cabins, just tent platforms. No lodge, just a slab of concrete, plus inadequate water and sewer lines. We built the camp up with our own hands during innumerable work weekends, blessed by generous contributions of sweat, time, money, and materials. I learned from Dad how to work long and hard, to be part of something larger than one's self, and how to be tough, even when you bashed your thumb. Somehow, we made the dreams become reality.

Dad left the UU movement for almost 40 years, until I convinced him to return to camp for PSWIRL. There, it became clear that camp had never left his heart, just as it had never left mine during the many years I lived away from California. Coming back to camp filled a hole in my heart I didn't know I had, and healed me. I believe that precious gift was his as well, and I know how much he appreciated the recognition and plaque that he received at the PSWD 50th District Assembly.

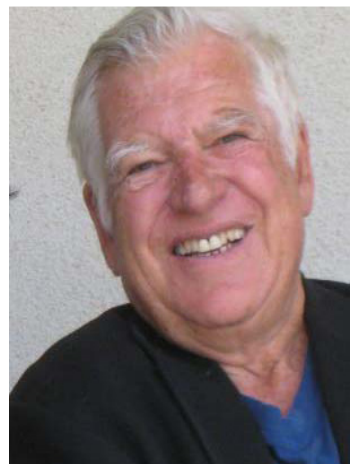
After Dad died, we placed a small portion of his ashes in the camp amphitheater, at the base of the twin ponderosa pines, to ensure he will continue to nurture the camp, and its forest, even in death. Dad, you left me, and all of us, a great legacy. Thanks for the gifts of our Ventura Church, PSWD, and beloved Camp.

In Memory of Dave English

1931 - 2012

by Craig Block, Camp Volunteer,
PUC member

The irrepressible Dave English was coming to Camp de Benneville Pines before it was Camp de Benneville Pines. As a Boy Scout in the 1940's, he spent many a night at the former Camp Arataba - which years later was to become our mountain treasure and recipient of so much of his love and energy over nearly 70 years of his life. As many of us know about the early history of the camp, the Boy Scouts later abandoned the camp after a fire left only the cement pad where Homet Lodge now sits.



After the camp was acquired by the district in 1961, Dave returned to the site with his beloved wife Jean and their burgeoning family as members of the UU Church of Ventura, and participated in laying down and sprucing up the original infrastructure of the camp. His wife Jean recalls that they stayed in tents and woke up each morning ready to do whatever needed doing. In 1965, the English family moved to Palos Verdes, joined Pacific Unitarian Church, and continued to be involved with de Benneville.

For those of us who were lucky enough to know Dave, we'll always remember his dazzling grin, and the abundant energy that radiated from him. I remember when he came up to deliver the tan GMC truck to the camp while I was there for Sr. High Camp. He beamed in anticipation of the mounds of snow that it would plow, the loads of equipment and supplies it would pick up, all the cars it would pull out of snow drifts, and all the piles of wood that it would move for the years to come, as it continues to do.

Dave served on the Board of Directors for many years, including two stints as President of the Board - one early on, and the latter in the early 2000's - and was influential in raising funds for the camp over many years, including the recent Water Works! Drive. Dave was also awarded the Conrad Housley Award for his contribution of service, sweat, and support that helped make our camp what it is today.

Janet James recounted a story at his Celebration of Life that was pure Dave: he called her up one day asking, "Are they there yet?"

Janet replied, "Are WHAT here yet?" And sure enough, the UPS truck arrived, delivering a huge bag of 300 daffodil bulbs. It was a bit late in the season, but Janet immediately put them in the ground just outside her cabin, hoping a few would bloom. But when the spring thaw came and the leaves started to poke out of the softening earth, it became evident that a glorious bounty of butter yellow blossoms would be blooming in the springtime, smiling their little heads off, like little Daves. The efforts of Dave, and many others over the last 5 decades, has created a legacy that we all will be able to enjoy for many years to come.

Farewell to Conrad Housley

1933 - 2013

by Tom Thorward, Anaheim UU Church

Camp de Benneville Pines must now say good-bye to a dear friend and ardent supporter, Conrad Housley, who died at the age of 79 on January 4th of this year. We both mourn his loss and celebrate his life, and give sincere thanks for all the gifts of his time and treasure that he so selflessly bestowed upon our beloved Camp.

Conrad became involved in de Benneville Pines at the time the camp was purchased. He was one of the volunteers that first summer of ownership who prepared the site for the arrival of the cabins, that were purchased from the Air Force, and helped install them.



Then, when the Forest Service changed the rules so that all the camps in the area had to be winterized for year-round use and have upgraded septic and water systems, he helped dig the trenches for the sewer lines and water pipes.

When Mrs. Patterson donated the money to build Homet Lodge, Conrad was the one designated to escort her to camp and give her the grand tour.

He also worked on the fund drive to sell bonds to raise the start-up capital needed, giving pitches at churches around the district.

Conrad's second period of intense involvement with the camp came in the late 1980's when de Benneville went through a serious financial crisis. It had been operating in the red, and there was talk of the PSWD selling the camp. Conrad lobbied hard at the district annual meeting to keep the camp, and the delegates voted to give de Benneville a reprieve.

Conrad was elected to the Board of Directors and served two terms during that difficult period of trying to turn the camp around and get it operating in the black, and also did fund-raising to create an ongoing capital endowment fund ("Share the Vision"). After his time on the Board of Directors, he remained active on the Finance committee for several years.

Conrad believed in the value of the camp as a place of spiritual growth and renewal. He wanted our youth to have the camp experience. He had seen the way friendships are deepened at de Benneville Pines and bonds between church members forged beyond what happens on Sunday mornings down the hill. He wanted all the churches in the district to have the opportunity to experience that deepening of commitment and community.

He loved seeing those who had come to de Benneville Pines as children grow up and bring their own kids (and sometimes grandkids!) to camp. Hearing them talk about why de Benneville was important to them moved him to tears.

There is no doubt that Camp de Benneville will serve as a lasting legacy of Conrad's stewardship, a precious gift to the many future campers who will enjoy its benefits and perhaps learn to love the camp as Conrad so clearly did.

Elementary Summer Camp “Generosity of Spirit”

Sunday, June 30 – Saturday, July 6, 2013
Dean: Celeste Plumlee

Please join us as we play, sing, laugh, swim, and enjoy the greatness of being in community with Unitarian Universalists from all over the Pacific Southwest District.

Last summer, we talked about how “what we bring to the world is exactly what the world needs from us.” This summer, we will explore the many ways in which we can share who we are and be where we are needed. As always, we will have tons, tons, tons of fun!

All campers are well cared for by trained counselors who are guided by Unitarian Universalist principles and work to build a loving and inclusive camp community.

A well-trained staff facilitates this week.



Junior High Summer Camp “We are the Peacemakers!”

Sunday, July 7 – Saturday, July 13, 2013
Dean: Barbara Braswell

This year, our Jr. High camp will focus on becoming peacemakers in our personal lives, as well as in the greater world!

Each day we will focus on one of the following: respect, communication, listening, forgiving, and living courageously. Living peacefully - at home, at school, with friends - begins with us and spreads like ripples in water. Campers will also participate in swimming, hiking, canoeing, archery, crafts and more!

A well trained staff facilitates the week.

PSWD Summer YoUth Camps Registration Information

Cost \$390
Deduct \$35 if registering before 4/30/13
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
www.uucamp.org

Senior High Summer Camp: “IllUminate-Us”

Sunday, July 14 – Saturday, July 20, 2013

Dean: James Forrest Youth Deans: Steven Ballesteros & Grace Paxton

Let that little light of yours shine brightly at Camp IllUminate-Us, a spectacular week of self-discovery and fun, diverse community. You’ll discover wonderful friendships, work together in team-building games at our Summer Olympics, and enjoy an exciting star gazing evening, all the while singing, “This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!” Who wouldn’t want to let their individuality shine and grow within our spectacular district-wide youth community? This week features camper-led activities with trained adult supervision.



PSWD’s Counselor-in-Training Program Sunday, June 30 – Saturday, July 6, 2013

Do you love to work with kids? Do you have leadership skills? Do you want to be just like your favorite counselor? Then the C.I.T. program is for YOU! Join coordinators Emmalinda Maclean and Rynne Waters as you delve into 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.



"Summer Rendezvous" A Camp for Homeschooling Families

Dean: Catherine Hanna-Askin

Sunday, August 11 – Thursday, August 15, 2013



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.

Register early to ensure space.

Visit www.uucamp.org and click on "Register for Camp" to view all registration details.

This camp is limited to 100 participants. Camp fees include lodging, meals and most camp activities.



PSWD Young Adult Camp: *"Deepening your Faith, Growing your Spirit"*

Coordinator: Lauren Eaton

Friday, August 30 – Monday, September 2, 2013

Are you interested in a weekend of relaxation, deepening spiritual connections, learning about social justice, and making new friends? Are you between the ages of 18 – 35? Then you should come to the PSWD Young Adult Camp held this Labor Day weekend! Make new friends, hike the beauty that is Camp de Benneville Pines and its mountains, and fill your spiritual and social justice soul with workshops, social justice streams, music, and worship. Hope to see you there!

For more information: lauren.e.eaton@gmail.com, and to register, visit www.connectuu.com

Cost is \$160 - \$250 sliding scale

"Realign with the Rhythms of Nature"

Friday, September 6 – Sunday, September 8, 2013

Everything in nature is made up of five basic elements: earth, water, fire, air, and space. These elements make up our ecology and our being. When these elements are balanced, we are in harmony within ourselves. When our elements are out of balance, we suffer disrupted equilibrium and become out of balance within ourselves and the natural world.

Awaken your connection to these elements and learn to embody the immense power, peace and truth found within them during this weekend of yoga, meditation and wellness activities. Explore and develop the elemental qualities of grounding, fluidity, transformation, compassion, and freedom during this weekend in the beautiful forest setting of Camp de Benneville Pines. Beginners to advanced yoga practitioners welcome!

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.



12-Step Fall Mountain Retreat

Friday, September 20 – Sunday, September 22, 2013

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



Work Weekends 2013

Spring Work Camp: Friday, May 10 – Sunday, May 12

Fall Work Camp: Friday, October 25 – Sunday, October 27

Get out in the great outdoors and give yourself a little workout! Each year, the camp hosts two work weekends, and we invite anyone age 11 or older to join in. 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, but space goes quickly, so be sure to register early.

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 take care of her.

Register at www.uucamp.org.



Music in the Mountains

Friday, November 1 – Sunday, November 3, 2013



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 28 – Sunday, December 1, 2013

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 due at time of registration * Cancellations must be received by October 25 for balance refund * Mail in the form on page 11 of this newsletter, or go to www.uucamp.org and click on “Register for Camp.”



Save These Dates for Winter Fun 2013 – 2014

PSWD Jr. High Winter Camp
November 15 – 17, 2013

PSWD Sr. High Winter Camp
December 27, 2013 – January 1, 2014

PSWD Elementary/Family Winter Camp
February 15 – 17, 2014

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



UU Legislative Ministries “Walking the Walk”
Friday, November 22 – Sunday, November 24, 2013



On November 22-24, 2013, the UU Legislative Ministry of California’s “Walking the Walk” UU Justice Leadership Summit will return to Camp de Benneville Pines!

Every year, the weekend before Thanksgiving, UU justice leaders from across California (and a few friends from out of state) gather for fellowship, training, spiritual renewal, workshops, worship and fun. This year, we are thrilled to be back in southern California.

Enjoy the opportunity to work with some of the most outstanding faith-based justice leaders in our movement and to meet the alumni and current young adult class of SALT Fellows (Spiritual Activist Leadership Training).

The impact of “Walking the Walk” ripples out across

the state and nation - building justice community that is bringing UU values and talent to the table. Help your congregation get linked to a network of relationships, timely information and practical skills to advance your justice ministries.

By deepening our faith, growing and linking leaders, we are building justice!

Be sure to have your congregation represented this year at the UU Legislative Ministry California’s *Walking the Walk*!

Special rates apply for young adults!

For more information, visit www.uulmca.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

PSWD YoUUth Camp Registration Form										
Camp Name:						Camp Dates:				
Attendee Name	Special Diet, Allergies or Medical Needs	Birth Date	Grade in Fall	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
2012 ~ 2013

President
Tom Thorward

Vice President
Betsy Gilpin

Secretary
Karen Quinn

Treasurer
Niel Lynch

Members at Large
Chris Heaton
Louise Klatt
Ross Quinn
Orlando Rice
Barbara McLaughlin

Camp Staff

Executive Director
Janet James
uucamp@aol.com

Daniel Caple
Randy Carroll-Bradd
Curtis Duffie
Jackie Emery
Niki Giberson
Steve Johnston
Jill Lummus
Trudy Mann
Elvia Prieto
Chrisandra Sveen

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.

De Benneville, the Beautiful

By Shenoa Carroll-Bradd. writer/editor, life-long camper

The first time I attended de Benneville Pines was in utero, the summer of '88. My family had come up to enjoy the weeklong Family Camp, and even though I had yet to see it (or anything, really) I had already fallen in love with the place.

I grew up racing down its dusty trails, splashing in the pool, and collecting acorn caps for fairy cups. I swear I discovered new magic with every visit. At that time, we lived no more than 90 minutes away, but to me, every drive up was an adventure. It seemed to last forever to my young eyes, the trees whipping past, the rocks, the sheer cliffs of stone with their tiny, secret waterfalls tucked away in nooks. The curving, windy road was so unlike the city highways, it might as well have been a serpent's back that we drove along, tracing its spine to our destination among the trees.

I attended Family camp, then Elementary (Kiddie) camp, and then my family moved to Texas. We found a great UU community there, but nothing could compare to de Benneville. It wasn't just the camps, and it wasn't just the site, beautiful though it may be, but a harmonious blending of the two. De Benneville is more than just a gorgeous retreat high in the mountains, it is a peaceful and rejuvenating home-away from home, helping us reconnect with nature even as we commune

with each other. While I was in Texas, I would go online and look at pictures of de Benneville, and the wistful nostalgia was so strong it hurt, like a hand reaching out to squeeze my heart.

In 2009 I found myself in a toxic emotional state that, because I was right in the middle of it, I was practically blind to. I couldn't help myself and I didn't know how to ask others for help, and so I stayed stuck there until I flew out to attend my first Young Adult Camp at de Benneville Pines. The overwhelming love, support and acceptance I found there changed my life. In that one weekend I remembered that I was a human being of value, that people cared, and that there was always hope and help just a word away. The friends I made at that first camp still surround me today, and have brought me countless smiles over the years. I hold more love and gratitude for them than I can adequately express, and de Benneville was the perfect backdrop for my transformation.

As soon as I returned to Texas, I began to change my life, getting rid of the negative and embracing the positive. Less than a year after that wonderful camp, I moved right to the foot of the mountains in Redlands, CA, and now work part-time in the camp office, helping Janet out however I can to ensure that this beautiful, magical, wonderful place is ready for the next generation to fall in love with it, as I have.

How to Contact Us

Camp de Benneville Pines
41750 Jenks Lake Road West
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305
Office & Group Reservations
909-794-2928 (phone)
909-794-2418 (fax)
uucamp@aol.com (email)

Lodge/Kitchen
909-794-8712

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

Camp Website
www.uucamp.org