### our Unitarian Universalist Mountain Retreat



# Saying Goodbye to My Baby Boy: Dakota Owns My Heart

by Janet James, Camp Manager

I'd like to take a moment to talk about my dog Dakota. He passed away recently, and not a day goes by that I don't think of

him and all the joy he brought into my life. He was my "baby boy" in so many ways. Even though he was 10 years old, he was such a little baby-precocious, full of energy, fun-loving with a short attention span, playful, and always hungry. I adored him. I even called him "Baby" most of the time. "Baaaaaabeeeeeeee...baaaaaaaabeeeeeeee" is how I called him to come to me, and he usually arrived at top speed from some faraway place in camp. I always envisioned him out in the woods with his head in a squirrel hole and his stubby tail up in the air waggin' in happiness as he attempted to catch something too deep in the earth to ever reach.

> Sometimes he arrived at my feet with his face completely covered in dirt, and I knew he had been out having a great doggie adventure.

> How is it that our pets can make such indelible impressions on our hearts? They are only in our lives for a brief time, but their impact is truly great. I wrote a few years ago about Mica, "the fearless camp dog". Mica, who saved Dakota's life when coyotes were pulling him into the woods for dinner. Like the Tasmanian devil, Mica tore the coyotes limb from limb and rescued the young Dakota from certain death. Yes, I mourned Mica's passing and thought of him each day too, but, at age 15, riddled with cancer, he was tired and exhausted when he passed away. He had lived a good, long life.

Dakota's passing seems different to me. It feels premature, like the death of a child. He was a senior dog at 10 years, but full of life with a strong heart according to the vet. I did not realize the depth of my love for Dakota until his unexpected death in September. He came down with a stomach ache and was moping around for a few days; I took him to the vet in search of reassurance that it was "nothing". Like a worried mommy, I just wanted him checked out. The vet decided to treat him with antibiotics in case he was suffering from salmonella, and to watch him overnight. As it turned out, he had a toxic reaction to the drugs, which ultimately paralyzed his right side, which made walking very difficult, and eating a challenge. We brought him home and prepared ourselves for his rehabilitation; but after two weeks it was clear that his paralysis was permanent.

If Mica's mission in life was to protect the camp, then Dakota's mission was to be friendly and adorable for campers. He lived for the attention campers bestowed upon him... a tummy scratch or chin tickle and you were his new best friend. He was an eating machine who sought every opportunity to rob a cookie from a camper's hand, and was unstoppable when it came to stealing food off an unattended picnic plate. Dakota was "every camper's dog", a doggie who knew how to get what he wanted, and how to work the crowd with his charm and his infamous butt wiggle.

If there was any doubt that Dakota was popular with the young campers, just try getting close to him after he starred in the Water Works fundraising video. His face and name soon became synonymous with Camp de Benneville Pines. He was a "super star" in his own right. I remember the day I discovered just how famous he had become. A group of little girls had just arrived for summer camp. Dakota and I were walking down the road as the girls jumped out of the car, running towards us and screaming, "Daaaaakotaaaaaaaaa! Daaaaakotaaaaaaaa!" at the top of their high pitched voices. Both Dakota and I stood still as this

my heart? When Dakota was just 3 months old, an employee asked me to

care for him while he moved across country. He said he would be back

to collect him after he got settled into his new home. Dakota was a little

thing, a Boxer pup full of wiggle and energy. At first, I thought I would

never survive caring for the little monster. He shredded my sofa, buried

my slippers in the volleyball court, tore apart my hiking boots, ripped up

the carpet with his razor sharp teeth, and even crawled up on the stove

to eat a pan of pork chops fresh out of the oven. He wasn't even house-

trained when he first arrived to my care. But, with the help of another

employee, Steve Johnston, Dakota and I fell into a routine, and he soon

stole my heart with his various dance steps, wiggles, jiggles, and vocals.

So, I guess you could say that Dakota picked me to be his "mama", and

Steve to be his "best friend and pack member". Months later, when the

former employee called to collect his dog, I told him he would have to

gaggle of 5 girls screamed and waved their hands while running to Dakota to share their affection with him. Yes, he became everyone's camp hero after the Water Works video went viral. After all, in the video Dakota helps to save the camp from a broken water pipe by putting his paw over the leak and saving the day! He steals the show and your heart, literally. (To view the video, go to www.uucamp. org, and click on the Water Works video link on the home page.)

So how is it that this self possessed pup came to own



amp de Benneville Pines Angelus Oaks, CA 92305 Address Service Requested

find another doggie. "Dakota had made other plans for his life!"



## Camp de Benneville Pines

Calendar of Events 2014

	Guichaul		014
March		10 11	
7 – 9	Long Beach UU Church Retreat	10 - 14	PSWIRL Summer Camp for Grownups
	For info: edie.mickey@gmail.com		Art Camp (for all levels)
14 - 16	Camp available for lease		Gospel in the Pines
21 - 23	Rainbow Family Camp	15 - 17	Landscape Photography Wedding (Private)
	See advertisement on page 4 for additional information	22 - 24	UU Neighborhood Summer Retreat
28 - 30	Camp available for lease	22 - 2 <b>-</b>	For info: (626) 449–3470 judy.wallace@uuneighborhood.org
		25 - 28	Summer Rendezvous Homeschool Camp
		23 20	See advertisement on page 13 for additional information
April		29-Sept 1	PSWD Young Adults Retreat
April 4-6	UU San Dieguito/Summit Church Retreat	2) copt 1	For info: (805) 485-1780 <u>pswd@aol.com</u>
	For info: debenneville@uufsd.org		See advertisement on page 13 for additional information
8 - 10	UUCST Retreat Craig's Cabin		1.8
	For info: teral@att.net (626) 840-5412		
11 - 13	Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal	Santam	
	For info: (619) 466-5952 mdorfi@cox.net	Septeml 5-7	Voca & Wallman Datum
	See advertisement on page 4 for additional information	3 – 7	8
18 - 20	UU Social Network (Camper Reunion)	8 – 11	See advertisement on page 13 for additional information  Camp Bravo El Rancho School Camp (private)
25 - 27	Camp Recovery 12 - Step Retreat	12 – 14	UU Santa Monica Church Retreat
	For info: www.camprecovery.org	12 11	For info: (310) 829-5436 office@uusm.org
	See advertisement on page 4 for additional information	19 - 21	ACA of Orange County 12-Step Retreat
			For info: fmrchair@gmail.com
			See advertisement on page 13 for additional information
May 2-4		26 - 28	UU Channel Island Cluster Fall Church Retreat
2 - 4	UU Women's Spring Renewal		For info: shockwavephysics@gmail.com
	See advertisement on page 4 for additional information		
7	Pathways Academy (Private)		
9 – 11	Spring Work Weekend	October	
	See advertisement on page 14 for additional information	3-5	Tapestry/Orange/Laguna UU Church Retreat
16 - 18	Camp Blog Away for Food Bloggers	3 – 3	For info: (949) 646-4652 <u>uu@ocuuc.org</u>
	For info: (310) 351-5151 patti@londre.com	10 - 12	LA Valley Cluster UU Church Retreat
23 - 26	Camp Bravo	10 12	For info: clustercamp@ymail.com
20 I 1	For info@campbravo.org (800) 654-1055	16	Pathways Academy Fall Kickoff (private)
30 - June 1	UU San Diego/Chalice Church Retreat	17 - 19	UU Monte Vista/Riverside/Anaheim Church Retreat
	For info: (619) 298-9978 mail@firstuusandiego.org		For info: (909) 626-0520 (951) 686-6515 uucr@juno.com
		24 - 26	PSWD Junior High Winter Youth Camp
1			For info: registrar@uucamp.org
June			See advertisement on page 14 for additional information
3 - 5	New City Schools (private)		PSWD Youth Camp Ministries Team (Craig's Cabin)
6 – 8	Pacific Unitarian Church Retreat	31 - Nov.	2Fall Work Weekend
40 42	For info: (310) 378-9449 admin@pacificunitarian.org		See advertisement on page 14 for additional information
10 - 13	Camp Available for Lease		
15 - 21	Camp Bravo Week I		
22 – 28	For info: (800) 654-1055 <u>info@campbravo.org</u> Camp Bravo Week II	Novemb	er
22 – 20	For info: (800) 654-1055 info@campbravo.org	7 - 9	Music in the Mountains Folk Music Retreat
29 - Iuly <sup>9</sup>	5 PSWD Elementary Summer Youth Camp		See advertisement on page 14 for additional information
2) July 3	See advertisement on page 12 for more information	14 - 16	UU Fullerton Fall Church Retreat
29 - July <sup>4</sup>	5 PSWD Counselor in Training Program		For info: (714) 871-7150 <u>uucf@uucfullerton.org</u>
as yeary o	See advertisement on page 12 for more information	21 - 23	Camp Bravo Reunion of Campers
			For info: info@campbravo.org (800) 654-1055
		26 - 30	Thanksgiving Family Celebration
July			See advertisement on page 14 for additional information
6-12	PSWD Junior High Summer Youth Camp		
0-12	See advertisement on page 12 for additional information		
13 – 19	PSWD Senior High Summer Youth Camp	Decemb	er
10 17	See advertisement on page 12 for additional information	5 – 7	Camp Available For Lease
20 - 26	PSWD Family Summer Camp	12 - 14	Camp Available For Lease
20 20	See advertisement on page 5 for additional information	19 - 21	Camp Available For Lease
27 - Aug	2 Camp Bravo Week III	27 – Jan 1	PSWD Senior High Winter Youth Camp
8	For info: (800) 654-1055 info@campbravo.org		For info: registrar@uucamp.org
			See advertisement on page 14 for additional information
August			
August 3-9	Camp Bravo Week IV	2015	
5 /	Chilp Diato Trock I t	· · ·	· 1 1 1 T T T · 1 1 1 · 1 1

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

For info: (800) 654-1055 info@campbravo.org

Camp Bravo Week IV

### akota continued from page 1

Camp Dog - My Dog

By Daisy Troccoli, Camper since 2008

Dakota was a character. He could bend his body into a U so his buttocks were almost to his face and walk sideways in this shape, all the while wiggling with delight. I called him "Mr. Wiggles" when he did this. He could not help himself, when he was happy, the wiggle dance just came upon him. And, he sure loved his "mama". This huge grin came over his face when he was excited to see me. Just a short trip to the lodge, where I woud be out of sight and mind for 45 minutes, would earn me the wiggle dance all over again when I walked through the cabin door. "Hi, how ya doin' mama...it's been an eternity since I've seen you...so glad you're back..." His "hello dance and wiggle" let me know I was his most special person.

I think back to the things that earned him the nickname of "sillyboy". He was so afraid of the vacuum that he would hop up on top of my bed and bark at it, yet he had no fear of the 18-wheel Sysco truck. He would run to the truck to greet the driver every week, and on several occasions he almost became a "Sysco pancake" under those huge tires. One winter afternoon, Dakota and I walked down to the bottom of the driveway to close the gate. As I was locking the gate, a pickup truck with a loose tire chain stopped and asked for directions. When the driver started back up, Dakota chomped down on the chain and would not let go. The man driving had no idea Dakota was being dragged up the road with his jaw locked on his back chain, spinning around on the tire and hitting the pavement, flop, over and over again...and I was chasing the truck and waving my arms like a crazy woman. The man stopped and I said, "My dog has grabbed your chain and is spinning around on your tire." The man got out and pried Dakota's jaws from the chain, patted a dazed Dakota on the head and told me, "Lady, I don't see how he doesn't have a broken neck!" Dakota managed to walk away with his life intact, but he lost one of his incisor teeth to the truck tire. Now, you tell me, how can a dog have no fear of truck tires, yet be so afraid of the vacuum?

Of course, there is something special about each and every dog that has lived at camp, but Dakota had that wiggle and charm that drew people to him. He was a chick magnet for sure. During the summer months, he would be so overrun with little girls chasing him, that he would actually hide out in the house to get away from his fans. Little girls would knock



on my front door and ask, "Can I take Dakota for a walk?" And I would have to tell them that he was still in bed and was not available to play. Dakota was always so grateful for my cover stories.

When it became apparent that his paralysis was permanent, we began to pull Dakota around camp in a wagon outfitted with pillows and blankets. He looked more like a prince than a patient. It took two of us to move or assist him, and I knew in my heart that this was an impossible situation to sustain. On

his last weekend of life, Santa Monica UU Church was in camp. Many of the kids came into my office to pet him while he lay on his velvet pillow. Some wrote him little notes or fed him dog cookies, others just came and stood by his bed and looked at him. I was deeply touched by the loving words the campers shared with Dakota, especially since many of them were the same age as him and had grown up with him as their camp dog. Some parents wandered into the office to say goodbye as well. I thank these people for their kindness. On Sunday, Dakota was invited to their church service out under the big pines, where I hear the kids lined up and kissed him and stroked him and thanked him for being such a good camp dog. I did not attend. I was not strong enough to stand there and witness such acts of tenderness without crying inconsolably. But, I heard it was a touching tribute as an entire church turned their attention to Dakota and thanked him for his years of service. I am so grateful to the members of Santa Monica Unitarian Universalist Church who not only shared their affection with Dakota in his last hours, but who also showed me loving support, many saying they too could recall a pet so special to them that it had become an important member of their family.

Please know that Dakota was not alone when he passed away on Monday, September 23rd, 2013. He was surrounded by his mama, his pack partner Steve Johnston, and his favorite doggie sitter, camp cook Chrisandra Sveen, as he fell softly to sleep. He is now buried next to Mica in front of the Director's Cabin. "Run with the wind, sweet boy!"

I still remember the first time we met Dakota. Seeing this whale of a dog run up to us, my mom and dad instinctively tried to protect me, then 6, fear that was not there. They watched in awe as this gentle giant kindly played with me and patiently embraced the ear tugging, tail yanking, and obsessive petting. I thought about that day recently when I



Daisy Troccoli, with her parents

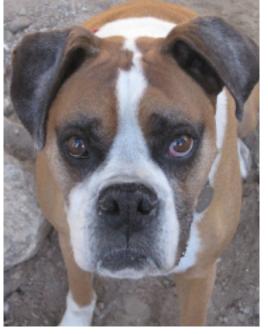
stood in front of my UU congregation in Fredonia, N.Y. and lit a candle of concern for Dakota and celebrated our long beautiful friendship. I'm now 13. I have so many memories, so many touching and hilarious experiences with Dakota that it was a crushing blow to us when we heard the tragic news of his passing. He was a quiet dog, for the most part, not much of a barker. But when he saw us, he'd stop and give us that stare that only he had -- a stare that said "welcome." That was the official notice that we could relax, that we had arrived at our home away from home: the glorious Camp de Benneville Pines. Dakota had the warmest, widest eyes

and a regal bearing. He was endlessly and Dakota at Family Camp 2012 tolerant with kids of all ages who loved to pet and play with him. He seemed to

understand that it was just a day in the life as the camp's canine-in-chief. Dakota became an extended member of our family. I always remembered him at Christmas and through periodic emails to camp director Janet James.

For me, Dakota was a big part of the joy of going to camp. For a few days at a time, my life was enriched by the experience of having a dog. There's

a unique camaraderie that comes with hanging out with someone who speaks with his eyes, ears and tail. He was a great listener and was almost always up for a walk (or run) through the woods. Companionship, especially for a young person, doesn't get any better than that. Dakota had the great gift of making everyone feel like they had a special bond with him. But we know that our family's experience with Dakota was hardly unique. He had a heart as big as Jenks Lake, and he was fortified by all the love that came his way, every day. The opportunity to learn how



to connect with a good-natured dog is just one of a hundred reasons why attending a camp rooted in the ideals of de Benneville Pines is so important for kids and families. We weren't able to have a dog at our home in Los Angeles, but we had the privilege of being able to call Dakota our own, even when we were far down the mountain. Like so many other campers, we cried when Dakota's time came in September. It was hard to say goodbye to that sweet face and that little brown stump of a tail. His spirit lives on in a friendship we will never forget, and the warmth of our camp memories that are richer for his presence. They say he who gives the most love shines the brightest, and he shined oh so bright.



Dakota and Daisy Fall 2011

"Dogs are not our whole lives, but they make our lives whole."- Roger Caras



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

Friday, March 21 - Sunday March 23, 2014



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 15 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 <a href="mailto:familyservices@">familyservices@</a> lagaycenter.org.

#### **UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal**

#### Friday, April 11- Sunday, April 13, 2014

All Brothers are welcome to join together in the clear mountain air and the splendor that has to be the home to our souls where we renew the bonds with old, dear friends and reach out to the new men with open arms. We plan to plumb the depths of our beings and come to know the meanings of our lives. As usual, the weekend will include music, drumming, silence, ritual, the familiar sweat lodge, laughter along with exciting workshops and great food. Kinship groups will again be at the heart of the weekend, building trust and deep bonding, assisting us in exploring who we are as men, sons, fathers, and brothers. For more information, contact:





#### 26th Annual Camp Recovery 2014 "Recovery Road - Journey to Authentic Self"

Friday, April 25 - Sunday, April 27, 2014



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

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 woods of Camp de Benneville Pines.

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

**Before Camp......\$160** 

Day of Camp.....\$170

(register between 1/1-4/24)

For more information or to register:

www.camprecovery.org .

## PSWD Women's Retreat "Love Beyond Belief" Friday, May 2 - Sunday, May 4, 2014

Join together with old friends and new for a weekend of pure bliss in the mountains! Treat yourself to a fun-filled weekend of reading, relaxing, belly dancing, drumming, singing, dancing, hiking, playing, listening, sharing and attending a variety of workshops.

This year's Theme Speaker, Rev. Thandeka, understands the role of emotion and feeling in our religious and spiritual lives. She will help us weave together inspiring words, music, poetry, movement, and song in order to more fully connect with our essence and core. Come see, hear, and feel deeply what she has to teach us. Come dialogue with her to experience your life more fully, become more connected with your core being, and to live your life as directed by your essence: beyond belief.

\$185.00 per person (Don't put off registering if you have accessibility issues or want to room with a friend.) Craig's or Cabin 6 - additional \$30 per person

Thursday Arrival - \$20 per person (lodging only, no meals)

Non-refundable \$75 deposit due at time of registration.

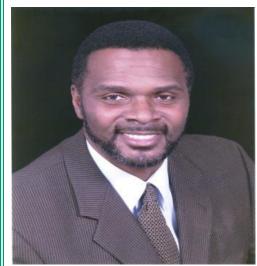
Visit www.uucamp.org and click on "Register for Camp" or mail in the form on page 15.



PHOTO BY MERREL D. BOOKER, JR.



#### Gospel in the Pines Sunday, August 10 - Thursday, August 14, 2014



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 and serves as Music Director at the University of California San Diego. To learn more about Ken, see article on page 9. Come join your voice with others in the pristine pine mountains for a meeting of soul and song. Bring others from your church or choir to share a room. This Gospel retreat is offered in conjunction with PSWIRL's Summer Camp for Grown Ups. For more information or to register, visit www.uucamp.org

# PSWD Family Summer Camp: "Learning to Love Better" Sunday, July 20 - Saturday, July 26, 2014

#### Dean: Amy Brunell

How can we love better? How can we do so when we disagree? Can Come join us, and remember to register early! This camp sells out fast! we stay within a community and value each unique viewpoint?

This year, let's learn to love better. Family camp offers the opportunity for campers both young and less young, to reflect on our beliefs. Can we love and accept others? Why would it be important to try? How do each of us consciously practice acting in love?

Family Camp is a unique experience for families all over the Pacific Southwest District to come together for a week of joy, song, games, laughter, and learning to love better. Intergenerational families of all sizes will share comfortably rustic cabins and wonderful meals supplied by the \$75 non refundable deposit per person required to hold space, payment plans dedicated de Benneville staff. The planning team is an enthusiastic group of volunteers who love camp and seeing families play while deepening their connections to nature, each other, and the bigger world.

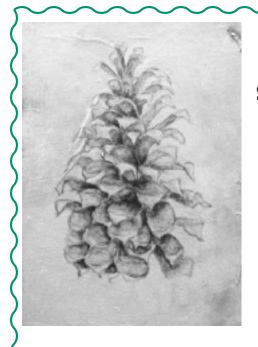
#### **Cost:**

\$355 per adult \$315 teen (13 - 18)\$305 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

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 15 and mail in.



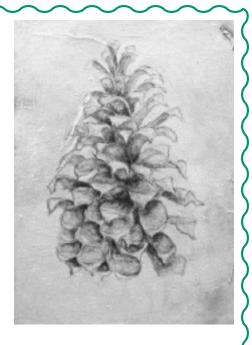
### ART CAMP 8

Sunday, August 10 - Thursday, August 14, 2014 A 5-day intensive program for Artists with Artists **ALL LEVELS WELCOME!** 

Cost: \$580.00

Includes food, lodging, program and art supplies \$75 per person non-refundable deposit due at registration 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 15 of this newsletter and mail in. Questions? 909-794-1252 or registrar@uucamp.org.



# **SouthWest** Institute of Religious Liberals pswirl.org

## **Summer Camp for Grownups!**

Sunday, August 10 through Thursday, August 14, 2014 **Keynote Speaker: Rev. Ellen Livingston** "Transcendentalism Speaks to Us"

PSWIRL welcomes you to their annual event at beautiful Camp de Benneville Pines. The rich program begins daily with theme speaker Rev. Ellen Livingston inspiring participants to nuture themselves spiritually and completely (see article on page 10). 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 are available for an extra fee, as well as Gospel Singing with Ken Anderson.

Full details available at www.pswirl.org.

To register, visit www.<u>uucamp.org</u> and click on "Register for Camp" or send in form on page 15.



#### A Year in the Life of Americorp Team Blue 3

Over the last six years, Camp de Benneville Pines has hosted many AmeriCorps National Civilian Conservation Corps teams. NCCC is a service program for 18-24 year olds, who work and travel in teams of 8-12 people, accomplishing a variety of service projects all over the country. The time past teams have spent in the San Bernardino Forest is only one small slice of an entire ten month-long experience where Corps Members serve their country in intense ways and grow to learn about themselves. In this piece, members from the Pacific Region's Team, Blue 3 of Class 19, share this past year's assignments and their personal experiences along the way.



New York City Disaster Response Location: Breezy Point of Queens, NY By Valerie Cotton

Unlike many of my NCCC peers, I came to the program having already accomplished an undergraduate degree, and fulfilled a career as a program coordinator in the non-profit world. My purpose for joining was to give back, to help my country in whatever way I could, and to challenge myself in capacities way outside my comfort zone. Happily, I got the opportunity to work towards all these goals and offer my skills to make a difference in a huge new way.

After our initial month of training, we were more than ready to deploy to our first project, Montana. But, as we loaded our team into our 15-passenger van we were asked to step out again, because we were one of seven teams selected to deploy for Hurricane Sandy disaster response in New York City. Personally, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to help with the disaster response and felt honored that our team was one of the first to go. However, after dreaming about working in the mountainous and coastal wilderness of the Pacific Region, I felt a little strange about being sent to the busy and bright streets of New York City, where I had been many times. I soon came to realize we were about to experience a different New York than I had ever seen before. New York was in a state of desperate urgency, and they needed us.

We spent about a week bouncing around Brooklyn, working at shelters and supply centers, but then we settled into our role living and working on Breezy Point of Queens for several weeks. We worked with Habitat for Humanity of Westchester, who was there to help people remove debris and gut their homes so they could eventually return them to a livable state.

Unless you saw Breezy Point on the news after the storm, perhaps you don't know what I mean by "livable". During the storm the entire peninsula of Breezy Point was flooded with about four feet of water and one large area completely burned to the ground. When we arrived, debris and sand filled the sidewalks. No one was supposed to be sleeping in their homes at night, but we resided in a church in the heart of the disaster area.

Our role was to lead groups of volunteers into these homes to remove wet sheet rock, cracked tiles, destroyed appliances, moldy and degrading wood, and soppy piles of unidentifiable muck. Without us, the homeowners would have been left to do all of this work themselves; and let me tell you, it is not easy to move a refrigerator with just one person.

Speaking of moving refrigerators, after spending a few days in the field performing this intense labor, I injured my back moving a refrigerator full of moldy, black water. The next day I had to stay back at the newly-formed operation center, which at the time consisted only of a few tables with boxes of masks, gloves, some tools and other supplies. I was handed a clip board filled with charts covered in all sorts of addresses, dates and other markings and codes. The scientist in me looked at the jumble of numbers and immediately started designing ways to organize them, while the coordinator in me began directing the groups of volunteers in a systematic format. Before I knew it, with the help of other NCCC members and Habitat staff, I was running the volunteer base at Habitat's operation center. I truly feel that I was able to in-

crease the efficiency of our response, and multiply the impact we had with the system we created and implemented.

Amongst the frantic urgency: the piles of data entering, the calls to the homeowners, and the bulletin board updates, interacting face to face with the residents would periodically remind me of how powerful our help was. The destroyed and disfigured look of the houses were often mirrored in the eyes of the residents, who were frantic, confused and in shock from their loss. But when we were there to help, their energy shifted. Even before we started working, they were so thankful for us that their energy brightened up and they collapsed with relief. I learned that just being willing to support people in need offers hope and can have the largest impact in hard times.

Our experience in New York allowed us to touch not only the lives of the people affected, but the other volunteers and helpful workers as well.

Just by the sheer numbers, we had an impact on more people in this round than all our other projects combined. We became very close with volunteers and staff whom I will never forget. Now, I will always remember New York for those people who worked those long hours with us, and fought to get us heat, showers, and a meal on Thanksgiving. From this, for the rest of my life, I will know how to support and help the volunteers in such situations, so that they are well equipped to help others.

#### Taking the Lead Working San Diego Parks and Recreation Location: Ramona, CA By Jordan Thompson

"Growth and development": What I've been told this program was going to do to me. I came to AmeriCorps NCCC not necessarily to work on myself or personal skill sets, but to do the work that was asked of me and to help organizations in need. What I didn't know was that this experience was going to change my knowledge base, and get really personal. I'm not the type of person who shares which areas I feel I need to "grow" and "develop" in (words our Team Leader loves to use). Coming into AmeriCorps my self-confidence was low, and I didn't feel I had many leadership skills; I did know that my work ethic was high and that I was, in fact, ready to "get things done!" as we like to say here in the program.

When we began working alongside San Diego Parks and Recreation in Ramona, CA it was the beginning of our final round as a team, and I had taken on the leadership position of Assistant Team Leader (alongside fellow Corps Member, Hollie). Taking on this position gave me the opportunity to uncover leadership skills I thought didn't exist. It was at this point that I looked back and saw that underneath all of the hard work I've accomplished in the previous 3 rounds, I've also grown as a person. Ramona was a place where there wasn't much direction in our work and the team's work schedule didn't have much overlap with our supervisor's work schedule. Blue 3 stepped up and took initiative at the worksite. Within two weeks we cleared 18,975 lbs of brush from



the Fry-Koegle trail, a total distance of 1.5 miles, with only two of us falling victim to poison sumac. Despite the itching and scratching, Ramona was where I learned I could be a leader, and it provided me with new confidence I can carry with me to whatever opportunities lie ahead.

Going Green in Hawaii Location: Waialua, HI By Hollie Lass

Blue 3 had the great privilege of going to Hawaii for their third round. As a team we were all very excited for our new adventure! We lived and worked on the island of Oahu at Camp Mokuleia, a part of the Episcopal Church of Hawaii. One of the camp's main goals was to implement a conceptual plan using sustainable, energy-efficient practices. So, as a team we tried our best to help them carry out this goal. We constructed two composting toilets, made four living boarders, and created two water desalinizers, a solar shower, and many other structures. The camp staff was amazing and taught us a lot about the land and the way of life in Hawaii.

In our time off we were able to spend time together as a team; hanging out on the beach, learning about the constellations and star-navigation, enjoying local fruits, and learning to play musical instruments. We had many great opportunities to explore the island and see all that we could. After such an amazing experience, and forming strong friendships with locals, a couple of us are inspired to move to Hawaii and continue our adventures after Ameri-Corps NCCC.

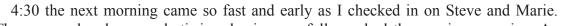


## Coming Home

by Galen Hunsicker, Science Teacher and Camp Friend

There is an old saying, "You can never go home again". For many, this may be true because, like so many other things in life, home changes, people move on, and those small town memories fade like yesterday's seasons of long ago. However, for some, like me and perhaps you, this does

not need to happen when your home is not a building or a town, but rather a mountain that is as eternal as one's soul. Such was my homecoming this past summer to the San Gorgonio Wilderness and Old Greyback, a mountain and a "friend" that, after so many years, beckoned me once again to climb. Though the mountain had changed little, I had. Now, over four decades later, I was a grandfather ready to retire from a life of teaching science. I was not at all confident about embarking on a 25 mile roundtrip to the summit and back... in one day... by myself. I needed someone to give me a boost, perhaps join me in this long day's adventure. To my great surprise, this came as a gift in the form of Steve and Marie, two young staff members from Camp de Benneville Pines. They were as anxious to summit this mountain as I, and I seemed to be their catalyst. Furthermore, I was back at a place that was also like a friend. I had lifeguarded at YMCA Camp TaTaPochon, right next door, so many years ago. With this renewed connection, my confidence soared. After all, what else could one feel being in a camp that wears tee shirts with the John Muir quote, "The Mountains Are Calling, and I Must Go"?





Steve and Marie, at home in the wilderness

The team poses with the San Gorgornio Wilderness sign

They were already up and stirring, having carefully packed the previous evening. As we pulled into South Fork parking lot, the gray shadow of Sugarloaf Mountain outlined the horizon of this still moonless morning. We were ready... we were eager... and I prayed that we would hike as a family, as brothers and sisters--looking out for each other all along the way. I would not be disappointed. All my doubts and those forty years began to be erased as these two eager hikers would lift my spirits ....every step of the way. I would need their energy and enthusiasm more than I knew. We began at the trailhead at 6:15 am, as the first light dawned across the forest horizon. We were lucky. The day broke cool, with a slight breeze. Poopout Hill (what a name) lay some two miles away as we joyfully hiked upward through mixed conifer and black oak forest. I thought to myself, "Boy am I glad for these two", for every step seemed so much more labored than I had remembered... even with a rather light daypack. However, by the time we reached our first stopping point, I felt renewed and energized. Besides, our stop presented a super "postcard" view of Mt. San Gorgonio, which, at 11,503 feet, is the tallest mountain in Southern California. "It looks so distant, so grand," Steve and Marie remarked. "We are going to climb that!?" The trail from there

wound gently upward past an old avalanche and into a beautiful riparian opening called South Fork Meadows. It was early August, and the stream meandered slowly through tall grasses, monkey flowers, and a few columbines. The damp ground revealed the imprints of raccoons, deer, and horses.

So many memories there. How many thousands of hikers and campers had come to this spot? How many stressed-out city dwellers had caught, if for but a few hours, the timeless beauty of that place? I was back in the house of my old friend. I had come home. John Muir once said, "Climb these

mountains, and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

The hike upward from there, however, was not through meadow, nor streams, nor was it gentle. It was much more exposed... running along rugged talus slopes of broken granite interspersed with thick chinkapin and deerbrush. The tall Jeffrey and Ponderosa pines gave way to shorter, windswept Lodgepole and White Fir. Gone were the gentle deciduous trees. Gone also were the half mile treks. Now, it was one block... catch your breath... one block... catch your breath, at least for me. Steve and Marie stopped mostly for pictures. We reached 10,000 feet at noon, almost six hours since starting out. We were exhausted, but we were not even on Gorgonio's shoulder yet. We had several more hours and many more miles yet to go to reach the top. I had been there many times before. but my young hiking companions had not. They did not know what lay ahead. I was tired, they were tired, but the time had come for me to rise up.

They needed my encouragement, strength, and experience. It was not the time



Galen at the summit

for me to question or doubt. It was time to LEAD! We headed east and upward, past ever shortening trees. Wind gusts picked up as we reached the tree line. How rugged the scenery, as the view opened up over all Southern California. Towards the south, through the haze comes the silhouette of Mt. San Jacinto. Down in the valley, a small fire began that ended up taking over 1,000 fire fighters to put out. Steve and Marie were recharged by then, moving faster and taking the lead. But San Gorgonio's shoulder is a very long upward slope. It is a mountain to itself. Just when you think you are at the summit,

MEMORIAL DECEMBER 1, 1952 THIS C-47 CRASHED A SEVERE SNOWSTORM 13 ABOARD PERISHED. GEORGE BINGHAM ROBERT GERMER RONALD ROMINGER JOHN LAWSON
RAYMOND WARD
FRANKLY WHITT
WAYNE ADAMS
FELIX ROSEMAN
CARLETON YOW
JOHN HARTMAN
WAITMAN MCCALLISTER
AUTHUR DOWLING
ROBERT POPE

you turn another corner and find yet more ground to cover. Finally, we reached the rocky outcrop marking the top. No more mountain above. All was below. We had done it! It was 2:30 pm, and to the north, in the distance, lay the long sliver of Big Bear Lake.

Watching my friends scamper over these rocks filled me with joy. They were like school children at a carnival, so thrilled to be there! But, we could not stay long. Over 14 miles lay ahead... and only five hours of sunlight left! Fortunately, it was almost all downhill, and I had plenty of Ibuprofin.

We took the Dry Lake route downward, past the old C-47 plane wreckage that ended the lives of thirteen airforce men on December 1st, 1952, when I was just six. I was once again reminded of just how fast this precious life of ours can end! We reached Southfork Meadows at 7:30 pm, as light faded from the forest. Two miles later, the light was totally gone when we reached Poopout Hill. In the dark, with a small fading, flashlight, we made our way back to the parking lot. It was 9:30 pm by then, 15 and a half hours after our energetic beginning. But, in those last hours we found that a bond had formed, so strong that darkness and exhaustion could not dampen it. We had truly become a family with the mountain uniting us... and I had come home.



By Tom Thorward, Board of Directors President

All of us know that human beings (and indeed all living things) are completely and utterly dependant on the natural world for survival. We often take Mother Nature's cooperation in this reality for granted and assume such basic things as air, pure water and other natural necessities of life are limitless and available to all, now and forever. Recent events in West Virginia, and where hundreds of thousands of citizens went for weeks or months without a source of safe water, challenge that assumption and remind us how easily human activity can disrupt the delicate balance upon which our existence depends. Although groundwater contamination is not unknown in California, and many communities (especially in the Central Valley) are struggling to address this issue, it appears that our major environmental challenge in Southern California this year will be drought. Governor Brown apparently agrees and has declared a state of emergency. At Camp de Benneville this situation has manifested itself in way below average snowfall and mild winter temperatures, and this at a time when the East Coast and Midwest are being blasted by fierce blizzards and arctic freezes, way beyond average. Some, like myself, who spent the first sixty years or so "back East"





Generous snowfall back in 2009

coping with Mother Nature's frigid winter ways might just say "Good riddance to bad weather!",

and count their blessings that they don't have to drive in, shovel or scrape the nasty white stuff. But those of us who know better, realize that the lack of snow and freezing weather on the mountain is a serious threat and a portent of potential future problems. Snow is a "natural blanket" that protects delicate roots and shoots from extreme cold, while above ground, the alpine chill tends to kill off excess pathogenic insects such as bark beetles and the like. Water comes to the mountain both in the form of rain showers during most the year and snow storms in the winter. But unlike sudden showers that run off quickly, sometimes causing erosion, snow sticks around and is absorbed slowly into the soil, nourishing the forest and refreshing the aquifers. Snow is the source of the very aquifers that bring to de Benneville campers mountain spring water, much purer and more delicious than they will ever be able to buy in a bottle. And one mustn't forget the joy that Southern Californian kids (and even some adults) feel when they arrive at Camp de Benneville and get to play (some for the very first time) in drifts and slopes of beautiful white, fluffy snow! No one knows for sure how much the current climatic disruptions

are the result of human activity, but evidence suggests it is a major influence. So my advice is to try to reduce your "carbon footprint" to a minimum, and while waiting for this strategy to take effect (and if your extended UU beliefs allow), do a "rain dance", bow to the spirits of the North and pray for snow! The winter isn't over yet.

## Our Most Important Food | s... Water!

By Jody James, workshop leader and acupuncturist



We've all heard that no two snowflakes are alike. But did you know that if you melt a snowflake and refreeze it under the same natural conditions, it will reform into its original shape?

This is because water has "memory", its unique configuration of H2O molecules having been constructed by pure light energy or other natural forces as it journeyed for hundreds of years within the Earth. Water has a geometric form, a tetrahedron, so it can therefore be called a liquid crystal. Water is a carrier of frequency patterns (information) necessary to the existence of all life on earth. It actually absorbs the Earth's electromagnetic frequency of 7.83 Hertz as it travels underground. We humans have incorporated these frequencies into our "blueprint" as we've evolved. Our brain waves have a frequency of 8 to 10 Hertz. For us, water is the carrier of all physical and non-physical information. It empowers our mental processes, feelings, and moods.

It penetrates and surrounds every cell and allows communication between them. It regulates all autonomic functions, from cell and tissue production and renewal, to digestion, cell pressure, temperature control, and circulation. Fluids – sweat, tears, saliva, urine, joint lubrication, blood plasma, spinal fluid, and breast milk, to name a few – account for 60 percent of our weight, on

average. Water acts as a transporter importing nutrients, and solvent and cleanser extracting toxins via the lungs, skin, kidneys, and colon. Metabolism requires consistent replenishment of lost fluids to function well, approximately two quarts per day. In its pure state, water can transmit important health-giving information, so it is important to evaluate your drinking water source. The best choice is artesian spring water, bottled right as it exits the Earth. This water has the most intact matrix and is called "living water". This "living water" is low in mineral and salt content and is pollution-free. Tap water, unfortunately, tends to be adulterated with chemicals, remnants of pesticides, additives like fluoride, and high mineral and salt accumulation. The piping of water destroys its natural frequency patterns. And while mineral and carbonated waters are hyped as superior to "normal water", know that these waters are saturated and can no longer absorb toxins. These are categorized as "dead water". The good news is that "dead water" from the tap can be rehabilitated. First, the unwanted substances can be removed with a good reverse osmosis system. The second step, revitalization, or the partial restoration of the energy/frequencies, is as simple as placing the purified water in a pitcher overnight with a handful of quartz crystals. This technique has shown measurements similar to those achieved with expensive water revitalization machines. Of course, this water comes in a distant second to pure spring water but may prove to be the most practical choice.

Guess who has sparkling, clean, fresh spring water everyday? Why, it's our own Camp de Benneville Pines, of course! It takes seven years for the mountain snow to percolate down into our well. And what better way to enjoy de Benneville's pure water than at a rejuvenating weekend like the Women's Retreat May 2nd - 4th (see ad on page 4), or the Yoga and Wellness Retreat September 5th - 7th (see ad on page 13)? We encourage you to bring up empty bottles when you visit, so you can take the taste of the mountains with you when you return home.

#### THE BOTTOM LINE

Drink high quality water, minimum 2 quarts per day.

Drink ½ hour before and 2+ hours after eating to minimize dilution of digestive juices.

Minimize or eliminate sodas, coffee, alcohol and other drinks that alter the pH (acid-alkaline) level of the body.

Although soups and flavored beverages contain water, do not count them as part of your 2 quarts per day of pure water intake.

For more information regarding the value of water, I recommend reading Water & Salt by Dr. Hendel and P. Ferreira (ISBN 0-9744515-1-7) or The Hidden Messages in Water by Dr. M. Emoto (ISBN 1-58270-114-8).



## Ken Anderson, The Music Man

Summarized from the 2009 San Diego Union Tribune article by Bonnie Wright

This summer, Camp de Benneville Pines gladly welcomes back Mr. Ken Anderson to instruct and inspire UU's in the proud tradition of gospel music. He is an accomplished tenor, choir director, and music teacher. His love of music began early, according to an old family story. It's said that when he was one year old, little Ken sat down at the piano and played deliberately, one finger pressing a key at a time instead of banging away wildly like most kids would. "My mom taught me my first tune at age 4, 'Near the Cross,' "Anderson recalls. "She gave me the tune and I added the harmony." He started playing the piano at St. Luke's Church of God in Christ, at age 6, and more formal lessons began at 11. "A career as a professional musician, after completing my education, never occurred to me," Anderson says. Classically trained by Eileen Moss since his early 20s, Anderson has been an active solo performer in San Diego in gospel and classical genres. His roles have included 'Joe the Loiterer' in the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus production of the opera "The Mother of Us All", and 'Judas' in "Jesus Christ Superstar". In 2008, he was cast in the San Diego Opera's production of "Aida", and in 2009 he played the role of 'The Celebrant' in Bernstein's Mass.



"Music and teaching are my strengths," Anderson says. "And both professions transcend racial, age, and cultural boundaries and allow me to interact and connect with people as well as to express my love and gratitude to God." As far as Anderson can remember, he has never applied for a job; each has come to him from someone who has been inspired by what he does and how he does it. He studied



accounting and engineering at Mesa College, and when he was offered an office job with the government, he quit school and went off to work. After seven years, he returned to college (at UCSD). While working part time at Curie Elementary School, his musical talent was discovered when he volunteered to play piano for school programs. He changed the old songs by adding more vocal parts and more challenging music. The school choir grew from 35 to 120 kids in a year. As the word of his teaching prowess spread, more schools acquired his services, and within a few years he was teaching at 10 elementary schools. Eventually, he realized he needed to cut back and slowly reduced the number of schools on his roster, but stayed at Curie Elementary when a first-grader told him: "You can't leave. I've been waiting a long time, since kindergarten, to be a member of the choir and I know all the songs." (The kids weren't eligible to join the choir until second grade). Anderson stayed on for eight more years.

His choirs seem to grow exponentially as members realize that this man is special. He cares about and creates beautiful music, but never at the expense of the members. He makes learning a pleasure, encouraging and nuturing his students without being too hard a taskmaster or coddling them. He seems to walk the line between teacher and friend, bringing the best out of his pupils and ensuring the lessons remain fun and rewarding. "I feel personal relations are most important and that great music comes from

friends enjoying and sharing the process," Anderson said.

In his many years spent serving as director of the UCSD Gospel Choir, he has taught students from all different racial, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds to open them to music and how to let melody enrich their lives. "For 20 years, Ken has inspired thousands of UCSD students with diverse interests and backgrounds, guiding them to raise their voices and to embrace and understand the great gospel music tradition," said Rand Steiger, UCSD Music Department Chair. "He complements his great musical gifts with a deep understanding of the music, the way the African-American experience has informed it, and delivers that with great passion and charisma. UC San Diego has been fortunate to have such a gifted artist and teacher in our midst." He's also the director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Choir San Diego, and teaches at Grossmont College in Claremont.

His association with the Martin Luther King Community Choir began in 1996, when the chorus was reestablished as a nonprofit organization with a mission of raising scholarship money for graduating performing arts high school students going on to college. The choir performs locally and nationally between September and June, and they have begun to tour internationally. In 2009, they toured in Denmark, Holland, Germany,



Accompanying UU singers on piano during Gospel in the Pines

and France. The many hours he spends with the Martin Luther King Jr. Choir is rewarded only by personal satisfaction, as he volunteers his time and



His generosity is evident in his personal life as well. Since 1988, Anderson has been a foster parent, helping to raise 10 children. "At age 20 I wanted to get married and have lots of kids; by age 25, I had given up on the marriage goal," says Anderson. "I didn't meet 'the one."

But the wish for mentoring children in his life has been realized. At his church, he met children who needed love, safety and guidance, and he was there to provide those important qualities — first formally, through Social Services, and then informally when more youngsters found with him the care they needed. "I know raising kids is hard work, but I find it very fulfilling," he says. His foster kids, now mostly grown, are leading full lives.

Come meet Ken Anderson and experience his passion and dedication firsthand Sunday, August 10 through Thursday, August 14, 2014. Raise your voice in UUnison: PSWIRL's Gospel in the Pines (see ad on page 5)



## "Love Beyond Belief" Our Annual Women's Retreat presents: Thandeka

The theme speaker bringing her intellect and charm to this year's annual Women's Retreat May 2 - 4, 2014 will be the Reverend Thandeka. As a scholar, theologian, ordained UU minister, journalist, author, and television producer, Thandeka has many valuable experiences and lessons to share. She regularly explores the process of "meaning making" and challenges women to dig deep inside to find one's truth and to live life fully.

Thandeka is the founder of Affect Theology, which investigates the links between religion and emotions using insights from affective neuroscience. She is also the author of The Embodied Self: Friedrich Schleiermacher's Solution to Kant's Problem of the Empirical Self, and Learning to be White: Money, Race and God in America, and contributor to books including The Cambridge Companion to Schleiermacher and The Oxford Handbook on Feminist Theology and Globalization (forthcoming), her numerous publications include essays in American Journal of Theology and Philosophy, The International Journal of Practical Theology, Harvard Theological Review, Process Studies, and Tikkun.



Image credit http://archive.uua.org

Before receiving her Ph.D. in Philosophy of Religion and Theology from Claremont Graduate University, Thandeka was an Emmy award-winning television producer for sixteen years. Thandeka has taught at San Francisco State University, Meadville Lombard Theological School, Williams College, Harvard Divinity School, and Brandeis University, and has been a Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center at Stanford University and a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Process Studies at Claremont School of Theology in Claremont California and Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

She was given the !Xhosa name Thandeka, which means "beloved", by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in 1984, and brings to the 2014 women's retreat a diverse tapestry of experiences and accomplishments.

Thandeka will also be a featured guest and speaker at the 2014 District Assembly, set for March 14 - 16 in Spokane, WA.

To learn more about the fascinating Reverend Thandeka, visit www.revthandeka.org, and to spend a weekend in UU sisterhood and hear Reverend Thandeka speak, visit www.uucamp.org, click on "Register for Camp", then on Women's Retreat.

# "Transcendentalism Speaks to Us" Reverend Livingston Joins PSWIRL's Summer Camp for Grownups

The philosophy of the American Transcendentalists remains relevant to those who yearn for spiritual and intellectual depth, along with a shared responsibility to preserve our environment. According to keynote speaker, Rev. Ellen Livingston, "Their questioning of the conventions of their day, their emphasis on free-thinking, social reform, and imagination still ripple out across the world." They were social activists, abolitionists, explorers of this country's wilderness, and reformers on a broad scale. These people were humanists and spiritual seekers who were the first to introduce translations of Eastern scriptures that evolved into the diversity of faith and wisdom experienced in American society today.

Reverend Ellen Livingston, minister emeriti of Monte Vista UU Church, will be theme speaker at the 2014 Summer Camp for Grownups, sponsored by the Pacific Southwest Institute for Religious Liberals. Ellen has an MA in Literature with an emphasis on African-American studies, and is most proud of her work in fostering good human relations between all peoples. She earned her MA in Theology

form Southern Methodist University, where she was welcomed even as a Unitarian Universalist. Although retired, she continues to be a social activist, working on the cutting

Gayle Claiborne of the human relations committee presenting Reverend Ellen with an award for her activity in the inland valley.

edge of social progress and justice. Ellen invites all adult UU's and their friends to join her this summer for 5 days of growth and expansion: "I look forward to being a guide to you on this path. We will share in lively discussions and find renewed inspiration from the progressive ideals and amazing creativity of the American Transcendentalists. I hope you will join with me on this journey."

Summer Camp for Grownups will be held Sunday, August 10 – Thursday, August 14. The camp setting is one of warmth and acceptance, where people's ideas and



feelings are valued and validated. Daytime activities range from active to contemplative, and evening activities may include dancing, discussions, astronomy, movies, puzzles, improvisations, cards and talent show. Two intensive learning opportunities are available at an additional cost: Gospel Singing and Landscape Photography. To learn more about these options, please log onto www.uucamp.org, or go directly to the PSWIRL site at www.pswirl. org. *See ad on page 5* 



# Celebrate! Support! Sustain

by Jerry Moore, Lawrence Hess, Suzanne Hess, Eric Klatt, Rev. Betty Stapleford, Tom Stapleford, Anne Thorward and Tom Thorward.

After fifty years, Camp de Benneville Pines now has a Stewardship Committee. This exquisite team of Camp enthusiasts' primary responsibility is raising funds for Camp, under the direction of the Camp Board of Directors. In addition to special Capital Campaigns for a specific improvement; such as a generator, roof, or even the recent Water Works project, fundraising is critical every year. Camp fees remain at reasonable levels but they do not support all annual expenses. Did you know that there is a Stewardship Drive underway right now? It is our Annual Budget Drive, and it takes an annual giving program to keep the camp running in top shape.

What is Stewardship anyway? One definition is "to protect with careful, responsible management something you love and care about." We do this with sweat equity on some tasks, yet there remains a great need to also make financial gifts to Camp de Benneville Pines.

The Stewardship Team wants everyone to share the responsibility for Camp de Benneville Pines--- one of the most beautiful, energetic, fun-loving, peaceful spots ever found. Plus, Camp can be used year-round, as many of you have experienced. In sun, rain, or snow, Camp is open!

Certainly all of us want to safeguard our beloved Camp by giving what is needed. Last year the Annual Budget Drive generated \$50,000. This year the Camp Board of Directors increased its goal to \$100,000. Will you join in? Families, parents, friends, children, and grandparents are all invited to become "Camp Caretakers". When you feel good about the value of camp in our lives, it makes you want to participate and give more.

The Goal Chart (below) is a tool to assist you in finding your own giving level. We hope you become a Camp Supporter today and help the Camp to reach its 2014 fundraising goal!

#### OUR GOAL FOR THIS ANNUAL BUDGET DRIVE IS \$100,000. JOIN IN!

# Camp Supporters	Amount of G	Contribution		
3 Gifts of	\$5,000	=	\$15,000	
10 Gifts of	\$2,400	=	\$24,000	
20 Gifts of	\$1,200	=	\$24,000	
30 Gifts of	\$600	=	\$18,000	
50 Gifts of	\$300	=	\$15,000	
30 Gifts of	\$100	=	\$3,000	
20 Gifts of	\$50	=	\$1,000	

All Gifts of Various amounts \$100,000

During this Stewardship Drive, please think about how your fondness for Camp will manifest itself into your generous financial commitment. By becoming a Steward of Camp de Benneville Pines, you have a hand in also nurturing the greater UU community.

Make checks payable to: Camp de Benneville Pines, mark "Annual Drive" in the memo line, and mail to following address or pay via credit card @ www.uucamp.org. Thank you. Camp de Benneville Pines

41750 Jenks Lake Road West Angelus Oaks, CA 92305



Camp Life in the San Bernardino Forest **Location: Angelus Oaks, CA** By Carrie Nowak

Having grown up going to camp, I always understood what the "camp experience" was, but I had never had the perspective that I got while working with camps de Benneville and Tahquitz. I honestly didn't expect to get such a fulfilling experience during my three weeks with these camps. Being able to make a difference at these camps and see how I was helping those around me was amazing.

While I was at de Benneville, I got to see how the camp had an influence on those who attended. There was a theater arts camp running while Blue 3 was serving there, and I watched how much the teens could open up in the safe environment. It inspired me to consider directing my own camp in the future to support those who have been victims of sex trafficking.

**Building Homes for Families in the Winter** Location: Kalispell, MT By John Racioppi

Before AmeriCorps, I was the person who would choose following over leading. I had no confidence or knowledge about myself, nor did I feel I had enough skills to get through in the work environment. I joined Ameri-Corps to figure out what skills I had, to travel, and discover job skills.

The one thing I never figured I would gain was self-confidence, which continues to build even today. When the team and I were in Kalispell, Montana, building homes for low-income families, learned construction skills. The team worked with Community the Action Partnership



to build homes for low-income families. For 11 weeks we worked alongside the homeowners on siding, insulating and other tasks for these homes.

In addition to the knowledge of how to properly use power tools and some basic homebuilding skills for future work, and after a long Montana winter, I got to know more about myself and, very slowly, gained more confidence. I learned many important lessons that I will never forget.

Blue 3 had a year full of emotional intensity, adventure, hard work, and personal challenges, but the most amazing thing is that each of us had an impact on our community and our country, and we definitely learned something about ourselves in the process.

Although the team has gone their separate ways, they will never forget their year together as Blue 3, and as a family.



#### **PSWD Summer YoUUth Camps 2014**

Cost \$425

\$395 if registered by 5/30/14

Sibling discount for second child - \$15 (one per family)
Register with a Super Camp Sunday code for a total of \$385
(start date - April 30, 2014, code available through church DRE)
Submit registration with a \$75 non-refundable deposit,
full balance due one week before start of camp.

No refunds after check-in.

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 15
Or visit www.uucamp.org and click "Register for Camp"

# Elementary Summer Camp "The Collaborative Playground: Building Intentional Community"

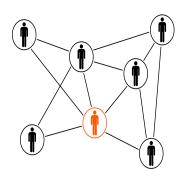


Sunday, June 29 – Saturday, July 5, 2014

**Dean: Celeste Plumlee** 

Please join us for a week of fun and laughter as we use playground games as the foundation for uplifting UU principles and building

interpersonal strength. We will reinforce our understanding of our individual gifts and the need for those to be shared while exploring ways to inspire and nurture the community we share. We will have swimming, archery, music, and hiking among many other adventures – all in the glorious forest surrounding Camp de Benneville Pines. 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.



# **Junior High Summer Camp**"The Circles that Connect Us"

Sunday, July 6 – Saturday, July 12, 2014 Dean: Kathleen Moscato

Our lives are connected by circles; in friendship, in school, in sports, in work and in community. Draw your circle wider during a wonderful week in the mountains. Camp is a perfect place to feel "part of a circle" as UU's, friends and community members. How are we alike? How are we different? When should we expand our circles to allow wonderful experiences to flow in and when should we make our circles smaller? Each day we will explore the circles in our lives and connect with each other through focusing on how we can make a difference in this world through our Unitarian Universalist principles and values. Campers will participate in swimming, canoeing, archery games, music, arts and crafts and more!.



#### Senior High Summer Camp "TrUUth or Dare"

Sunday, July 13 – Saturday, July 19, 2014

Youth Co-Deans: Patti Buck and Carolyn Kravitz Adult Deans: Geoff Anderla and Emyrs Staton

This summer, come spend a week with us at beautiful Camp de Benneville Pines, where you'll make incredible discoveries about what it truly means to be you! At Camp TrUUth or Dare, we will focus on the idea that you have to be true to yourself to dare to be different. In a time filled with social pressures and struggles to fit in, we want to explore what it means to be an individual, and how to incorporate that meaning into our UU heritage. Make the most of the week with summer activities like archery, swmming, hikes and amazing workshops, then join us for worship and guest speakers who will help us discover what UUs dare to do! Be inspired by stories of those who have used our religion to make a difference in the world,

and perhaps discover your own calling. We'll be exploring right alongside you, and we hope you discover some new, incredible part of yourself! There's no better place to grow than in a community that will love and accept you no matter what! So take the leap into this amazing adventure, surrounded by the beautiful mountains and trees! You never know what you'll find if you dare to join us in this search for the trUUth!.

## PSWD's Counselor-in-Training Program

Sunday, June 29 - Saturday, July 5, 2014

CIT Coordinator: Emmalinda MacLean

Do you love to work with kids? Do you have leadership skills? Are you a team player? Do you love camp and want to give back and serve as a Cabin Counselor? Then the C.I.T. program is for 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 worships, 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. Training will take place in the first half of the day, and in the afternoon CITs will gain practical experience by assisting cabin counselors and program staff. Space is limited to 8 selected participants. All applicants must be between the ages of 15 and 18. A formal CIT application will be sent upon receipt of deposit and registration. All applications must be in by May 19 to qualify for consideration. Final acceptance notification will be made by June 1, 2014.

Cost: \$295 (no discounts available for this program).

\$75 deposit refunded if applicant is not selected.





#### "Summer Rendezvous" **A Camp for Homeschooling Families**

**Dean: Catherine Hanna-Askin** 

Monday, August 25 – Thursday, August 28, 2014



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 <u>www.uucamp.org</u> 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 29 – Monday, September 1, 2014

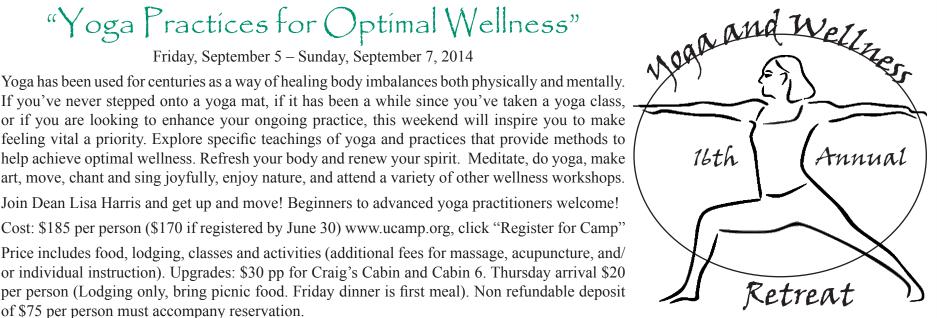
Every September, young adults gather back to the circle of spiritual connections. Back to the circle of true justice. Back to the circle of abiding friendship. Welcome, young adults ages 18 - 35, to Deepening your Faith, Growing your Spirit, an event designed for those who wish to connect with others, deepen their spiritual roots, learn about social justice from like-minded young adults, and discover a new group of friends. "Laughter, love, warmth, smiles, worship, friendships, workshops, connections, hiking, games, swimming, relaxing, learning and sharing"...these are just some of the words participants have shared to explain the magic of the camp experience. What word(s) will you use to describe your weekend of young adult camp? We can't wait to hear them all!

For more information please email YACampRegistrar@gmail.com, and to register, visit www.connectuu.com

## "Yoga Practices for Optimal Wellness"

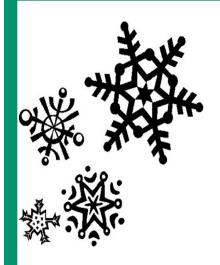
Friday, September 5 – Sunday, September 7, 2014

If you've never stepped onto a yoga mat, if it has been a while since you've taken a yoga class, or if you are looking to enhance your ongoing practice, this weekend will inspire you to make feeling vital a priority. Explore specific teachings of yoga and practices that provide methods to help achieve optimal wellness. Refresh your body and renew your spirit. Meditate, do yoga, make art, move, chant and sing joyfully, enjoy nature, and attend a variety of other wellness workshops. Join Dean Lisa Harris and get up and move! Beginners to advanced yoga practitioners welcome! Cost: \$185 per person (\$170 if registered by June 30) www.ucamp.org, click "Register for Camp" Price includes food, lodging, classes and activities (additional fees for massage, acupuncture, and/ or individual instruction). Upgrades: \$30 pp for Craig's Cabin and Cabin 6. Thursday arrival \$20 per person (Lodging only, bring picnic food. Friday dinner is first meal). Non refundable deposit of \$75 per person must accompany reservation.









## Save These Dates for Winter Fun 2014 – 2015

PSWD Jr. High Winter Camp October 24 - 26, 2014

PSWD Sr. High Winter Camp December 27, 2014 – January 1, 2015

PSWD Elementary/Family Winter Camp February 14 – 16, 2015

Watch our website for details – www.uucamp.org





## Music in the Mountains

Friday, November 7 – Sunday, November 9, 2014

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 www.uucamp.org and click on "Register for Camp."

## **Thanksgiving Celebration:** A Family Tradition Thursday, November 27 – Sunday, November 30, 2014

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. Relax by the roaring lodge fire or get up and get energized on a hike in the crisp autumn air. The talented camp staff will take care of the shopping, meal planning, cooking and dishes...and you get to enjoy your family and friends.

Attendees are asked to volunteer their services and talents by presenting a program or workshop over the weekend.

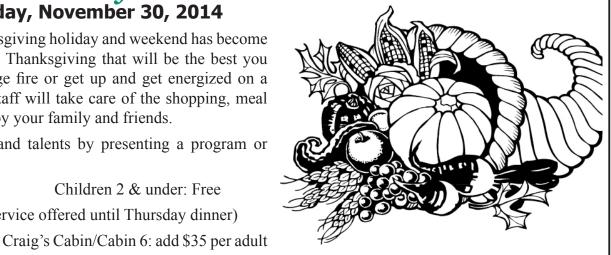
Adults: \$195 Youth (3 to 17): \$150 Children 2 & under: Free

Wednesday arrival: add \$20 per person (no food service offered until Thursday dinner)

Double bed in cabins 5, 7, 8 (two people required): add \$35 per room

Friday arrival: subtract \$20 per person

Non-refundable deposit of \$75 per person due at time of registration. Mail in the form on page 15 of this newsletter, or go to www.uucamp.org and click on "Register for Camp."



#### Work Weekends 2014

Spring Work Camp: Friday, May 9 – Sunday, May 11

Fall Work Camp: Friday, October 31 – Sunday, November 2

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. 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. We have room for 60 energetic souls, but space goes quickly, so be sure to register early. Visit <u>www.uucamp.org</u> and click on "Register for Camp"





## Welcome our new camp doggie "Daisy Doodle"



We are so grateful to the Godhard Family of Tapestry UU Church for donating our new camp doggie, Daisy Doodle. She is just 7 months old and already weighs 55 pounds, so she is going to be a big girl! Half American Standard Poodle and half Golden Retriever, Daisy Doodle is a fluffy pup with an inquisitive personality. She is a bit shy right now, but she's getting used to meeting campers and making new friends. Daisy enjoys playing with her green ball, chomping on sticks and going on long hikes with staff members. Oh yes...and barking into the woods!



Register online with a credit card and guarantee your reservation immediately – www.<u>uucamp.org</u>, click on "Register for Camp."

Or use the mail-in form below. All events require a \$75 per person <u>non-refundable</u> deposit.

Your payment in full will be required prior to the event.

	Adult & F	ami	lv F	ever	nt R	legistra	ation F	orm			
Event Name:					Event Dates:						
Attendee Name	Special Diet, Allergies or Medical Needs	Adult Child's		Fe	ee	Upgrade	Extra Day	Early Reg Discount	Donation	Total Due	
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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	Cab	in 6	Doubl	e Bed (	upgrade may apply)	Bottom Bunk Carpool (if available)				
Cabinmates:						Additional Informa	ation:				
UU Congregation											
To use a credit card, complete the follow	ring:					Expiration Date	ate Security Code (3 digits MC/VISA/DISC; 4 digits AMI			C; 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											
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We will have some	If you have a special or high-needs cheone contact you to determine the best			ild and th	e family.		Total en	closed/to be	e 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					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="teral@att.net">teral@att.net</a> or (626) 840-5412						
Cabinmates:					Additional Information: (shirt size, etc.)						
UU Congregation				1							
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)					Security Code (5 digitality) Violiphics, 4 digitalities						
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Camp de Benneville Pines Board of Directors 2013 – 2014

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Tom Thorward

Vice President
Betsy Gilpin

Secretary
Karen Quinn

Treasurer
Niel Lynch

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Camp Staff

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Randy Carroll-Bradd
Chelse Carroll-Bradd
Curtis Duffie
Fenay Ellis
Jackie Emery
Niki Giberson
Steve Johnston
Jill Lummus
Trudy Mann
Elvia Prieto
Rhonda Reeves
Chrisandra Sveen

# How to Contact Us

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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

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

Camp Website www.uucamp.org



### 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

#### Editor Shenoa Carroll-Bradd

Our sincere thanks to all contributors of stories and photos



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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.

## Connection Logo Design Contest

#### Send in your design by April 1st

Looking ahead, we are just 2 years away from celebrating our camp's 55th anniversary, and the camp board is already looking for ways to mark the occasion! Camp de Benneville Pines needs a new logo for fliers, T-shirts, sweatshirts, and other camp memorabilia.

We've had some great logos in the past, but it's time for something new and fresh to ring in the celebration! Feel free to draw inspiration from past designs, or to borrow parts and combine them with something new and exciting for a fresh look. Or, show us a whole new idea! You need not be an artist or graphic designer to enter the contest, just have a good idea that you draw out on paper. Black and white or color, we will accept both.

Children and youth are encouraged to participate as well as adults.



Send your sketch on an  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" piece of paper, labeled with your name and contact information on the back to:

Camp de Benneville Pines Logo Contest 41750 Jenks Lake Road West Angeles Oaks, CA 92305

An artist will work your idea into a suitable logo and all entries will be posted in the lodge from June 1 to August 30, 2014 for summer campers to vote on. The logo with the most votes will win a \$130 voucher good toward any PSWD or camp sponsored event held between Sept 1, 2014 and August 30, 2015.

So, let those creative juices flow and help us celebrate 55 years of extraordinary camping experiences with a new camp logo!

