

Camp de Benneville Pines

Connection

Spring/Summer/Fall 2015

Your Unitarian Universalist Mountain Retreat

Summer Camp for Adults, a de Benneville Pines Tradition

by Tom Thorward, Board Member

Adult summer camp has been part of the Camp de Benneville Pines experience since the Camp's inception in 1961. The idea of Camp de Benneville, in fact, was first broached in the late 1950's by members of the Pacific Southwest Institute for Religious Liberals (PSWIRL), an adult group with strong outdoor ministry interests. Members of PSWIRL wanted a place where they could hold annual summer retreats free from the social bigotry and restrictions of the times. From that simple desire and request, the purchase of what now is Camp de Benneville Pines ensued, and the Camp has made a home for PSWIRL and many other adult UU camping groups in the half century and more that followed.

It was therefore with considerable concern that, early last summer, Janet James, our camp Director, and I sat in a room with eight or so senior officials of our local branch of the US Forest Service (USFS), from whom we lease the land occupied by our Camp, and discussed with them their recent enforcement of Congressional ruling allowing the USFS to place a surcharge on all adult camps taking place on USFS organizational camp lands. Apparently, in keeping with the Congressional policy, youth camps, especially those serving underprivileged youth, are the USFS top priority users, while adult camps are subject to a percentage surcharge on the gross revenue derived from the adult camper fees. Aside from the fact that a surcharge on gross revenue eliminates even the slim margin Camp de Benneville may have earned on those activities, the policy begs the question: "What is the value of adult camp, and should we as a society encourage or discourage its continuation?"



PSWD Elementary Camp

Now, I am the last person who would argue against the value of camp for our youth. Many studies have shown

that young people can benefit greatly from a camp experience. Improved attention spans, greater creativity, improved psychological well-being, more highly developed leadership skills, heightened community awareness and a greater connection with the natural world are all traits associated with participation in a nature youth camp. Although the evidence may be anecdotal, many UU youth and young adults who have attended Camp de Benneville Pines profess a greater connection with their faith and their UU peers than do our youth who have not had this experience. With this in mind, I firmly believe that the PSWD should make it possible for every child who wants to do so to attend Camp de Benneville Pines, regardless of the resources of their families or congregations.

But evidence also shows that the benefits cited above are not confined to young people, but rather are a result of exposure of all human beings to the natural world. In an increasingly technological world, our spirits, regardless of age, cry out for reconnection to nature upon which all our existence depends. We and much of western civilization is, it would seem, finally waking up to the fact that humans are a part of nature, not apart from nature. We also realize, at last, that a great deal of the natural world upon which we are utterly dependent, is threatened by human activity. Even an



Adult Gathering at DBP, Circa 1962

organization as conservative as the Catholic Church is urging the faithful of its denomination to pay attention to the vital link between man and nature, and take steps to protect our planet. At this late stage, the outcome is uncertain and any progress we make will require real leadership. True, youth from elementary to high school and college are the leaders of tomorrow, but we adults are the leaders of today. Unless we can find our voices, the leaders of tomorrow may not have a chance to lead.

Our UU 7th Principal affirms our "Respect for the Interdependent Web of All Existence of Which We Are a Part". This idea is meant to encompass not only environmental concerns, but also our dependence on one another. As inhabitants of developed communities, most of us are aware of how much we depend on one another for our livelihoods, our friendships, the services we require, our food, our sense of self-worth and many other things. What we can easily lose sight of is how all of these things, at their very foundation, are totally dependent on their context: our one and only planet Earth.

When we come to the mountain and experience community with other adults or families and with nature, our understanding of this vital connection is renewed and reinforced. We taste the pure mountain spring water, see the wilderness forest in its symbiotic diversity, breathe the pure mountain air and know instinctively that these things add value to our lives and are the essential birthright of all living creatures. Growing up as I did, among the mountains, forests, lakes, and streams of Northern New York State, I appreciated the beauty and spiritual renewal that nature had to offer, even at a very young age. But, as an adult past 70 with children and grandchildren, I think much more about the legacy we will leave behind for future generations. Only we adults can bring this perspective to the table, or act to make a difference in the present.

So for the above, and many other reasons, Camp de Benneville Pines will continue its tradition of adult and family camp. We will not be deterred

continued on page 3

Non-Profit
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Permit No. 2051

Camp de Benneville Pines

41750 Jenks Lake Road West
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305

Address Service Requested



Camp de Benneville Pines

Calendar of Events 2015

March

- 6 – 8 Girl Scouts of HBSU1 (private)
13 – 15 Conejo Valley UU RE Retreat
For info: jillschlaus@gmail.com
13 - 15 Girl Scouts of Palos Verdes (private)
20 - 22 Rainbow Family Camp
For info: uucamp@aol.com (909) 794-2928
See ad on page 4 for additional information
23 - 25 UUCST In Care Craig's Cabin & Cabin 6 (private)
27 – 29 A Family Camp (private)

April

- 3 - 5 *Camp available for lease (Easter weekend or week)*
7 – 9 LREDA Ren Module “Worship” Training
For info: pswduua.org
10 - 12 San Dieguito/Palomar UU Church Retreat
For info: phauptfeld@yahoo.com
17 - 19 UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal
For info: mdorfi@cox.net
See ad on page 4 for additional information
24 - 26 Camp Recovery 12 - Step Retreat
For info: www.camprecovery.org
See ad on page 4 for additional information

May

- 1 – 3 Camp Blog Away for Food Bloggers
For info: patti@londre.com
7 Pathways Academy (Private)
8 – 10 Spring Work Weekend
For info: uucamp@aol.com (909) 794-2928
See ad on page 18 for additional information
15 – 17 UU Women's Spring Retreat
See ads on pages 4 and 14 for additional information
22 - 25 Camp Bravo Teacher's Retreat
For info: info@campbravo.org
29 - 31 UU San Diego/Chalice Church Retreat
For info: mail@firstuusandiego.org

June

- 2 - 4 New City Schools (private)
5 – 7 Pacific Unitarian Church Retreat
For info: andykpuc@gmail.com
9 - 12 *Camp Available for Lease*
14 – 20 Camp Bravo Theater Arts Camp Week I
For info: (800) 654-1055 info@campbravo.org
21 – 27 Camp Bravo Theater Arts Camp Week II
For info: (800) 654-1055 info@campbravo.org
28 - July 4 Camp Bravo Theater Arts Camp Week III
For info: (800) 654-1055 info@campbravo.org

July

- 5 - 11 PSWD Elementary Summer Youth Camp
See ad on page 16 for more information
5 - 11 PSWD Counselor in Training Program
See ad on page 16 for more information
12 - 18 PSWD Junior High Summer Youth Camp
See ad on page 16 for additional information
19 - 25 PSWD Senior High Summer Youth Camp
See ad on page 16 for additional information
26 - Aug 1 PSWD Family Summer Camp
See ad on page 5 for additional information

August

- 2 – 6 Camp Bravo Theater Arts Rainbow Camp
For info: (800) 654-1055 info@campbravo.org

- 8 – 12 Social Justice Summit
For info: uujmca.org evan@uujmca.org
See ad on page 11 for additional information
15 - 19 PSWIRL Farewell Camp: Summer Camp for Adults
For info: uucamp@aol.com (909) 794-2928
See ad on page 5 for additional information
15 - 19 Singing In the Pines UU Choir Camp
See ad on page 11 for additional information
21 - 27 Art Groove for Adults
See ad on page 12 for additional information
28 - 30 Neighborhood UU Church Retreat
For info: judy.wallace@uuneighborhood.org
31 - Sept 3 *Camp Available for Lease*

September

- 4 – 7 PSWD Young Adults Retreat
For info: pswdcm@gmail.com
See advertisement on page 17 for additional information
11 - 13 Yoga & Wellness Retreat
See advertisement on page 17 for additional information
14 – 17 Camp Bravo El Rancho School Camp (private)
18 – 20 UU Santa Monica Church Retreat
For info: (310) 829-5436 office@uusm.org
25 – 27 ACA of Orange County Fall Mountain Retreat
For info: fmrchair@gmail.com
See advertisement on page 17 for additional information
28 - Oct 1 Camp Bravo La Jolla Day School (Private)

October

- 2 - 4 Channel Island/Monte Vista UU Church Retreat
For info: shockwavephysics@gmail.com
9 – 11 Tapestry/Orange/Laguna UU Church Retreat
For info: (949) 646-4652 uu@ocuuc.org
12 - 15 Homeschool Autumn Retreat
See ad on page 5 for additional information
16 - 18 LA Valley Cluster UU Church Retreat
For info: clustercamp@ymail.com
22 Pathways Academy (Private)
23 – 25 Fall Work Weekend (tentative)
See ad on page 18 for additional information
26 - 29 Conejo Valley Homeschool Group (Private)
30 - Nov 1 Daughters of Diana Gathering
For info: www.daughtersofdianagathering.org

November

- 6 – 8 Music in the Mountains Folk Music Retreat
See ad on page 18 for additional information
13 – 15 Fullerton/Anaheim UU Church Retreat
For info: uucfoffice@gmail.com
20 - 22 PSWD Junior High Winter Youth Camp
For info: registrar@uucamp.org
See ad on page 18 for additional information
26 – 29 Thanksgiving Family Celebration
See ad on page 18 for additional information

December

- 1 – 25 *Camp Available For Lease*
Special events may be booked
For info: uucamp@aol.com (909) 794-2928
27 – Jan 1 PSWD Senior High Winter Youth Camp
For info: registrar@uucamp.org
See ad on page 18 for additional information

2015

*Camp Available For Lease mid-week during school year
Some weekends in December may be available*



by the discouraging surcharge the USFS has placed on adult campers. The original members of PSWIRL, still able to come up to 6,800 feet elevation, will hold their last annual meeting at Camp this summer, the closing of an era. Our Board of Directors and other supporters of Camp de Benneville Pines are deeply grateful for their involvement and contribution to the Camp over the past half century. In honor of them, and in keeping with their tradition, our Board, staff and volunteers are busy planning this summer's and future year's alternative adult venue.

Our planning name for next summer's camping experience for adults, is "ChautaUUqua". Our ChautaUUqua will be a UU version of what was a popular summer outdoor gathering in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These summer gatherings, continued to this day by the Chautauqua Institution at Lake Chautauqua in western New York and many independent groups, feature program offerings in the arts, education, religion and recreation. We will do the same. Along these lines this summer's offerings for adults will include Social Justice Camp ("Walking the Walk"), UU Choir Camp ("Singing in the Pines"), Fine Arts Camp ("Art Groove"), as well as the PSWIRL Farewell Camp ("The Art of Finishing Life Well"). Details of all these camps are available online and in the ads included in this Connection. The Social Action Camp is sponsored by the UU Justice Ministry office under the guidance of Evan Junker, and will be open to families as well as adults. We will continue to develop these and other ideas for adult camping experiences in future years.

I want to return for a moment to the policy that triggered this article on summer camping for adults: differential fees by the USFS for youth and adult camps. The policy raises many questions. For example, "Should a federal agency attempt to influence the programming of a non-profit church camp by means of its fee structure?" Is there an aspect of blurring the separation of church and state in this scenario? Is a fee based on gross revenue earned by a non-profit with a narrow excess revenue margin a prohibitive tax? Can the fee be applied fairly to all camps, some of which have high operating costs and others not. These are subjects for constitutional and tax lawyers to ponder over, but in the meantime, Camp de Benneville Pines must adhere to the ruling and pay several times the rental fees we paid previously to occupy and access USFS lands. We have appealed this ruling, but the outcome is uncertain.



Getting water for fire-fighting from Jenks Lake

In all fairness to the US Forest Service, one must point out that in the past ten years budget appropriation for this agency has declined over fifteen percent in real dollar terms. Each year, demands on the USFS increase due to population growth and the impacts of global warming, including higher incidents of forest fires, insect infestations, and plant diseases brought on by environmental stress. If the Forest Service is to meet its mandate to protect and preserve our precious forest and wilderness areas, the money must come from somewhere. But the 5% fee on gross revenue seems out of line with most USFS fees charged to use forest land.

Perhaps we all need to talk to our Congress people about changing our federal spending priorities. But that is a subject too broad for these pages. In the meantime, de Benneville will struggle with an annual lease fee that has jumped from \$2,000 a year to over \$8,000 a year, without notice--an amount we were putting into youth camp scholarships, staffing, and facility enhancement. Whether or not this matter comes to a favorable resolution with the USFS, we will continue to accommodate the entire family—children, teens, parents and grandparents. We will continue to believe that to be a strong spiritual force in our world, we must first be a strong spiritual force within our families. And that spiritual strength and renewal will continue to be enhanced by UU camping experiences for all ages.

Check out our adult retreat experiences for summer 2015 in this issue of the Connection.

See you in camp this summer!

by Niel Lynch

Hello Campers and Friends,

I am happy to be serving as the president of the Board of Directors for Camp de Benneville Pines. Over the past few years, the board has been working hard to update major systems at camp and improve infrastructure. This season we are tackling some important updates to Homet Lodge. Since Homet is our main meeting hall, it is high time she got a facelift!

As any project starts small and expands as the needs become more apparent, so too, goes the Lodge Rehab project. Our main goal for the Lodge is improved energy efficiency. And with USFS permission in hand, we are replacing windows and doors in Homet.

As I write this article in early January 2015, we are knee-deep into electrical corrections in the walls, as well as installing improved insulation behind the paneling. Phase 1 of the Lodge improvement project includes new doors, windows, insulation, heating system, and electrical wiring. Our campers will be toasty warm this winter season! Senior High campers were the first to enjoy the thrill of dual pane windows that actually open and doors that are not falling off their hinges! The estimated cost of Phase 1 is \$100,000, and fundraising is under way for a total of \$115,000 so we can handle other facility concerns in the kitchen area of the lodge.

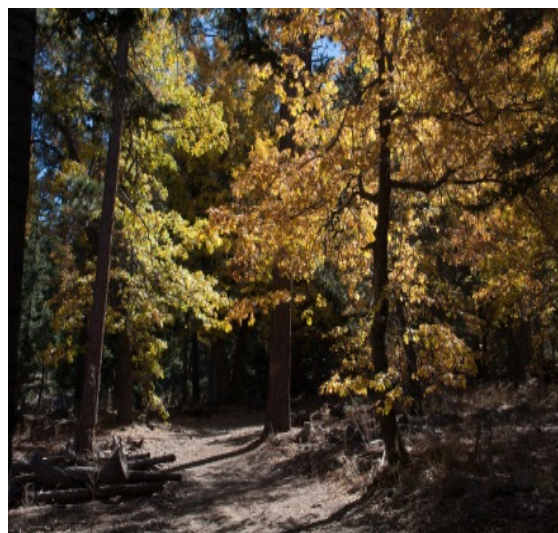
In 2015/2016 we will tackle Phase 2 of the Homet Lodge Rehab work. The 2nd phase will include the replacement of the big picture windows at the end of the building, insulation of the ceiling, and improved accessibility in the Lodge bathrooms.

We are presently fundraising for Phase 1 and hope you will financially support the rehab project to the best of your ability. It takes many donors to reach our goal of \$115,000. So far, we have raised \$90,000. We are close to our goal, and with your help, we can get there.

Our staff and contractors are making great progress in upgrading and refurbishing the camp overall. If you have been to camp in the last couple of years, you know that the main water system is in and the driveway around camp has finally been paved. In spring 2015 we will install the pavilion cover over the old archery deck, and in fall 2015 we will finish up the water system project with the installation of a new 80,000 gallon water holding tank. Both of these projects have been approved by the USFS and engineering is almost completed. There are also ongoing improvements throughout the grounds, many of which are being accomplished by Americorps Teams under the direction of Curtis Duffie. Americorps teams tackle everything from chipping, tree trimming, painting, raking, cleaning, sorting, and trail maintenance. We are continually amazed and impressed by the fine young adults who are involved with the Corps and the work they accomplish while in camp for 3 – 8 weeks at a time.

In 2015, de Benneville Pines will be offering a wide range of camps for young people of all ages, as well as family camps. Some new and exciting camps are planned for adults in August including: Fine Arts Camp, Social Justice Camp, and UU Choir Camp.

The organizers of our various camps have been working and planning to enhance the camping experience, and the PSWD camps, under the excellent direction of the Camping Ministry Team, are well-organized and highly creative experiences for our youth. The mission of the PSWD Camping Ministries program is to create an evolving, safe, and affirming community that encourages the exploration of Unitarian Universalist values through intentional programming and sacred connections that enrich mind, body and spirit; and the vision is for children, youth and adults to leave camp transformed and empowered to carry out loving action in the world. So, I do hope you will join with many other parents and send your youngster to camp for the time of their life!



Beautiful forest scene at the edge of camp

I invite you to share with me your thoughts and dreams for de Benneville Pines at any time. Just email me at nmlynch@juno.com if you wish to share with the board, or send comments and suggestions to our Executive Director, Janet James, at uucamp@aol.com.

On behalf of the board of directors and myself, I wish you a joyous camping season.



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

Friday, March 20 – Sunday March 22, 2015



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.

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!

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

Adults \$130
Teens (13–19) \$99
Kids (3–12) \$75
Under 3 free!

Upgraded accommodations:
Cabin 6 or Craig's Cabin: additional \$25/adult
Cancellation fee: \$50/family

Register online at www.uucamp.org click on "Register for Camp" or fill out the form on page 19. Reservations are accepted until camp is full.

For more information, please call (323) 993-7430 or email familyservices@lagaycenter.org.

UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal

"Our Best Intentions: Men on the Winding Road of Life"
Friday, April 17 - Sunday, April 19, 2015

Do you know where you are going? Are you living a meaningful, deliberate, conscience driven life? Can you define your purpose? What are your INTENTIONS? The UUMF invites ALL men in the Pacific Southwest District to explore these inquiries and enjoy the fresh, wonderful surroundings of our beautiful Camp de Benneville Pines. As in the past 25 years, we will sing and dance, hike and drum, sweat and share. We will engage in workshops, laugh a little, be silent together and consume delightful meals. But more than anything, we will commune with one another in deep, loving circles. Do consider coming and bringing a friend; these are truly powerful experiences. For further information please check out the UUMF website: www.firstuumf.org or contact Mike Dorfi at: mdorfi@cox.net



27th Annual Camp Recovery 2015

A New Freedom, A New Happiness

Friday, April 24 – Sunday, April 26, 2015

Join us as we enthusiastically venture deeper into our recovery through workshops, 12-step meetings, crafts, music, drumming, hiking, dancing, and fellowship in the beautiful woods of Camp de Benneville Pines.

Our goal at Camp Recovery is to help campers discover the possibilities of their lives as they clear away the wreckage of the past and experience a life free of fear and low self-esteem. Participants will learn and share the spiritual tools and practices that open the door towards true freedom, and the happiness and serenity that flows from a life of recovery.

\$160 if postmarked before 3/27/15

\$170 thereafter, or at camp

Deduct \$5 each if 3 registration forms are in 1 envelope
Extra charge for Craig's Cabin (separate check/money order)

For more information or to register: www.camprecovery.org
or contact us at camprecovery@yahoo.com

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

PSWD Women's Retreat

"Beauty Crowds Me 'til I Die"
Friday, May 15 - Sunday, May 17, 2015

Join together with old friends and new for a weekend of pure bliss in the mountains! Treat yourself to a fun-filled weekend of relaxing, dancing, drumming, singing, hiking, playing, and attending a variety of workshops. This year's Theme Speaker, Rev. Dr. Carolyn Owen-Towle, says: "There is an odyssey in each of us – a story that reminds us of where we have been, and tends to point us toward where we are going. In sharing with you, I will endeavor to coax the threads of your odyssey from you." *See page 14 for more.*

\$185.00 per person (Register early 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 19.



PSWD Family Summer Camp: "Creating Joy!"

Sunday, July 26 - Saturday, August 1, 2015

Deans: Rev. Matthew Crary and Stephanie Crary



"Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy, and keep choosing it every day." - Henri J. M. Nouwen

Together at Family Camp we find so many things that create a joyful time and place for our families and friends: the beautiful forest, caring community, inspiring worship, abundant activities, and fantastic food. This year's theme, Creating Joy!, celebrates all of this through arts and crafts, meditation and conversation, singing and dancing, exercise and eating, laughter and learning (and perhaps a little rest), to be intentional in joyful living. At Family Camp, we have the unique and blessed opportunity to immerse our families in a community of support, where we give ourselves and each other the time and space to explore, share, and be inspired by the beauty of de Benneville and one another. It's easy to feel joyful in this time together! Join us to inspire one another with new ways we can intentionally create more joy in our families and in our everyday lives.

Come join us, and remember to register early! This camp sells out fast!

\$385 per adult

\$355 teen (13 - 18)

\$335 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.

To register, visit www.uucamp.org and click on "PSWD Family Camp" or fill out the form on page 19 and mail in.

THIS WEEK OF SUMMER FUN REQUIRES ADULTS BRING CHILDREN WITH THEM TO CAMP

Family Camp is specifically designed for families who have at least one child (18 years or younger) in attendance. Thanks for your understanding.

Autumn Rendezvous for Homeschool Families

Monday, October 12 - Thursday, October 15, 2015

Deans: Rhonda Blue and Christy Brunker

Come join other like-minded families for an exciting time exploring nature, relaxing and having fun! Shoot a bulls-eye at archery, bask in a boat at the lake, frolic in the woods, carve a pumpkin! Each fall, homeschooling families with kids (and grandparents!) of all ages come together to share experiences and enjoy a hassle-free outing. Each family is encouraged to lead an activity based on their interests: hiking and crafts, games and sports, educational and environmental programs, etc. Enjoy "family time" while the camp staff handles kitchen duty! Autumn is a great time to come to camp. Enjoy the smell and tastes of pumpkin pie, hot apple cider, and fresh baked bread. you will appreciate the delicious home cooked meals. Each family is assigned their own room with bunk beds. Some double beds are available.

Visit www.uucamp.org and click on Calendar of Events to view all the details and pricing. this camp is limited to 80 participants. Camp fees include lodging, meals, and most camp activities.



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

Summer Camp for Grownups!

Saturday, August 15 through Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Tom Owen-Towle

"The Art of Finishing Life Well"

PSWIRL welcomes you to our Farewell Camp at beautiful Camp de Benneville Pines. We'd love to share this last rendezvous with you, and hope that you will consider joining us. The Reverend Tom Owen-Towle will guide us with his talk on *The Art of Finishing Life Well*, and he will help us to say goodbye to a retreat that has meant so much to so many of us over the years. See page 9 of this newsletter for more information on Rev. Owen-Towle and the theme. This summer, let's come together and share our thoughts, look into one another's eyes and hearts, and lovingly close out a chapter in our collective lives and in de Benneville's 55-year history. Come honor the PSWIRL legacy and celebrate with some fun activities. We will make a time-capsule and bury it, dedicate a plaque, and hold a closing service with music, poetry, and personal thoughts. To have you here with us would warm our hearts and complete the circle. You will enjoy some of your favorite activities as well: swimming, relaxing in the hot tub, chatting, singing, evening folk dancing, music, yoga, meditation, card games, informative workshops, archery, kayaking...and a whole lot more. Full details available at www.pswirl.org.



Dorm (3 max in room, lower beds) - \$360 (Earlybird* - \$350)

Cabin (2 max in room, lower beds) - \$380 (Earlybird - \$370)

End rooms (lower double bed**) - \$400 (Earlybird - \$390)

Craig's Cabin (twin upper bed) - \$465 (Earlybird - \$455)

Craig's Cabin (lower double bed) - \$485 (Earlybird - \$475)

Prices are per person, and include all meals and workshops.

\$10 discount for recruiting first-timer

*Earlybird - Reservation placed before June 30, 2015

**Double beds are reserved for couples and then assigned to others if not requested by couples.

To register, please visit www.uucamp.org and click on "Register for Camp" or send in form on page 19.

A Camper's Odyssey

by Ross Quinn, Board Member



It's hard for me to believe, but I've been coming to Camp de Benneville Pines for over 50 years now. It's also hard to believe that I have had the honor of serving on its board of directors for the past eight years, along with my wife, Karen. As I said during the Sunday morning service Thanksgiving weekend, which I was privileged to lead, I've seen a few things and learned a few more along the way. I want to take this moment to reflect back, and to share a few of them.

I was tall and gangly kid, about 10 or 11, when I first came to camp. That was in 1960, before the merger, when Unitarians and Universalists were looking to buy a piece of land, a place of our own. In those years PSWIRL, the Pacific Southwest Institute of Religious Liberals, had one week of camp every summer, and they knew they needed more. My dad and I came to look at the Boy Scout-owned Camp Arataba. The price was right, as the Lodge had burned down, leaving only a slab. The only other buildings were the caretaker's cabin, the infirmary, the swimming pool with an out building, and what we now call the Coffee House. I remember looking at a large ponderosa pine which stood on the east side of the slab: the half of the tree facing the slab was charred from the recent fire, about 40 or 50 feet up. It was a miracle both that the tree survived, and that the forest didn't burn to the ground. That tree, like my parents and most other stalwarts of that era, are now gone.

That inauspicious event, the burning of the Boy Scout lodge, enabled Camp de Benneville Pines, as we know it now, to come into existence: we literally bought it in a fire sale. I don't want to go into the early history of building the camp, except to say that digging trenches at camp is where I learned to handle a 10 pound sledgehammer and a pickax. The price of the camp was cheap, but the amount of sweat equity was very high. The more we built and worked on the place, the more we came to love it.

I started coming to camp on my own probably at age 14 when I was a sophomore in high school. There were three of us Quinn kids, my brother my sister and me. I loved going to camp, especially to the week-long LRY youth camps in the summer, and in the winter. It was at those camps that I learned the lessons of community, of love and caring, of mutuality, and the great benefit, which I somehow intuited, of being in a wild place, of being in the mountains. It was there, over 50 years ago now, that I lead my first worship service, for the other kids, and for any adult who might want to listen. It's a habit I never lost.



2014 Senior High Campers enjoying a moment on the Lodge porch

In our high school camps we always had deeply felt, tearful goodbyes. We always swore that we would bring the goodness we felt for each other back down to the real world, "down the hill." Somehow, of course, the glow wore off, and after a few days we seemed to return to being our same old selves. I, for one, couldn't wait to get back to camp to re-experience this other part of myself, which was largely discouraged in my high school. "Why can't it be like at Camp?" I would often ask myself.

I finally figured the answer out some 50 years later. *When we are at Camp, when we come with intentionality to explore ourselves, when we explore each other with openness and with respect, and when we commune with nature on hikes or gentle walks, and when we experience healing and peace, that all this, and more, this is the glimpse we see of our true selves. And we want more. This is the real world, here at camp.* Unfortunately, the "down the hill" world of competition and artifice and the need to work and survive all push us away from our true selves, and from the real world we discover—at Camp. When I come to Camp with this intentionality, I reclaim my real self, and find again my real world. This is the secret of our Camp, and the heart of why it is so precious: With our good intentions and honesty and openness, we sanctify this place, and give it its healing power.

In being members of the Board of Directors over the past eight years, my wife, Karen, and I have had to deal with the business and financial aspects of the camp. Thanks to the efforts of many board members, donors, volunteers and management, I can report that the camp is in good financial condition, and its future looks bright. And while there are many challenges

in front of us, I have no doubt the future Boards will persevere. And while that is an enormous benefit both to the owners of our camp, and to those who come to use and enjoy it, I feel that the greatest benefit can actually be to our churches, and to our denomination as a whole, if we but recognize our camp as a powerful unifying force.

I was fortunate to have grown up UU, as were my brother and sister. But I was the only one who regularly went to camp. My brother, couple of years younger than I, ended up on the swim team in high school, and on the water polo team. He had endless hours swimming in the pool, weekend and summer meets in tournaments, and just never went to camp. My sister, some eight years younger than I am, also did not go to camp. In thinking back on this, I'm sure that this circumstance largely explains why I am still a card-carrying Unitarian Universalist, while neither of my siblings have ever joined church, and do not feel the need to do so. I know that neither my brother nor my sister ever experienced that special bonding which happens during a week at camp: they got it elsewhere, and did not develop the ties that bind to a church, or to our denomination. My brother and sister were lost to their (our) denomination, despite the fact that they both still hold values and attitudes that are deeply Unitarian-Universalist.

In my own case, I left Southern California in about 1968, returning to camp about 37 years later, for the first LRY and youth group reunion in 2005. It was like a revelation when I returned to camp. Somehow, by walking into the Lodge and walking onto our grounds and forest, the camp filled a hole in my heart that I didn't even know existed. I had been gone a long time, and when I came back, the deepest parts of me knew that I was home.

That's the message I want to leave with you: use our camp. As Rumi says, "Come, come, whoever you are." Come to camp yourself if you are an adult, and send your children and your youth to camp. Let them come to discover, which is hopefully what you discover, that this camp is their home, your home. And when you meet and become friends with folks from churches all over our Pacific Southwest District, let that knowledge sink deep within you: for you are home also, in our denomination, and in your local church. I believe that this love-bonding process, which happens best, almost uniquely here at camp, ties the best and the brightest of us, our children, to our denomination, to our individual churches, and to our camp. And especially for children, and youth, during those week-long camps, things happen that just don't happen in the course of a morning at church, and certainly not at a swim meet. Parents who've seen the glow of their children after a week at camp know that was a special time, in a special place.

In that sense, the future of our camp *is* the future of our denomination. When our youth graduate, after attending summer camps and winter camps, singing the Circle Game, and experience their Bridging Ceremony, they know where their home is. Where their heart is. I believe the future of our churches, and the future of our denomination, largely rest with keeping our kids engaged in our faith, and I know of no better way to do this than by getting them, and ourselves, up to camp. "Come, yet again, come." Let that Camp de Benneville Pines magic happen within you, let yourself feel the healing strength of the wilderness and fellowship at camp. And let yourself, and your family, be bound into our ever renewing Unitarian-Universalist faith. Help them come to this camp that supports the vision of our truest selves.



Ross Quinn, front row left, and other camp hikers stop for group photo opportunity at 8,000 foot overlook above Camp de Benneville Pines.

And if you can do that, my camper odyssey will be yours, and that of your children. You too will find, like me, that even after years of absence, this denomination, this faith, this mountain, this camp, is our home.

A Bridge to Safer Camping

by Paul Muehlebach, Long Beach Council Historian

On October 15, 2014, Boy Scout Camp Tahquitz erected a pedestrian bridge across Highway 38, just beyond Jenks Lake West. The bridge provides safe pedestrian passage for campers needing to cross the highway, which runs through the middle of camp.



The crane positioning the bridge in place

Tahquitz is owned and operated by the Long Beach Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The council purchased the property in 1957 and began operating it as a mountain camp in 1959. At that time the highway ended at Heart Bar Ranch and there was little traffic to contend with. Also, the main entrance to the camp was initially located on Barton Road, just off of Jenks Lake Road. All of the camp operations were located in the southeast corner of the property in those days, and there was little reason to cross the highway. Things began to change in 1961 when Highway 38 was finally pushed through over Onyx Summit and all the way into Big Bear. That same year a new main entrance to the camp was opened on Highway 38.

The original master plan for the one-mile square property was to develop three separate camp operations centered on a planned administrative center located on the north side of the highway. The property was named in the beginning the Will J. Reid Scout Reservation in honor of the great benefactor of Scouting in Long Beach who had died in 1956 and left money in his will for the Scouts to buy just such a property. Camp Tahquitz was to be one of the three camps on the property. Expansion north of the highway began in 1966. That year a cluster of eight cabins surrounding two outdoor kitchen facilities and a lavatory and shower building was built just north of

the highway. The following year, 1967, a large dining and meeting hall, dubbed the Kiwanis Lodge in recognition of the Long Beach club that provided the funding for its construction, was built and dedicated. At about the same time in the late 1960s the growth of Scouting peaked in Long Beach as it did across the country. Plans for development of the additional two camps north of the highway were scrapped. Camp Tahquitz expanded in the years ahead to encompass the entire square mile. In 1972 four additional campsites were built north of the highway. That same year a lake was developed on the north side. In later years some of the camp program areas such as archery and the rifle range were moved across the highway. Wrangler operations, begun in 1992, moved north of the highway in the late 1990s. A shotgun range was opened in the area in 2010. As more of the camp programs moved north of the highway over the years, more Scouts were making highway crossings on foot, multiple times each day. While all of this development was going on at the camp, traffic was steadily increasing on Highway 38. The highway was engineered for relatively high speeds, which creates a dangerous situation for pedestrians.

Beginning as early as the 1960s the Long Beach Area Council reached out to the California Department of Transportation—Caltrans—in hopes of finding a solution to the increasing danger of pedestrian highway crossings. Requests for a pedestrian underpass or a bridge were repeatedly shot down. In time the dream died and everybody assumed it would never come to be. It was also assumed to be only a matter of time before somebody would be hit and seriously injured, or worse, while making the death-defying crossing. In 2009 the council got its tenth Scout Executive, John Fullerton. John had spent the first 20 years of his career in professional Scouting in the Orange County Council neighboring the Long Beach council. He had spent considerable time directing fundraising and development of a 30 million dollar outdoor training facility in Irvine. John wasn't used to being told by anybody that something couldn't be done. Within a year of taking up the reins of the Long Beach Area Council, John contacted Caltrans to tell them that the council wished to construct a pedestrian crossing of the highway. One of the features of the Irvine Outdoor Education Center was a steel pedestrian bridge across a deep gorge. John had built one bridge; a second should be no problem. In 2012 AS&F Foundation, granted the Long Beach Area Council \$500,000 to construct the bridge and a new bathroom/shower building. The hardest part of any building project is usually



The former crossing

raising the money for it. In one grant that obstacle was cleared. John contacted the engineers and bridge constructors that he had worked with in Orange County to begin the design of the new bridge. Apparently the state agency never believed the council would be able to raise the required funding for the bridge and figured they could delay any talk of it into the future. The funding and design caught them by surprise and now they had to deal with a private bridge across a public highway. Many months of negotiation ensued. Caltrans had procedures for many different types of highways with interchanges, but they had no procedure for a private bridge over a public highway. When the council satisfied all of the CalTrans change requests, they began to talk about the need for a \$100,000 permit. In the spring of 2014, while researching old deed records, Long Beach Council discovered that the State of California had never established an easement across the camp property to build the highway. In effect, Highway 38 was trespassing on private property!

Only half jokingly John Fullerton threatened to place concrete K-rail barriers across the highway at the intersections of Jenks Lake Road and Glass Road to block traffic across the camp property if CalTrans did not approve the project. Caltrans administrators realized they were fighting a losing battle and decided to work with the council to achieve the desired end. An order for construction of the bridge was placed with the manufacturer. The bridge was manufactured in Minnesota in two pieces. It took approximately 45 days. The two pieces were trucked to California and arrived at Camp Tahquitz early in the morning of September 25, 2014. Later that day a crane arrived to remove the two bridge halves from the trailers. The newly arrived bridge sat on blocks in the parking lot on the north side of the highway visible to all who passed. Meanwhile, work was underway to dig the footings and pour the concrete for the pads that would anchor the two ends of the bridge. The location for the bridge is just south of the camp's two main entrances where the highway is cut with steep escarpments. Preparation of the pads took about three weeks. Wednesday, October 15, was the installation day. It was necessary to coordinate with Caltrans because Highway 38 would need to be closed for about seven hours to all unhindered access for the large crane that would lift the bridge into place. Notifications went out to a wide range of interested parties inviting them to come to camp to witness the historic installation. At least 50 people made the trek to the mountains on a school/work day.



The finished bridge, ready to be crane-lifted and bolted into place.

continued on page 14

Meet the Deans for our 17th Annual Yoga and Wellness Retreat September 11 - 13, 2015

Every year, Camp de Benneville Pines has the pleasure of hosting a yoga retreat for everyone from beginner to expert. This is a chance to relax, network, and realign oneself with nature in our beautiful mountain setting. And this year, the programming will be brought to you by Lisa Harris and Kathy Bolte.

LISA HARRIS is an experienced yoga instructor from Redlands, CA. She is certified in the Yoga Tune Up® method, and draws regularly on an extensive toolbox of yoga poses, corrective exercise, anatomy, therapeutic techniques and a never ending curiosity about the human body. She leads creatively sequenced yoga classes that include mindfulness, embodied anatomy, deep relaxation and a dose of humor and honest transparency. Lisa is skillful at breaking down and communicating the intricacies of the human body and its movement in a very clear, concise and transformative way, bringing inspiration and healing to her students.

KATHY BOLTE is a yoga teacher, singer-songwriter and story teller. She is a member of The Clapping Monkeys Kirtan Band. Her yoga classes are shaped by elegant alignment principles, life affirming philosophy, and heart-oriented teachings. In addition to her yoga & music, Kathy facilitates wisdom circles and retreats. Whether teaching yoga, leading groups, or sharing her music, Kathy's passion is to help people learn how to open to their full, wholehearted potential.



For more information on this year's theme and pricing information, see ad on page 17.

AmeriCorps: A Journey in Service

by Lauren Roffi, AmeriCorps Member - Team Blue One

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is a 20 year old, team based national service program sponsored by the Corporation for National & Community Service. Its members are from across the country and range in ages from 18 - 24. The program serves all 50 states, as well as the U.S. territories. NCCC members work in many different sectors including community growth and development, infrastructure building and repair, environmental restoration and conservation, as well as disaster response and preparedness. Due to its diverse array of project areas, the AmeriCorps NCCC program attracts individuals of all backgrounds and skill sets. People join AmeriCorps NCCC for many different reasons. Some join to gain life skills, some to travel, some to seek out possible career options and some to help cover college expenses. Regardless of these reasons, an even larger motivation drives young adults to join this program: the desire to help and serve others. The drive to change the country for the better is a fundamental reason that NCCC exists. The following are first hand accounts from two team members of AmeriCorps NCCC team Blue One, Class 21.

"I joined AmeriCorps NCCC because I really wanted to travel and see the country but also try and figure out a career path. I thought AmeriCorps would be a great opportunity to do both. I enjoy the outdoor work, and when I found out that AmeriCorps NCCC was hands-on work, I was very interested. Also, I get to travel to neat places, like Camp de Benneville Pines, and see parts of the country I have not previously seen. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here in AmeriCorps NCCC and hope the rest of my term is as wonderful as my first round at Camp de Benneville Pines."

-Tim Ritter, Corps Member

"AmeriCorps NCCC has made me mentally, physically, and emotionally stronger than I have ever been before. I joined the program to find new places within myself, and I found someone who can show patience, self-sufficiency, leadership, and perseverance. I have each of the organizations my team has volunteered with to thank for that. They taught me that as long as your work's mission is noble and sincere, you will do anything to see it realized."

-Mary Roach, Corps Member

The team known as Blue One is just beginning their 10 month journey. Blue One spent three weeks at their first project assisting Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services (SFBFS) during the Thanksgiving season. After completing their work at SFBFS, Blue One assisted Camp de Benneville Pines for three weeks with the cleaning, beautifying and winterizing of its grounds.

Stephanie Agudelo, Team Leader of team Blue One, reflects upon the many benefits of her experience thus far. "When I first applied to be a team leader at AmeriCorps NCCC, I didn't know what to expect. I was sure I would have the opportunity to work with many wonderful organizations and help many people in need, but I could never have expected everything I would learn along the way. It's only been a few months and the journey has already been magnificent. Every day I learn so much about working with people from diverse backgrounds, the importance of team work, and facing obstacles in new, more productive ways. So far, the team has had the opportunity to work at Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services and Camp de Benneville Pines. My time with both organizations has been so fulfilling and everyone I have worked with has taught the team so much about their missions and goals. I can only hope Blue One has had as much of a positive impact on them as they have on us."

The team's next stop is in Salt Lake City, Utah where they will be serving at the Road House, Utah's largest homeless shelter. Blue One is excited to see where the remainder of this journey will take them and what they will learn along the way.

The AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) and its FEMA Corps units engage 2,800 young Americans in a full-time, 10-month commitment to service each year. AmeriCorps NCCC members address critical needs related to natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, and urban and rural development; FEMA Corps members are solely dedicated to disaster preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery work. The programs are administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS is the federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Social Innovation Fund, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information, visit NationalService.gov.



NCCC team Blue One provides erosion control for Camp de Benneville Pines.



NCCC team Blue at Camp Tahquitz

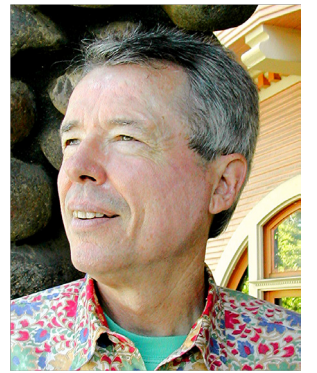
AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps Pacific Region
3427 Laurel Street, McClellan, CA 95652
Phone: (916) 640-0306 Fax: (916) 640-0318

Homestretch: The Art of Finishing Life Well

“It’s magnificent to grow old, if one keeps young!” -Harry Emerson Fosdick

Join Rev. Tom Owen-Towle for the Farewell PSWIRL Camp: The Art of Finishing Life Well, August 15 – 19, 2015.

Here, Rev. Tom Owen-Towle shares a sermon that will open your heart and mind and get you thinking about your own graceful life.



One of life’s premier challenges, it seems to me, is to face up to who we really are: at 20, at 40, at 60, at 80 and above—indeed, everyday to look in the mirror, and renew vows...with yourself: Who am I? Where am I going? And who’s traveling with me?

Whenever you perform this daily ritual—gazing leisurely at yourself in the mirror—you can readily identify with Ashleigh Brilliant, the comic, who mused: “I may not be totally perfect, but parts of me are excellent!” Certain features of our beings surely fade with age, but our goal must be to die young, as late as possible, remaining spiritually vital and morally awake. But it’s tough, since American culture constantly mocks the value of maturity. For example, a young senator was giving a group of seniors a tour around the Capitol, describing the legislative process in words of one syllable and shouting in their very ears. Finally, turning to one in the group, he asked: “Well, what did you used to be?” And the elder, fixing a beady eye directly on the Senator, replied: “I still am!” And here’s a more favorable anecdote. A grandmother was receiving congratulations on her birthday. And her grandchild said to her, “Grandma, you’re beautiful!” Without a moment’s hesitation she replied: “Well, I ought to be. I’m 82. So my beauty isn’t decorative anymore, it’s structural.” That’s the kind of attitude I’m encouraging today...so, whatever your age, may your beauty become structural rather than merely decorative! Unfortunately, few folks in our American culture are so willing to embrace our oldness. And yet we see an old wall, an old teacup, an old village, an old tree, and we appreciate such things precisely for their oldness, the increased beauty of their years and the memories they contain. Things seem to gain in value when they age, whether or not they’re even useful or beautiful, but we often deny, in our Western society, this same appreciation to human beings. That’s why, every October 13th, on my natal day, I try to do at least two things.

-First, I lavishly salute my family and friends. For there’s no way I could manage from year to year without abundant goading and unearned caresses. And my birthday’s the fitting day to declare my unconditional thankfulness to other folks; for my birthday clearly marks my having endured another year, bruised yet intact.

-Second, I confess to spending some quiet moments alone, just celebrating myself. For if I can’t sing my own praises—wishing myself a resourceful today as well as rewarding tomorrows—I’m in more trouble than I thought.

So my sermon today, as we migrate toward summer, would offer notes on ways to gray gracefully, whatever your age might be. And, of course, gray really fits in my case, because, for better or worse, I’ve chosen to go on home without painting my hair or a facial makeover. There’s nothing noble about that announcement; it’s merely a personal choice. So, here are some seven lessons for graying gracefully or the art of finishing life well. My goal is simply to resemble my own remarks during the homestretch ahead!

I. Live in the Present

Put simply, I charge us to live while being alive. Remember that your life won’t be measured by the number of breaths you take so much as the moments you seize that take your breath away. Find such moments, create such moments, multiply such moments. Instead of being trapped in sentimental bygones, people who gray gracefully focus upon the irrepeatable present. Because if we’re mentally trapped or romantically fixated on the past, we’ll never surrender fully to living in the now. We must emotionally outgrow our pasts: its grudges as well as its glories. We’re not there anymore, so don’t take up residence in the past! Live your impulses to be more loving now. Unitarian Universalist troubadour, Ric Masten, while living with incurable prostate cancer, wrote: “I asked God: ‘How much time do I have before I die?’ And the answer came: ‘Well, it looks like enough to make a difference, Ric, enough to make a difference!’”

II. Say Yes to Your True Self

I resonate with the words of poet May Sarton, who, in her later years, penned: “Now I’ve become myself. It’s taken time, many years and places. I’ve been dissolved and shaken, worn other people’s faces, but now I want to become myself.” We’re so adept, aren’t we, at protecting ourselves by wearing masks, controlling other people’s access to the real me? So, I say to all the lone rangers (male or female) in our congregation today: “Dare to un-mask yourselves. From here on out, try to wear only your own face!” I believe in growing old as naturally as possible and along with Orwell, claim “that everyone has the face they deserve.” My face, brows, chin(s), gaze and nose, hair color, wrinkles, skin marred by periodic cancer the past 40 years—my face is mine. So, my friends, may it be a welcoming face during the homestretch. Not always smiling, fuming when necessary, yet seldom hiding when in view. May it be a true face, one that reveals my interior. May it be a face that can be met head-on, and, always, whatever the state of either my soul or the world...may my face be able to radiate ample compassion and joy. I urge you, wherever you reside on the continuum of time, to come out from hiding, to live outloud and in the open, to proudly wear your face—to embrace the being you’re going to the grave with! To be nobody but your self in a world that’s daily trying to have you duplicate somebody else—that’s the job of mature adulthood, that’s what it takes to gray gracefully! When a young Rabbi succeeded his father, everyone began to tell him how completely unlike his dad he was. “On the contrary,” replied the young man. “I’m exactly like my old man. He imitated no one. And I imitate no one.” Remember, becoming older is a gift, not a curse, for it’s that wonderful season when we can have longer and more passionate conversations with the self we spoke to only briefly in our younger years. When I turned 60, nearly ten years back, I saluted the Chinese tradition where 60 is explicitly recognized as a second birth. You see, in China, at age 60, a person begins again at 1. So, my friends, if I live to be 80, like many in our congregation today, I’ll be celebrating a second 20th birthday. Not a bad way to look at the aging process, don’t you think?

III. Update Your Intimacies

Let me get right to it. Are your bonds of affection—which, after all, are what matters most—among friends and family as current, clean, and cemented as possible? Do you feel blessed by your intimates and are you actively blessing them? To the fullest extent mutually possible? Now, at this stage in your adult journey, is the assignment to spend enriching time with those whom you cherish. Write the notes, repair the breaks, make the phone calls, and take the languorous walks necessary to update your intimacies. Time’s running out, or certainly running on, for all of us; hence, our bonds must be chosen and cultivated carefully. My friends, be current with the companions of your heart.

Celebrate! Support! Sustain! Homet Lodge is Transformed - Thanks to You

Did you know? *The 2015 Annual Budget Drive begins April 1st!*
Your 2014 gifts of over \$100,000 made so much possible already. Take a look.

Have you seen me?



Replacement safety doors into Homet Lodge. They have modern hardware and closures that meet safety and health codes.

Have you seen me?



Now campers can use these glorious insulated windows that open and close to suit the weather. Drafts during gatherings are experiences of the past.

Have you seen me?



What a blessing to be warm in winter, or on cool summer evenings. You cannot actually “see” the insulation and the new heaters, but you’ll feel the difference the minute you take off your coat.

How does this all happen? The Stewardship Team asked for your support for these improvements, and many of you responded. Thank you.

Starting April 1, we are asking everyone to contribute something, regardless of amount. Will you help? Be one of the first donors to the Camp de Benneville Pines 2015 Annual Budget Drive. Event fees only support camp operations, thus all improvements are paid for from the yearly Budget Drive. More donations translate to more upgrades to our gorgeous 53 year-old retreat. Homet Lodge needs more projects for your health and safety, mandated by local authorities. For example, a sneeze guard over the food service area, an iced salad bar to keep food fresher, new stove exhaust hoods and a kitchen fire-suppression system. And while we are seeking donations for inside the Lodge, why not ask for extra funds to improve what everyone uses—the restrooms? Certainly everyone would appreciate upgrades in our “most important” rooms.

There are many ways to become a Camp de Benneville Pines supporter:

Credit Card - Add Camp de Benneville Pines as a vendor on your credit card to make monthly donations. It is easy and quick. We especially welcome monthly gifts from \$10 to \$1000 via bank draft or credit card.

Bank Draft - A monthly bank draft is easy and safe. Please call the camp office (909) 794-2928 for de Benneville’s bank routing and account number.

Securities or Stock - Donate tax deductible appreciated stocks or mutual funds! Contact Jerry Moore: at (310) 837-6945 or jerry.moore@ca.rr.com.

Write a Check - Make payable to Camp de Benneville Pines (memo “2015 ABD”) and mail to 41750 Jenks Lake Road West, Angelus Oaks, CA 92305

Donate Online - Go to www.uucamp.org.

Only **YOU** can help make Camp de Benneville Pines an environmentally proper and comfortable place. Continue to Celebrate, Support, and Sustain our revered camp with your financial gifts for additional enhancements during 2015. All contributions, large and small, are appreciated anytime.

Submitted January, 2015 by Anne Thorward, Stewardship Team Chair

Singing In the Pines - UU Choir Camp

Saturday, August 15 - Wednesday, August 19, 2015



Scott Roewe and Dereau Farrar

Choir Camp Facilitator Scott Roewe, Music Director of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Clarita and Director of Publications for the Unitarian Universalists Music Network, will share his passion for Unitarian Universalist music at our annual choir camp *Singing in The Pines!* This summer's choir director, Dereau Farrar, Music Director of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica and Director of the Selah Gospel Choir, will be sharing his joy of choral music.

Morning and Late Afternoon Choir Rehearsals will lead participants through various styles of music suitable for use in Unitarian Universalist worship. Early Afternoon Sessions will focus on new music for use in UU worship, and participants are encouraged to bring original music to share and to team up with other participants at camp to create new music!

Evening Sessions will focus on easy group singing of various formats: classic campfire songs, holiday songs, and music from the great American songbook and other cultures will be shared and

sung. A piano player will be present, so bring your lyrics, sheet music and favorite songs...and sing, sing, sing!

If you are a director looking for repertoire for your church, a current choir member looking to dedicate 4 days to singing, a songwriter or musician looking to become more deeply involved in Unitarian Universalist music, then this camp is for you. Transform yourself through singing, come to Choir Camp! Pool, hot tub, hiking, relaxing, good food and fellowship are all included in the price. Bring a friend or partner (non singer or musician) and they can enjoy all the events being offered at PSWIRL, a camp for adults who participate in workshops, theme speaker, and many fun summertime activities.

For more information about both Choir Camp and PSWIRL or to register, please visit www.uucamp.org



Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California

5th Annual Walking the Walk

2015 Justice Summit & Family Camp

Saturday, August 8 - Wednesday, August 12, 2015



Meet for 5 days of Social Justice Camp at UU Camp de Benneville Pines, because two days of *Walking the Walk* just isn't enough time to learn, reflect, share, plan, and unify! Come join with other UUs seeking to build a more just society while enjoying the peace and beauty of the alpine forest and all the activities camp has to offer. UUJM is hosting our premier four night / five-day Justice Summit. As we come together to strengthen community, deepen our faith connection, learn about core justice issues that call to our deepest values and plan for the coming year of justice-making, there will also be time to reflect and rejuvenate, and activities for accompanying family members.

Come, Come, Whoever You Are

- * Come develop the skills to build a powerful UU justice community
- * Come deepen your understanding of Beloved Community
- * Come learn about organizing and mobilizing
- * Come to plan next steps on important issues and leave with tools and ideas to put into action at home
- * Come meet other UU justice leaders from around California to strengthen your congregational and regional justice work through coalition building
- * Come for the multigenerational engagement and children's programming
- * Come for rejuvenation through powerful worship and personal reflection
- * Come build a multigenerational community of justice-seeking UUs!
- * Come enjoy swimming, hiking, music, dancing, canoeing and more....

Register at uujmca.org/walkingthewalk



Looking to hone your justice making skills?



Ready to engage with important issues?

Wanting to more deeply ground your activism in our Unitarian Universalist faith?

Professional Artists Lead “Art Groove” Adult Summer Workshops

Friday, August 21 - Thursday 27, 2015



UU artists from all over the Western Region will enjoy a summer week of artistic enrichment at Art Groove. This will be the ninth time around for de Benneville Pines’ annual art camp, but this year exciting changes will make it an even better and more enriching experience for UU’s with an artistic aptitude. The week long program’s new name, “Art Groove,” reflects expanded opportunities for learning, creativity, and fun. Five main class subjects will be offered: life drawing, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture. Each camper will choose an area of study, receiving expert instruction from a highly-recognized artist within that field.

Materials are provided, and teaching accommodates all levels of experience from beginner to advanced. Attendance for each class is limited to sixteen, to ensure the instructors can give individual attention to every student. Following these daily morning sessions and lunch in the lodge, campers will be free to experience a variety of afternoon workshops led by experts, including: calligraphy, acrylic painting, anatomy for artists, canvas stretching, shadows and shading techniques, photography, art book construction, and more. Early each evening, an instructor from one of the five class disciplines will speak on the subject, “My Life as an Artist.”

The Art Groove experience is customizable to each camper’s preferences. Attendees may also blend art instruction with classic de Benneville summer pleasures like hiking, swimming, yoga, dancing, and of course, relaxation under the pines. Dinner in the lodge offers a time to discuss the day’s activities, and evening “Art Jams” feature movies, discussion groups, and even more outlets for artistic expression. Throughout the six days of camp, art will be displayed in a spirit of sharing and learning, culminating in a special exhibit on the final evening.



Visit www.uucamp.org for more information, including instructor profiles, scenes from prior art camps and samples of student art. Early registration is recommended to reserve a space in this popular, adults-only “learning vacation.”

The cost of \$945 (\$995 if registering after May 31) includes instruction, workshops, materials, food, lodging, and all standard activities available at de Benneville Pines.

To register, visit www.uucamp.org and click on “Register for Camp”. For registration questions, please call (909) 794-1252 and leave a message, or email registrar@uucamp.org



Breaking Ground and Changing History

by Janet James, Camp Manager

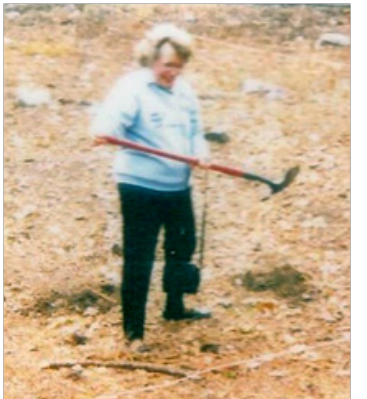
With all the remodeling going on in Homet Lodge, it reminds me of how busy life has been for our employees and contractors over the last 5 years. Not only is the business of camping going strong, but the business of upkeep and improvement seems to be never-ending. Several of the projects have dramatically improved the camper's quality of life, and the Lodge Remodel is just the latest in an impressive list of accomplishments--none of which would be possible without the generous giving of donors and the helping hands of volunteer workers.

I have been thinking back to 1996, and how that year changed the trajectory of the camp, which had been in a downward spiral for some time. I was a fairly new camp manager, having only been here a year. I can recall with clarity everything about the day Craig's Cabin broke ground. It was my first major project to oversee at camp. Board President and major donor, Lee Wright, was in my office with her polished shovel, giddy with excitement at the thought that she was going to dig the first scoop of dirt that day, and in her words, "...get cracking on this project!"

Lee had spent the better part of 5 years of her life battling it out with the county fire, building and safety, USFS engineers, several architects, and environmental agencies. Finally, the camp was on its way to erecting its first new building since Homet Lodge in 1964, and Lee was beside herself with glee and delight. She told me that she hoped Craig's Cabin would be the "shot in the arm" that the camp needed to attract more bookings within the PSWD and with lease groups. "It's a gamble," she said, "and I hope it pays off". As I think of that "gamble" now, it has paid off ten-fold. Craig's Cabin is, without a doubt, the most popular cabin in camp. I wish we had two more just like it.

Lee Wright passed away on April 8, 2013, at the age of 83. The memorial program with her picture still sits on my dresser as a reminder of the difference one determined volunteer made in the history of Camp de Benneville Pines. The camp was sinking fast into bankruptcy and disrepair in the early 90's, and Lee had the vision to build a cabin that would inspire people to contribute to a place that was sacred to many UU's, and hopefully preserve the camp for future generations. I was surprised to learn Lee was 83 when she passed away, she seemed younger to me. She was such a force—ignited by her passion to make a difference to her faith and to the broader UU community. She was a member of the Long Beach UU Church since the early 70's, where many of her closest friends were also camp supporters.

She told me once that the only reason she agreed to be President of the Camp board was so she could make sure the cabin got built in her lifetime! "Janet, I have the easy part, my dear. You have to fill the damn thing with campers once it's completed!" As I recall Lee's determination to finance and build Craig's Cabin, I am grateful for how much she cared about the long-term growth and success of the Camp, and for her belief and foresight about what camping ministries would bring to the youth in our district. Her philosophy was clear: *without kids and families in camp, we have no reason to be in the camping business at all.* "Let's pack them into every bed 'til there's not a single mattress left," she said. "Let's teach them, empower them, lead them, and inspire them. And let them teach us too, so we won't forget how wonderful it is to climb a mountain peak and reach for the sky."



Lee Wright, brandishing her shovel



Time Out of Time, Place Out of Place

by Michael Schwab, UU camp professional and supporter

The full faith life reveals many needs: worship, justice, music, education, compassion, ceremony, facilities. For many people, one need beyond the congregation is to gather religious community within the power of a natural setting for a "Time-Out-of-Time, Place-Out-of-Place."

To rest, re-create, and renew is natural and necessary. To retreat is an organic, embedded practice of every faith tradition, including our own. There are so many healthy ways to do this: hike the Grand Canyon, sing at a district conference or a women's or men's retreat, take your family camping, send your kid to summer camp, go to Leadership School. Or, go to UU camp. Every region of the country is fortunate to have its own. These are places where we know the land is loved and cared for, and our values are believed in and practiced. They are an out-of-doors, communal, immersive, and experiential variety of Unitarian Universalism.

I see happiness in the eyes of the new youth who come for a group retreat or summer camp. They feel validated to see their own church's chalice and hymnals and their own teachers, in their own sacred place in the country, where they know they belong. Here, congregational lay leaders, major donors, ministers, musicians, religious educators, and the young and the old climb and swim and hike and laugh. They sing (or shout) grace before meals and crazy campfire songs at night; they whisper truth and fear from the bunk beds after dark; they approach the infinite outside; and worship under the pines and oaks, on islands, mountains, beaches, and in the desert. Every minute is faith development. Every minute matters. It all counts.

In terms of youth, the "beyond" also means "after being young," beyond the young years. These young people will impact the world. They will be the ones who stand up and speak out. My favorite story: There was a twelve year old camper who had moved in with his older stepbrother's UU family, and they all came to camp together. When this pre-teen went back to visit his mother's home, he visited the youth group of his previous, conservative congregation. The youth were having an out-of-control bullying rant about LGBTQ people. This pre-teen stood up and walked out. Stood up and walked out! Now, to see him practice values learned at camp out in the world—that is success. That is social justice; when a person does the right thing, it is ramrod straight, step-up, speak it-plain social justice. Make no doubt: faith development at UU camp builds backbones.

How we "hand-raise" our children, in the short time we are blessed with them, is how they will make an impact in the world. What could be a more sacred trust than that? Camps and retreats are often a first step outside of their known world. We dare not neglect this pivot point in faith development. Here is another true thing: developing faith is easier to see in youth because of their sparkling clarity but what is true for them is every bit, perhaps even more, true for adults. Camps, conferences, and retreats in religious community can be faith-filling, soul-nourishing, back bone-building for all ages; places to find and make power, meaning, and belonging with Unitarian Universalism.



Happy Campers at UBarU



Mike Schwab served three years as Executive Director at UBarU Retreat Center in Mountain Home, TX, and nine years as Camp Director at Camp Unistar, Cass Lake MN. He served in leadership at Ferry Beach, Star Island, Rowe, Murray Grove, The Mountain, and is a longtime member of Unity Church--Unitarian. He is a member of SUURCE (Society of Unitarian Universalist Retreat Center Executives) and a friend of all UU camps. This essay is from plenary remarks delivered at the Southwest District of UUA, Spring Conference 2013, and also appeared in 'Cairns', The Unity Church Journal of the Arts in 2014.

A Bridge to Safer Camping

continued from page 7

At 9:50 a.m. the crane lifted the bridge from its resting place onto a flatbed trailer that transported it approximately 100 yards down the highway to the staging place for the final lift. Erecting the crane was a long, slow process. It had to be done twice—once for the lift onto the trailer and a second time for the final lift. The actual moves went very quickly. It was the setting up and tearing down that took most of the time. At 11:47 a.m. everyone was in position for the final lift. It took about ten minutes to lift the bridge from the trailer on the highway, turn it 90 degrees and set it down on the two concrete pads. The set was nearly perfect onto the eight bolts that hold it in place. A huge cheer went up from the assembled audience on both sides of the highway.

Camp ranger Rick Heltebrake had two stanchions at the entry with a velvet rope slung between them. Following the remarks, the ropes were removed and Elizabeth Westbrook, the granddaughter of Will J. Reid, the camp's original benefactor, led the procession across the bridge for the first time.



The bridge at Camp Tahquitz immediately insures the safe passage of pedestrians from one side of the camp to the other. It will also permit a safe passage for cyclists and equestrians. Signage on both sides of the bridge announce to passing motorists that they are at the Will J. Reid Scout Reservation/Camp Tahquitz. It firmly places the camp on the map and unites the two sides of the camp. Its presence will positively affect program activities at the camp and erases the scar represented by the presence of a highway across the Scout reservation. Camp Tahquitz is used by thousands of Scouts each year, most notably during the summer, and is a resource in the San Bernardino Mountains for teaching and experiencing the wonders of nature. It offers an escape from the crowded cities and hurried lifestyles of the modern world. It took more than 50 years to accomplish the feat, and five hours to maneuver the structure into place, but the bridge to safer camping is finally complete.



(From left) Roland Spongberg, President of the Long Beach Area Council of the Boy Scouts, John Fullerton, Scout Executive of the Council, Elizabeth Westbrook (center) and her husband, Steve.



Spotlight on Reverend Dr. Carolyn Owen-Towle, Theme Speaker for the Annual Women's Retreat May 15 - 17, 2015

*Beauty crowds me 'til I die,
Beauty, mercy have on me!
But if I expire today,
Let it be in sight of thee*
Emily Dickinson (1830 – 1836)

“There is an odyssey in each of us – a story that reminds us of where we have been, and tends to point us toward where we are going. As I reflect upon my life I recognize threads that have run pretty consistently throughout the years. One of these is the quest for beauty, beauty of thought, beauty of art and culture, beauty of attitude and will. Today, I am involved in the art world and surrounded by the beauty I love. In sharing with you I will endeavor to coax the threads of your odyssey from you. It was the beauty in the natural world that dazzled me from the moment I can remember. I grew up in the foothills of Mt. Baldy, several hours from camp, a third generation Californian. I spent my days climbing trees, gingerly hopping from rock to rock barefoot in the streams, saving baby birds from the barn cat, hiking in the hills and wondering about life's meaning. The smell of sagebrush instantly zaps me back to that place and those precious youthful years. Through the decades I have come to recognize that beauty, in its many forms, lives at the core of my philosophy, my view of people, and my service to the world. The truth is I cannot live without beauty. Oh, I recognize that all is not beautiful; so much is at risk, and humanity's pain often obscures the rainbow. However, the quest for beauty has led me through years of challenging and satisfying ministry and now once again into the art world which was my legacy. My hope is that in sharing with you, your memories and affirmations will gain new meaning for you. Please join me for the 2015 UU Women's Retreat “Beauty Crowds Me ‘Til I Die”.



The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Owen-Towle is a Unitarian Universalist minister who served the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego from 1978-2002. She was awarded ‘Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism’, and appears in ‘Who's Who of American Women’, and ‘Who's Who in America’. She's the author of ‘Step Off The Sidewalk’ (1991) and ‘Damngorgeous’ (2008). She has served as President of the UU Ministers Assn., The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, member of The Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and she ran, unsuccessfully, for President of the Unitarian Universalist Association in 1993. Currently she serves on boards, Sam Maloof, Woodworker Foundation, James Hubbell's Ilan Lael Foundation and is Chairperson of the Board of Mingei International Museum. Carolyn, and her husband, fellow minister, Tom, have four children and six grandchildren. They live in San Diego.

For more information and pricing on the Women's Retreat, please see ad on page 4.

Homestretch continued from page 9

IV. Grow Bolder (not merely older)

The Canadian novelist Robertson Davies liked to say: “You’re not getting older, you’re getting nosier. When we’re young, we yield to noisiness; when we’re older, we can focus on nosiness!” Life may be more uncertain and health less stable as we mature, but expectations and pressures are lifted in our aging years, so we can become curious, nay brazen, adventurous. We’ve earned the right to be freer and fiercer, to take chances, even some wild ones. As I graduate from settled ministry, I realize that I will now be living primarily according to preferences rather than demands. A huge difference. Growth, my friends, is the only evidence of life. An American poet was asked how he kept young in spirit, and he pointed to the cherry tree in blossom, asking in turn, “Where are the blossoms?” The answer was, “On the new wood.” You see, it’s the young branches that have the blossoms and bear the fruit. The tree keeps on going only by growing new life. That’s clearly what I’m trying to do at this stage in my life: to find new branches and to grow fresh blossoms. It’s magnificent to grow old, if one keeps young. I want to become an elder not merely older. As Harry Emerson Fosdick put it: “It’s magnificent to grow old, if one keeps young!” Yes, young for freedom, young for adventure, young for service, young for play, young for love. After all, we never really grow old until we lose all our “marvels”! When we retire (or graduate from work as one teenager mused) it’s not the time to lie fallow but the season to explore fresh realities—perhaps gardening, tutoring, bird-watching, or assisting grandchildren in their maturation. As for me, when I finally close up ministerial shop, I’m looking forward to singing in nursing homes, teaching elder magic to my peers, brothering marginalized kids, as well as continuing to play with my grandkids as long as they’ll have me. My aim’s to be a bringer of hope, in places of little hope, as long as I’m blessed to walk this earth.

V. Make Life Worth Living

I’ve lived long enough to know that worthwhileness isn’t found in a book or movie, under a rock or in a foreign land. You don’t find life worth living; you make it so.

In the suffragist and abolitionist era, women such as Sojourner Truth and Clara Barton remained enterprising well into their senior years. In large measure, these feminist spirits lived energetic, lengthy lives. Why? Because they were occupied with sizable challenges. They exuded the gift of intelligent rage, knowing what things to fight and what things to disregard, what stuff to oversee and what stuff to overlook. These women kept harvesting until the end. You see, we humans aren’t the sum of our toys or trophies; rather we’re the sum of our gifts, our choices, our commitments. Graying gracefully, then, banks utterly on our being generous and generative all the way home—ever pursuing the gratification of seeing wrongs battled, prejudices countered, sadnesses lightened, joys shared, institutions upheld, and relationships fed. One of my favorite scriptures on maintaining an evergreen awareness is Psalm 92: 14: “In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap.” Our final laps should in fact be dynamic ones, “always green and full of sap,” at least usually green and full of sap.

VI. Simplify, Simplify, Simplify

I’m tired of the pervasive commercial hype in our culture that urges young and old alike, almost requires us, “to have it all.” Hogwash. I don’t want to have or be it all. There exist lots of things I could care less about, especially as I age. There are plenty of experiences that merely distract or detour my better self. There are lots of qualities that are either inane or rotten. I don’t want to have it all. In fact, at this stage in my life I want to be more discriminating. I want to make wise choices about what’s important and what’s not. I want to start pruning, shedding, simplifying.

Sam Levenson said that when he was a boy, he used to have to do what his father wanted, and then, as a parent, he had to do what his children wanted. When did he get to do what he wanted? Well, that’s a fair question, and the answer’s really rather simple: the maturing years comprise, at long last, the best season to do what Sam Levenson truly wants to do and be!

Finally, as aging adults, I think that you and I have earned some rights—such as the right to quit receiving report cards, the right to either dance or recline whenever we want, and the right to raise some holy hell when called for. And as for me and my body, I’ve felt better before and I’ve looked fresher. But, you know what, I’m definitely a fuller—make that a better—version of personhood than at 20 or 40, even 50. So, I refuse to be traded in for any two 35 year-olds.

VII. Letting Go and Letting Be

The Hebrew scriptures announce that humans are akin to grass, that the years of our lives may be three score and ten, or, with luck, four score. Yet everyone dies, sooner or later, so the Psalmist goes on to admonish: “Teach us to number our days that we might apply our hearts unto wisdom.” This passage bids us to engage every hour of existence—its sorrows and joys and blends thereof—with faithfulness and courage...yes, “to number our days...applying our hearts unto wisdom.”

Whatever our view following death might be—resurrection of the body or immortality of the soul, reincarnation or an eternal abyss—there comes a time when we no longer walk this singular earth in our present bodily form. Our mortality cannot be dodged. At some juncture, we must admit that death is natural, sometimes even safe, and that we cannot fail at it. When we make peace with death’s inevitability, we’re frequently filled with a feeling of serenity; we’re able to surrender to the cosmic mystery, to let go and let be.

Yet surrendering is such an awkward art to master, excruciatingly so for high-control, tight-fisted, hyper-questing Westerners. Surrendering furnishes a delicate mixture of being passive yet staying active. It demands emptying. It entails giving ourselves over to another person or principle, place or process without giving ourselves away. Surrendering means letting ourselves be who we truly are, rather than clinging to what we used to be or might have become. It means permitting ourselves to just be our own age, as robustly as possible. Surrendering dwells at the core of the Hindu greeting, *namaste*, roughly translated: “I bow to the eternal spirit of existence that dwells within myself as well.” I’ve found that as long as we possess consciousness, no human being is too weak or wretched to utter some version of *namaste*, as a fervent blessing to the Creation.

During the homestretch we finally get the message that every love relationship ends in a loss: through divorce, departure, or death. We will die, and so will our comrades and loved ones. Yet we can surely experience those we’ve cherished living on in our souls after their earthly sojourns. We can stay connected with the land of the dead, the territory of the ancestors, through the medium of love. And there’s more comforting news. Just as we were graciously ushered into being, as a gift beyond our earning, so also there will be Love surrounding us after we die. That conviction dwells at the heart of our Unitarian Universalist gospel. There’s no need to discuss or debate the particular form such Love might take. No one knows. It’s only important that we know with unshakable fervor and hope that the very Love that created us will caress and comfort us beyond our death into seasons beyond counting. “Rest assured”, as our Universalist forebears put it.

And so, my dear ones, may yours be a happy, hearty, and holy homestretch, laden with the giving and receiving of thanks, thanks, and more thanks...starting with a rousing cheer of gratitude for your ever-aging, singular, precious self.

The Reverend Dr. Tom Owen-Towle and his life-partner of 42 years, Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sheets Owen-Towle, are ministers emeriti of First UU Church of San Diego. Tom has written two dozen books on self-growth and spiritual fulfillment since he launched his parish ministry in 1967, including Homestretch, Wake-up!, Hard Blessings, Wholly Joy, Theology Ablaze, Sauntering and his latest book (Spring, 2015) entitled SELF: Caring for Our Best Gift.

Tom is currently preaching and leading workshops throughout our PSWD as well as singing in nursing homes, mentoring children and at-risk youth, and volunteering among the homeless of San Diego. Owen-Towle and his family have been regulars at de Benneville Pines since 1969, and he is deeply honored to re-attend PSWIRL as its farewell speaker.

PSWD Summer YoUth Camps 2015

<p>Cost \$445 \$395 if registered by 5/31/15 Sibling discount for second child - \$15 (one per family) Submit registration with a \$75 non-refundable deposit, full balance due one week before start of camp. No refunds after check-in.</p>	<p>Elementary Camp: Campers completing grades 2 – 5 Junior High Camp: Campers completing grades 6 – 8 Senior High Camp: Campers completing grades 9 – 12</p> <p>Registration Form on Page 19 Or visit www.uucamp.org and click “Register for Camp”</p>
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Elementary Summer Camp “Come As You Are” Sunday, July 5 – Saturday, July 11, 2015 Dean: Celeste Plumlee

Every single one of us has something amazing and unique to share with the world. When you bring your whole self - exactly as you are - to this fun-filled week at Camp de Benneville Pines, you will become part of a unique community of great kids, and the sheer power of your combined awesomeness will grow and grow until it takes over the world! At camp, you will make new friends, try new things, and find many reasons why you are way cooler than you think you are! We will have archery, hiking, music, crafts, swimming, and tons of other fun adventures. All campers are well cared for by trained counselors who are guided by the 7 principles and work to build a loving and inclusive camp community. The rich, new experiences kids get at summer camp can be genuinely life-changing. Don’t miss this opportunity for a fabulous week in the forest!

This event is for campers completing grades 2 - 5.

Junior High Summer Camp “EXPRESS YOURSELF” Sunday, July 12 – Saturday, July 18, 2015

Deans: Kathleen Kaun Moscato and Marianne Swift Gifford

Enjoy an accepting, fun, and committed group of young people like you! Come “Express Yourself” and claim your place at Jr. High Summer Camp. “Express Yourself” focuses on discussions that are important to Middle School Youth, outdoor activities, and creative expression in many forms. Each camper is encouraged to accept people who are different from themselves, express themselves openly in a safe environment, explore their creative energies in a variety of ways, develop new skills, and, most importantly, have fun all week long! So get to decorating your room, the lodge, change your hairstyle, wear whatever makes you happy, write a poem, play games, sketch or paint a picture, play your music, or share something about yourself with another person. Campers will participate in all their camp favorites: swimming, canoeing, archery, games, music, arts and crafts, variety show and more! Express yourself because you are worth it!

This event is for campers completing grades 6 - 8



Senior High Summer Camp “Camp TUUne” Sunday, July 19 – Saturday, July 25, 2015

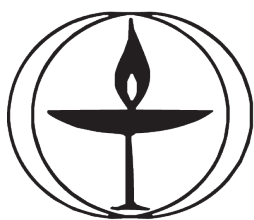
Youth Co-Deans: Cassie Charles & Grayson Gothard Adult Deans: Geoff Anderla & Eric Rosloff

Come sing a song with us this summer at Camp de Benneville Pines! Join us here while we explore our spirituality through music and how it brings us together as a community. As Unitarian Universalists, we have heard many artists speaking words of wisdom through their songs, and often integrate their music into our worship services. Come dream a dream with us as we spend a week away from day to day life in a community like no other. At camp you will have the opportunity to share your own musical interests with others, and discover the influences music has over the members of our blue boat home. Come walk in rain with us as we become in Tuune with the beautiful nature that makes up Camp de Benneville. We can learn to paint with all the colors of the wind and appreciate the grace that lies in the great pines, and the still waters of Jenks Lake. So come share this rose with us as we enjoy team building games, music genre themed activities, and so much more! So don’t stop believing and take the midnight train going to Camp de Benneville Pines! This event is for campers completing grades 9 - 12.

PSWD’s Counselor-in-Training Program Sunday, July 5 - Saturday, July 11, 2015

CIT Coordinators: Emmalinda MacLean and Mary Carter Vail

<p>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!</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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, 2015.</p> <p>Cost: \$325 (no discounts available for this program). \$75 deposit refunded if applicant is not selected.</p>
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PSWD Young Adult Camp

A Retreat for Unitarian Universalists age 18 - 35

Friday, September 4 – Monday, September 7, 2015

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 PSWD Young Adult Camp awaits you! Make new friends, hike the beauty that is Camp de Benneville Pines and the National Forest, and fill your soul with workshops, social justice streams, music, and worship. Connect with others, deepen your spiritual roots, learn about social justice from like-minded young adults, and discover a new group of friends.

For more information, please email yacampregistrar@gmail.com.

To register for this awesome event, visit www.connectuu.com

“The Story of Your Life”

Friday, September 11 – Sunday, September 13, 2015

Deans: Lisa Harris and Kathy Bolte

Each of us has a unique story to tell. Our individual lives are full of experiences that shape who we are. The way we think, the way we move, the way we engage with another person – they all reflect our own unique story. At yoga camp we’ll explore the many things that have shaped our story, and we’ll mine the depths of our story to bring the best parts of who we are into the light. Let the practices of yoga, art, dance, storytelling, rich discussions, and chanting open the pages of your story!

All skill levels from beginners to advanced yoga practitioners welcome!

Cost: \$185 per person

(\$170 if registered by June 30)

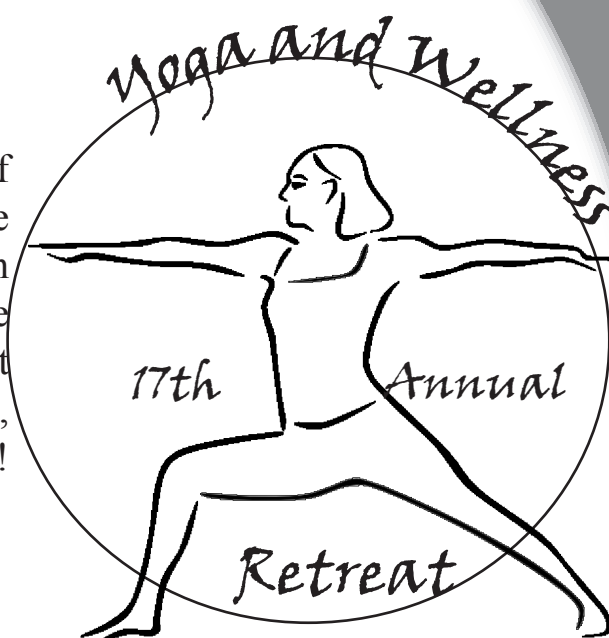
Price includes food, lodging, classes and activities

(additional fees apply for massage, acupuncture, and individual instruction)

Upgrades: + \$30 per person for Craig’s Cabin and Cabin 6.

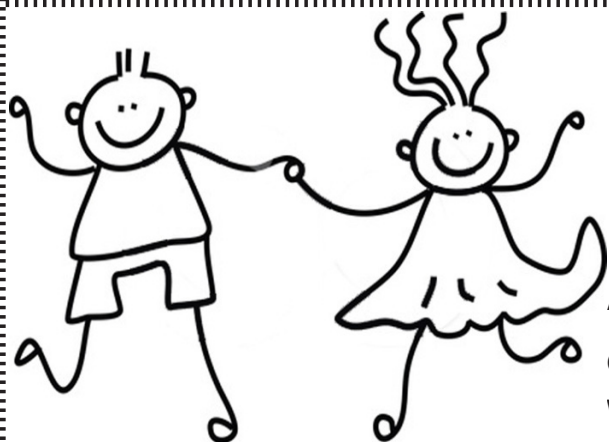
Thursday arrival: + \$20 per person

(Lodging only, bring picnic food. Friday dinner is first meal)



To register, visit www.uucamp.org and click “Register for Camp”

Non-refundable deposit of \$75 per person must accompany reservation.



12-Step Fall Mountain Retreat

Friday, September 25 – Sunday, September 27, 2015

A weekend of self-care where you and your “inner child” can grow, heal, play, discover, reflect and work on yourself. We will journey deeper into our recovery with enthusiasm through workshops, 12-step meetings, crafts, music, drumming, hiking, body movement, dancing and fellowship. We invite all persons from ACA, CODA and similar 12-step programs to come participate in this event.

For information and pricing, visit www.adultchildren.org or contact fmrchair@gmail.com



Save These Dates for Winter Fun 2015 – 2016

PSWD Jr. High Winter Camp
November 20 – 22, 2015

PSWD Sr. High Winter Camp
December 27, 2015 – January 1, 2016

PSWD Elementary/Family Winter Camp
February 13 – 15, 2016

Watch our website for details – www.uucamp.org



Music in the Mountains

Friday, November 6 – Sunday, November 8, 2015



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 toe-tapping 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.”

Registration opens May 1st

Thanksgiving Celebration: A Family Tradition

Thursday, November 26 – Sunday, November 29, 2015

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 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)
Friday arrival: subtract \$20 per person 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. Mail in the form on page 19, or go to www.uucamp.org and click on “Register for Camp.”



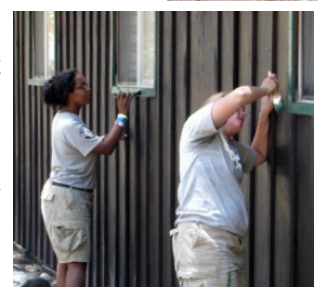
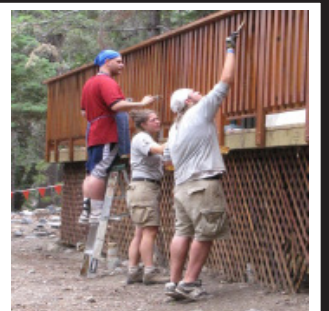
Registration opens May 1st

Work Weekends 2015

Spring Work Camp: Friday, May 8 – Sunday, May 10

Fall Work Camp: Friday, October 23 – Sunday, October 25 (Registration opens June 1st)

Get out in the great outdoors and give yourself a little workout! Each year, the camp hosts two work camps, 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 40 energetic souls, but space goes quickly, so be sure to register early. Visit www.uucamp.org and click on “Register for Camp”



Register online with a credit card and guarantee your reservation immediately
Visit www.uucamp.org, then click on “Register for Camp.”
Or use the mail-in form below.
All 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
								\$
								\$
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								\$
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: Card #/Type (VISA/MC/DISC/AMEX)				Expiration Date		Security Code (3 digits MC/VISA/DISC; 4 digits 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 (909) 794-1252
Fax (909) 794-2418
Or scan and email registration form to 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				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 teral@att.net or (626) 840-5412				
Cabinmates:						Additional Information: (shirt size, etc.)				
UU Congregation										
To use a credit card, complete the following: Card #/Type (VISA/MC/DISC/AMEX)						Expiration Date		Security Code (3 digits MC/VISA/DISC; 4 digits AMEX)		

Camp de Benneville Pines
Board of Directors
2014-2015

President
Niel Lynch

Vice President
Betsy Gilpin

Secretary
Karen Quinn

Treasurer
George Yenoki

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Andy Kissner
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Curtis Duffie
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Steve Johnston
Jill Lummus
Teresa Lupian
Trudy Mann
Elvia Prieto
Rhonda Reeves
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.

New Camp Logo Contest

Send in your design by May 31st

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

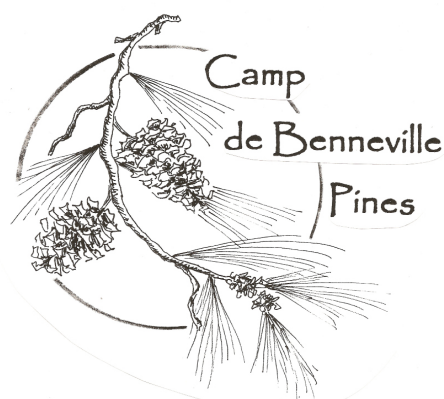
Camp de Benneville Pines Logo Contest
41750 Jenks Lake Road West
Angeles Oaks, CA 92305

An artist will work your idea into a suitable logo and all entries will be posted in the lodge from July 1 to August 30, 2015 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 November 2015 and November 2016. So, let those creative juices flow and help us celebrate 55 years of extraordinary camping experiences with a new camp logo!

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.



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)
director@uucamp.org

Lodge/Kitchen
909-794-8712

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

Camp Website
www.uucamp.org