

Camp de Benneville Pines

Celebrating 56 years serving UU campers of all ages

Connection

Spring/Summer/Fall 2017

Your Unitarian Universalist Mountain Retreat

Kids Net Los Angeles Finds a New Home at de Benneville Pines

by Clarissa D., camp supporter

This year, de Benneville Pines had a golden opportunity to open its home to a different kind of camper. Campers who have no qualms about what's vegan, gluten-free, or the lack of cell phone service up in the mountain. Campers who've never heard of John Muir and his travels through the forest in search of truth and beauty.

During the summer of 2016 de Benneville welcomed Kids Net LA, a non-profit group from Los Angeles whose main mission is to bring kids from inside the foster system up for one week of pure mountain bliss. I spoke with Deanna Wilcox, Executive Director and Ryan Seaton, Camp Director, for a conversation on the role a camp environment has on underprivileged youth and how Kids Net, is fulfilling the link between city kids and the mountains.

It was the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles, located in the Mid-Wilshire district, who originally began a program in early 2000 to send foster children to a church-owned campground in Big Bear, named Cedar Lake. This majestic 270 acre campground, served as the site for volunteer members and youth campers to host adequate programming. Up until its sale

in 2014, Cedar Lake provided all the resources that a kids camp could need, including archery, canoeing, arts and crafts, swimming, volleyball, a ropes course, and of course, camp food. Deanna, originally a volunteer for the church-sponsored program, subsequently took leadership until [they] "found themselves drawing volunteers from other churches and friend-circles, and acquired a certain power of independence." The group met and worked out of a small congregational church in South Central LA for several years, and in 2008, their operation sought and gained 501(c)(3) status as KIDS-NET LOS ANGELES, INC. Up until the price of renting the site spiked, "the church remained very generous" with



the exclusive use of Cedar Lake's campground. While Kids Net was scouting for their next site, Deanna recalled de Benneville's "certain intimacy" and soon found that the camp could offer everything they needed, including the exclusive use of the camp's facilities. Ryan goes on to say that, "exclusivity is important in maintaining camper safety and personal attention." With a maximum of just 36 kids allowed per camp, this allows a chance for everyone to meet and connect with familiar faces. First names are used only, "from the beginning of arrival to minute of departure" to create a community of intimacy and acceptance. Kids Net is entirely made up of a volunteer board having 'morphed over the years', but otherwise has been kept pretty organic. They rely on word of mouth and very little can be found online regarding the specific work they do. To make up for the lack of advertising, they concentrate on connecting with quality volunteers and other resources in the surrounding Los Angeles area.

Less than 10 years old, Kids Net has served exactly 320 children (163 girls and 157 boys) with a successful 40% turnover rate of returning campers. They coordinate with the Department of Children and Family Services and outreach with various foster agencies to help find eligible participants. Caregivers also enroll children who meet the [minimal] requirements to come to camp. The campers, who range from ages 6 -11 years old, come from a variety of backgrounds with individual case management, and who Deanna describe as "little ones who've had a hard start." She tells a story of one young girl who had lived in 9 different places by the time she was eight years old. And, yet another story of a camper who dreamt of being a "future engineer" and who, in 2017, returned to camp as an 18-year-old counselor and engineering student, along with two other teen staff assistants.

Kids Net works to serve not as an extension of their home life, but as an experience for these campers to truly be in a place of pure enjoyment. For one week, and only once a year, they are given an opportunity to exist outside the confines of the city and away from urban distraction. One needs only to breathe the fresh mountain air to know how effective a week in the wilderness can be. Kids Net programming is designed to meet the needs of these youth by providing them with safety, care, attention, fun, and independent learning. While they do have a behavioral specialist on staff, they do not make "teaching therapy" their predominant aim. They rely on the help of the mountains to create the changes in energy, "to naturally induce a sense of adventure and fear, and to form a sense of freedom and responsibility to oneself." While at camp, they are provided a place to build self-image

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Camp de Benneville Pines

Calendar of Events 2017

March

- 3 - 5 Neighborhood & Long Beach UU Family Retreat
- 10 - 12 Girl Scouts of Marina Service Unit (private)
- 17 - 19 *Camp Available for Lease*
Contact Camp: (909) 794-2928 or (909) 435-6298
- 17 - 19 Conejo Valley UU Women's Retreat (Craig's)
- 24 - 26 Rainbow Family Camp #1
See ad on page 4 for additional information
- 31 - 4/2 Harbor Family Camp

April

- 3 - 5 UUA LREDA Renaissance Module Retreat (Craig's)
- 7 - 9 San Dieguito UU Spring Family Retreat
- 13 - 15 Spring Volunteer Work Camp (Thurs - Saturday)
- 21 - 23 UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal
See ad on page 4 for additional information
- 25 - 27 UUCST In-Care (Craig's Cabin, Cabins 5, 6, 7)
- 28 - 30 Camp Recovery
See ad on page 4 for more information.

May

- 3 Pathways Academy (Private)
- 5 - 7 UU Women's Spring Retreat
See ad on page 7 for additional information
- 12 - 14 Zac & Maddalena's Wedding
- 19 - 21 Rainbow Family Camp #2
See ad on page 4 for additional information
- 26 - 29 Nobel MS Theater Arts Program (Private)

June

- 2 - 4 San Diego & Chalice UU Summer Family Retreat
- 5 - 7 Inspire Homeschool Family Retreat (Mon - Wed)
- 9 - 11 Pacific Unitarian Family Retreat
- 13 - 17 KIDZ CAMP (Private)
- 18 - 24 Camp Bravo Theater Arts Camp Week I
See story on page 5 for additional information
- 25 - 6/1 Camp Bravo Theater Arts Camp Week II

July

- 2 - 8 Camp Bravo Theater Arts Camp Week III
- 9 - 15 PSWD Elementary Summer Youth Camp
See ad on page 16 for more information
- 9 - 15 PSWD Counselor in Training Program
See ad on page 16 for more information
- 16 - 22 PSWD Junior High Summer Youth Camp
See ad on page 16 for additional information
- 23 - 29 PSWD Senior High Summer Youth Camp
See ad on page 16 for additional information
- 30 - 8/5 PSWD Summer Family Camp
See page 14 for additional information

August

- 6 - 10 Summer Camp for Adults: Summer Break
See page 13 for additional information
- 6 - 10 Singing in the Pines Choir Camp
See page 13 for additional information
- 12 - 16 Walking the Walk Social Justice Family Camp
See page 10 for additional information
- 18 - 23 Art Groove: Summer Art Program for Adults
See page 12 for additional information
- 25 - 27 Neighborhood UU Summer Family Retreat

September

- 1 - 4 PSWD Young Adult Retreat
See ad on page 17 for additional information
- 8 - 10 Yoga Retreat
See ad on page 17 for additional information
- 11 - 14 Camp Bravo El Rancho School Camp
- 15 - 17 Santa Monica UU Family Retreat
- 22 - 24 ACA Retreat
See ad on page 17 for additional information
- 29 - 10/1 UU Conejo Valley and Monte Vista UU Family Retreat

October

- 2 - 6 Camp Bravo La Jolla Day School
- 6 - 8 Orange Coast/Tapestry/Laguna Beach UU Family Retreat
- 9 - 12 Conejo Valley Homeschool Retreat
- 13 - 15 LA Valley Cluster UU Family Retreat
- 20 - 22 Pine-Con Gaming Retreat
See ad on page 7 for additional information
- 26 - 29 Daughters of Diana Retreat (Thursday - Sunday)
For info: www.daughtersofdianagathering.org

November

- 3 - 5 Music in the Mountains Folk Music Retreat
See ad on page 18 for additional information
- 6 - 8 Volunteer Work Camp (Monday - Wednesday)
- 10 - 12 Fullerton UU Family Retreat
- 13 - 16 Homeschool Rendezvous
See ad on page 4 for additional information
- 17 - 19 PSWD Junior High Winter Camp
For info: registrar@uucamp.org
- 23 - 26 Thanksgiving Family Celebrations Camp
See ad on page 18 for additional information

December

- 1 - 3 Winter Art Camp
- 4 - 24 *Camp Available For Lease*
Special events may be booked
For info: director@uucamp.org (909) 794-2928
- 27 - 1/1 PSWD Senior High Winter Youth Camp
For info: registrar@uucamp.org

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

continued from page 1

in a new space, with new people. They create resilience and quick recovery, and even develop a sense of security in a wild place like the forest. For every two campers there is one counselor, forming a sort of “mini-family” and developing short, meaningful relationships. Being around adults who can be both supportive and silly gives these kids an opportunity for validation and opens up “organic, moral, and loving conversation.” Including support staff and program staff, there is a near 1 adult per camper ratio during the camp week.

The family situations of many children can make it difficult to earn trust and create positive lasting impressions of others. Due in large part to their combined teaching experiences, both Deanna and Ryan have successfully trained staff to exemplify how conflict resolution and team-building is made. They know that kids are extremely observant of the interactions that adults have with one another too. “Kids learn when you’re not looking. They can sometimes push the limits just to see a reaction, and the response by an adult mentor/friend, can be just the key to helping the kids stay on track.”



After getting her MBA at UCLA, Deanna was hired at MGM Studios in Culver City and dedicated a decade and a half working in the film business. It was after a 10-week expedition in Southeast Africa, where Deanna began to shift her journey to fulfill the “need to be doing things that really mattered, to me, and others.” “I took in the care of my aged father, joined a church, and determined to become the teacher I dreamt of being when I was in high school. I got credentials at USC, did a daylong sit-in at LAUSD offices until someone would interview me, and got hired at age 50 to teach English Language Arts at Hamilton High. I loved the work and taught grades 9-12 for 15 years.”

Deanna, a successful grant writer, does not operate KidsNet out of “pot”, instead they have a couple of regular donors who help sustain the cost of running the camp. Caregivers and the foster community pay a small registration fee of only \$50, and KidsNet fundraising takes care of the rest. It costs a little over \$725 per camper (including training + room and board for volunteers) to send a kid to camp for 4 nights/5 days. “Our goal this year is to raise \$30,000 to send KidsNet campers to de Benneville for the second year.” Deanna sees evolving and sustaining the institution as two very pertinent concerns for the longevity of the organization.

“We have a small, but very engaged, board. Volunteers are wonderfully loyal, but marriages and career responsibilities create challenges for volunteer staffing each year, and we definitely need to grow the leadership pool so not so much lands on Ryan’s lap!”

In terms of future counselors, Deanna says that they are in most need of strong male volunteers. She stresses the need for children to have positive male role models, as most foster homes are single females. “Authentic, goofy, playful, talented, and honest men can make the biggest difference.” Both Deanna and Ryan agree they are looking forward to returning to de Benneville this summer. “The swimming pool was perfect, and the lifeguards were great and so patient. Craig’s Cabin...wow... what a great place for us to refocus and relax. The food was amazing, and the staff was so loving. Everyone treated us so warmly. We can’t wait to be back!”

If you would like to learn about volunteer opportunities with KidsNet LA; or if you would like to make a donation to help get a kid to camp, check out the KidsNet LA website at kidsnetla.org.



Kid’s Net Staff

Checks can be sent to Kids-Net Los Angeles, Inc.
P.O Box 251722, Los Angeles, CA 90025.
Your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Thank you Deanna and Ryan for the amazing work you do to change the lives of foster children!

What Greater Gift Than the Gift of Camp

by Harriet Lowe

Let me introduce myself. My name is Harriet Lowe and I’ve worked for the American Camp Association (ACA) for almost 16 years—first as the director of communications and now in a part-time role as editor of *Camping Magazine*, ACA’s official bi-monthly magazine. I have seen the value of the camp experience firsthand.

From the time our grandson Corbin was just a little guy, I told my husband that we’d send him to camp when he is nine years old — “As soon as he’s nine, I’m not taking no for an answer from his parents.” That didn’t turn out to be a problem. My grandson called when he was eight and asked if he could go to camp that summer. I asked him what kind of camp — he said, “Just like the ones you go to — a camp in the woods.”

We had him enrolled before anyone could change their mind. He’s been going to camp ever since—and now he’s 15. We have two other granddaughters who also started camp as soon as they were old enough. Both love it, but our grandson is the true poster child for camp — he believes that camp is his favorite place on earth; he waits to go each year; gets sad when he comes home; and plans how he can keep going each summer until he’s old enough to be a counselor and then he still wants to keep going. Our three grandchildren have each gone from one week to three weeks — it never matters how long; the results are the same.

As campers, they get to spend time learning from caring, young adult mentors in an environment created just for them. And thanks to camp, we have watched our grandchildren learn new skills, make friends, overcome adversity, gain courage, become confident, develop compassion, appreciate diversity, and just plain have a great time. What an amazing investment we are making in their future! What special memories we are providing them! What else could we, as grandparents, give our grandchildren that would offer them more with such extraordinary rewards?

We have two more grandchildren—a little girl age four and a half and a little boy only 16 months. If Addy goes to camp at eight, she only has three and a half years to wait. Zander has longer, but I already have the perfect camp picked out for him.



Harriet Lowe is the editor of *Camping Magazine*, a bi-monthly magazine published by the American Camp Association.



Rainbow Family Camps:

Two Weekends designed with LGBT Families and Their Allies in Mind

Friday, March 24 - Sunday, March 26, 2017

Friday, May 19 - Sunday, May 21, 2017

Join us for an exciting, fun-filled weekend where families with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender parents/guardians come together to build a better community with other LGBTQ families.

Take the opportunity to enjoy dozens of family centered activities in a beautiful outdoor environment and delight in your child's excitement over meeting other children from families "just like yours"! The weekend offers an atmosphere of mutual respect, kindness and support.

Activities include: crafts, hiking, movies, a talent show, costume dance, parent socials, outdoor sports activities, indoor games, and community meals.

Rainbow campers attending in March just may find some snow lingering in the woods, which is always popular with our young campers.

Spring-time campers will be welcomed into a vibrant forest bursting with wildflowers and, of course, the archery range will be open!

For program questions or special needs, contact Janet James, Camp Manager, at 909-435-6298 or email at director@uucamp.org.

Rainbow Family Camp is sponsored by Camp de Benneville Pines. We gratefully acknowledge that without the help of volunteers, Rainbow Family Camping would not be possible.

For more details and pricing, or to register online, visit www.uucamp.org and click on "Camps & Retreats" or fill out the form on page 19.

Don't delay in registering your family.
We expect both events to sell out!

UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal "Love and Loss: Reimagining Our Relationships"

Friday, April 21 - Sunday, April 23, 2017

Are you searching for a fulfilling personal relationship, trying to make an existing relationship work, or grieving the loss of a relationship? We all share these common and challenging concerns. Our lives are full of evolving, changing relationships as well as the anticipations, passions, and joys that often come along with loss and love. Living the mystery of Life can be thrilling as well as daunting, but you will find deep support as we explore together the best of what life has for us.

Men's Renewal offers a safe place in which we can be open to the quest and the process of unpacking the issues that underlie our burdens. We welcome our sometimes-raw emotions and self-aware laughter at our foibles. Join with us in the beautiful setting of Camp de Benneville Pines and discover how our small kinship groups support our work to become more whole with others and within ourselves. We look forward to your presence in our circle of brotherhood.

Scholarships are available for men with need.

Questions? Contact Mike Dorfi at 619-466-5952 or mdorfi@cox.net.

To register or learn more about the retreat: <http://www.firstuumf.org/Flyer-registration-2017-Spring.pdf>



29th Annual Camp Recovery 2017

"Getting into Flow" Camp Recovery 12 Step Retreat

Friday, April 28 – Sunday, April 30, 2017

Camp Recovery Spring Retreat: a place of acceptance, trust and self exploration. Come enjoy a series of workshops and activities with one goal in mind -- finding acceptance for life on life's terms. Practice navigating your feelings and speaking your truth.

Hike a trail, play volleyball, soak in the hot tub, shoot a bullseye at the archery range! There are plenty of fun activities planned, as well as meaningful workshops where self discovery has a purpose.

Throughout the weekend, you will begin to release your grasp on control and self-will by talking, trusting, and feeling in a safe environment. Please join us for a very special weekend of "Getting into Flow".

For more information or to register for this special event, please email Kluane at kluane@earthlink.net or Charles at charlesbd@hotmail.com or log on to camprecovery.org.



Autumn Rendezvous for Homeschool Families

Monday, November 13 - Thursday, November 16, 2017

Dean: Rhonda Blue

Come join other like-minded families for an exciting time exploring nature, relaxing and having fun! Frolic in the woods, whittle a walking stick, or hike to the peak! 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 interest: hiking and scavenger hunting, games and sports, educational and environmental programs, arts and crafts. Enjoy "family time" while the camp staff handles kitchen duty! Autumn is a great time to enjoy the camp. You'll appreciate the smell and tastes of pumpkin pie, hot apple cider, and fresh baked bread.

Each family is assigned their own room with bunk beds. Some double beds are available.

Visit www.uucamp.org and click on "Camps and Retreats" to view all of the details and pricing. This camp is limited to 80 participants. Camp fees include lodging, meals and most activity supplies.



Camp Bravo – Teaching Theater in a Fresh Light

by Judith Martin-Straw

J. David Krassner said “It all came out of going to a high school theater festival. There were 1,700 kids there, doing performance workshops and spontaneous improv, and of course, the atmosphere at a festival like that is all about winning. Competition is so intense.”

Camp Bravo has been a summer feature at Camp de Benneville Pines for decades, and every year gets better. Theater is the main course, but competition is not on the menu.

Krassner and his partner, Artur Cybulski, considered it together over a decade ago, and asked, “What if we created a camp that was not about casting, but about really stretching; taking on all the aspects of theater that are not just aimed at performance? We wanted to create something where everyone starts in the same place and ends in the same place. No winners, and no losers.”



Credit: Bruce Margolis

This is still the mission of Camp Bravo, which this summer runs from June 18 to July 8 in three separate weeklong sessions. Founded in 1994, Camp Bravo is designed to provide young people, ages 10 - 18, interested in the performing arts with a beautiful outdoor setting to explore their talents and expand their creativity through hands on intensive arts training.

Every year, Krassner and Cybulski receive numerous letters and emails from campers thanking them for creating this experience. One camper wrote, “Camp Bravo has not only given performers a place to work on their craft, it has brought together many different kinds of people with one common goal and given them a place to create life-long friendships based on honesty, trust and respect.”

Krassner explained, “It’s not about talent – it’s not about being the star – everyone goes through the experience.” Cybulski added “It’s about building a creative community where collaboration and freedom of expression are emphasized and supported.”



Each summer, new and exciting workshops taught by seasoned arts professionals challenge campers in disciplines such as acting, dance, musical theatre, mask, improvisation, performance art, mime and clowning, playwriting, stage

combat, and Shakespeare.

“I teach a dance class at Camp Bravo,” shared Matt Lara, “and every year at least one camper comes up to me and says ‘I really can’t dance!’ I just smile and nod, knowing that most likely by the end of the week they’ll be flying across the dance floor with a huge smile on their face.”

Both Krassner and Cybulski spent years as professional actors, and have a long list of credits, spanning theater, television and film that they estimate as more than 80 shows. There is nothing abstract about it; theater is their main focus.

“Camp Bravo is all about process over product.” Noted long time Camp Bravo participant Eric Rosloff. “They create an amazing ensemble learning environment where you can focus on developing your skills and passions with no big performance necessary.”

Does the setting really mean that much? Krassner is sure that it does. “And then you add to it the magic of Camp de Benneville, where you take a kid away from their phones and their friends and their HBO, and it’s not about a show, it’s about doing theater. I can’t imagine this program being successful anywhere else but here in the pines.” Krassner and Cybulski



Credit: Bruce Margolis

stress that Camp Bravo is a journey filled with laughter, tears, camaraderie and self-discovery. According to Cybulski, “That can’t happen in a city. The students need the setting of a place like Camp de Benneville Pines to really flourish. It’s really our philosophy mixed with a beautiful location that help nurture such a life-changing experience.”

“The stars up at Bravo are amazing,” another former camper wrote in a letter about her summer camp. “They seem to shine more brightly in the quiet and clear mountain skies than anywhere else in the world. They’re like us--the campers! Because to me, up here at Bravo is where we all are allowed to shine more brightly than anywhere else.”

The week culminates on Friday night with an opportunity for the campers to showcase what they have learned in a heartfelt and emotional theatrical piece. The performance is not simply a talent show. The focus is an ensemble-based expression of their week, performed only to their fellow campers and staff. This night once again emphasizes their “process over product” philosophy. It’s no wonder theatre educator Elena Villa had this to say about the program, “Bravo brings you back to joy. The workshops are brilliant, the people inspirational and the setting breathtaking. It is, in a word, perfection.”



The Story of a Storyteller

by Author Chris Epting, Keynote Speaker for Adult Summer Camp 2017

I'm not sure how I became a storyteller. Like almost everyone, I loved hearing stories as a child and I still do today. But more than hearing stories, the idea of telling them has always been a most enchanting premise for me. My many Italian relatives told stories, like so many mini-operas, which were the lifeblood of countless family get-togethers.

An experience I had around fourth grade helped seal the deal. I had written a little story as part of a classroom assignment. My teacher, the charming and vivacious Tina Rinaldi, actually called my mother after reading my short tale, which, as I recall, had something to do with my wanting to be a baseball player when I grew up. As we all can relate, a phone call home from a teacher is typically something either very good or very bad. Thankfully, in this case, it was the former.

Ms. Rinaldi told my mom that she felt I showed promise as a writer. I thought the world of this teacher and her words had terrific gravity for me.

I officially announced to my somewhat shocked parents that I wanted to be a writer. To me, writer was simply another word for storyteller. Interested and impressed by my proclamation, my parents informed me that a real-life writer, John Cheever, lived not too far down our own country road. His name was instantly familiar to me, not because I had any literary acumen at nine years old, but because my parents had all of his books on our shelves.

So I wrote a brief note to him, letting him know my aspirations and asking him if he had any advice for me. Within several days, I received the following typed letter:

Dear Chris Epting,
It is nice to know that there is another writer living in the neighborhood. One day, I will call you and we will take a walk and talk about writing—period.
John Cheever

Wow, I thought. This is just how it works. You write someone and they write you back. My parents were more than impressed. They both looked thrilled, and my mother in particular seemed beyond words. Several days later, she walked into my room holding the telephone. Pointing at the receiver she held in her hand, she mouthed the words to me, "It's him. John Cheever is on the phone for you."

I had no idea that one of America's great literary lions had rung our house in search of me. To me, it was just that guy whose books sat upon our shelves and who had been nice enough to write a letter back to me.

I took the phone and heard an old voice with a beautifully weathered New England accent invite me over to his house to talk about writing. He asked that I bring something I had written so that he could review it. The next day, my mom dropped me off at his beautiful colonial home on Cedar Lane in Ossining, New York. I was armed with my freshly-written story that had so excited Ms. Rinaldi. His wife, Mary, greeted me at the door, let me inside, and led me to the bright and airy office. There, John Cheever sat behind an antique desk.

For a little while we talked about baseball, then he read my story. First, he told me that if I wanted to be a writer I needed to begin keeping a daily journal. "Will you do that," he asked? I told him I would. He then promised that if I held up my end of the bargain he would help me with my writing. We both agreed, and he tutored me until he died eight years later.

He was a mentor to me but, more importantly, he was also a master storyteller who taught me by simply being himself, telling stories, and describing his life. Listening to him reinforced the idea in my heart that I wanted to somehow be able to convey stories to people in memorable and meaningful ways that would make them happy that they heard them. I've no idea if I've come close to achieving that. But I do know that because of Cheever's inspiration, the encouragement of my family, and teachers like Ms. Rinaldi, I tried.

So far, I've written 28 books about things I love, including travel, popular culture, music, history, and, of course, baseball. Moreover, I've written hundreds, if not thousands, of articles and essays. In each project, I have tried to do one simple thing—tell a good story that people haven't heard before. I have been fortunate enough to travel the world and meet, what I consider to be, some of the most interesting people in this, or any other, universe. Then I share stories about those experiences. I am blessed with a family who enjoys both hearing and telling stories.

Storytelling is much like music in that it's an expressive and emotive art form. It has the power to move us in ways we never thought were movable. This is why I love telling stories in person to like-minded lovers of the form.

Last year I discovered a special place all because of a story I had written. It started with an email from Janet James on January 18, 2016.

"Hi Chris: I really enjoyed reading your article on Natural Attraction in the AAA Westways Magazine. My intrigue led me to go to your site where I viewed your other titles. Many of your books I must get my hands on! I look forward to ordering them and reading away, and then



putting them in our camp's library for others to enjoy!...I am just now putting our PR together for this summer's program, and after reading your article, am wondering if I may reproduce it in my camp newsletter, complete with pictures.

Would you consider allowing us to reproduce your article?"

Several days later, I spoke on the phone with Janet. Soon I received another email from her.

"Dear Chris: I have been so excited ever since I talked with you on the phone about your book, Whistle Stop. I am wondering if you might consider attending our camp "Summer Break: A Walk in the Woods with John Muir," as our guest. Would you offer a lecture each day on one of your books...or more on Roosevelt or Roosevelt and John Muir?"

That's when I stopped reading and checked my calendar. The requested summer days were clear. A chance to wander through an ancient pine forest and tell stories with kindred spirits who enjoy history and the art of getting lost in nature—what could be better? This may have been the easiest decision I made all year.

The months passed by, the mountain thawed, and spring became summer. Before I knew it, I was driving up a road to nearly 7,000 feet and pulling into the kind of place that I dream about almost every day. This tucked away place in the mountains where most of the sounds are made by the wind and the birds was as rugged, rustic, and cozy as could be. The minute I entered Camp de Benneville Pines, I didn't want to leave.

For the better part of a week, I enjoyed spectacular company, great food, and the mystical kind of peace that's only achievable in a forest. Each day, I had the privilege of telling some stories and speaking about life to a group of kind people in a natural amphitheater. Even the occasional squirrel passing by stopped and took some time to listen. Afterwards, people that wanted to talk about writing and storytelling attended a follow-up session. Other guests went off to enjoy camp activities, such as art, hiking, and meditation, which were particularly conducive to our mountain atmosphere.

Each night after dinner many of us would continue our rich, interesting, and provocative conversations. People thanked me for taking time out to talk about my books and experiences, but inside I was laughing to myself because I'm not sure anyone could have felt more privileged than I. With open minds and open hearts the week served as a cathartic and fortifying escape.

We forget sometimes just how hard it is to escape the noise and the static and the coarseness of a society in which each day becomes more pressurized. I know I had forgotten. My first night of camp, I couldn't sleep. At about midnight I wandered outside and took a walk by myself. I found a spot to lie down. Cushioned by the soft and fragrant pine needles, I watched the tail end of a meteor shower. With no city light to wash them out, the comet trails were as vivid and spectacular as any I had ever seen.

There is nothing like being immersed in nature. But there is also nothing like doing so with the right people. After my first full day at camp, although I'd never met anyone there before, it felt like some sort of cosmic reunion. Maybe we had all met at some other place in time, in some past life. Regardless, I was already starting to worry that the end of the week would come too soon. The serenity of the setting was enhanced by the ethos of the companionship. I began to reflect on just how important the human experience is.

In a digitized world we sometimes lose sight of the fact that, as wonderful as technology can be, especially when it comes to communication, nothing can replace the experience of being physically together. Watching someone's eyes as they share a memory or hearing the quiver in a voice as a person recounts many prior moments spent in that very forest are not translatable. Those are things you have to experience in person.

At the end of the week, I got the same sad feelings I used to get as a child when my summer camp was over. What lifted me back then, was to remind myself that I would be back in another year to reconnect with some familiar faces in a place where the sweet smell of pine and cedar campfires and the dewy perfume of morning continue to waft in the mountain air. It was then and there that I made plans to return.

Once back home in Southern California, I told other people about my experience along with a concept that is simple but so necessary. Make time to get away and connect with what matters most to you, be it spiritual, intellectual, inspirational, or any combination thereof.

I am excited as I write this because I'm returning to Camp de Benneville Pines this August. I trust I will be seeing some friends I met at camp last summer. And I'm sure I will get to know some new friends, as well. I cannot wait to tell my stories and hear their stories. I cannot wait to hear how everyone's year has been. I cannot wait to lie on my back and watch meteors and smell the trees and hear the birds and sing the songs and cleanse my soul in one of nature's great cathedrals. That camp up on the hill that I fell in love with last summer has become an important part of my life.

**To learn more about this year's
Summer Break Adult Camp 2017: The Power of Storytelling,
held Sunday, August 6 - Thursday, August 10, 2017,
see ad on page 13.**



PineCon - Gaming in the Mountains

A Family-Friendly Event

Friday, October 20 - Sunday, October 22, 2017

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a weekend with others who share your passion for games. PineCon is a tabletop gaming event designed to keep you as busy with games as you want to be. Tabletop RPGs, board games, and card games are the focus. And, if playing games 100% of the time is a bit much for you...take a hike to Jenks Lake, shoot some arrows at the archery range, or just sit back and relax with a good book. Autumn in the pines is a great time to be at camp.

Here are some comments from last year's attendees:

"It was lovely and you can't beat de Benneville."
"I had a great time and really appreciated the clear but casual structure."
"Loved every minute! Games were great, GM's were amazing, people were friendly!"
"Between the environment, the kind people, and the great games it adds up to one of the best events I've ever been to."
"Easygoing atmosphere, fantastic value, opportunity to try many games with those passionate about the hobby. Best experience I've ever had at de Benneville Pines."

- This event is planned and sponsored by a group of camp enthusiasts!
- It's going to be an amazing event. Come join the fun.
- Price includes food, lodging and all the great outdoors and games you can manage to fit into one weekend!
- REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Follow our Facebook page for updates and notifications.

Web: <https://pineconsite.wordpress.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pineconconvention>



Spring Women's Retreat

Delving in: Self-Empowerment for Mind, Body, and Soul Spiraling Up!

Friday, May 5 – Sunday, May 7, 2017 with additional R & R day on Thursday, May 4

Pause...Breathe...Imagine...Join us for an extraordinary weekend of self-care and revitalization. Enjoy a little me time and let the camaraderie of strong, like-minded women recharge your batteries. Come discover the difference between gentle and Kundalini yoga, and find out which replenishes you. Accompany old friends and new on a wilderness hike. Or settle in to draw or create beautiful tie-dye and handmade jewelry. Practice mindfulness with and without meditation, then drink in the magic of a moon on the edge of fullness. Choose vegan cooking and wine-tasting workshops, or just make your way to the jacuzzi with a little something from the chocolate table. Celebrate your creative side and receive all the beauty, peace, and raucous fun that camp has to offer. Fresh air and a fresh perspective.

Pricing Information

\$205 per person

Early bird rate = \$185 per person if registered by April 15th, 2017

Craig's Cabin – additional \$30 per person

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

Don't put off registering if you have accessibility issues or want to room with a friend.

Visit www.uucamp.org and click on "Camps & Retreats"



About the Theme Speaker



As keynote speaker and workshop leader, Reverend Hannah Petrie will explore three particular dimensions of self-care and empowerment: creativity, intuition, and belonging. Using the works of Clarissa Pinkola Estés and Mary Catherine Bateson, Reverend Hannah will lead a practice of journaling and probing questioning to delve deeply to the heart of our most pressing self-care needs. Reverend Hannah draws insight from Dr. Estés's inspiring "Women Who Run with the Wolves". Discover the myths and stories that speak to you and the 'Wild Woman' inside: one who is both magic and medicine.

Rev. Hannah lives in Alta Dena, CA, with her two young children and husband of 10 years. Currently in her 12th year of full-time parish ministry, she serves the UU Church of Studio City and blogs at JusticeHustle.org.

Volunteer to be a workshop leader and receive an additional discount off the price.
As plans and retreat details unfold, more workshop information will be available.

Our sincere thanks to our women friends of Tapestry UU Congregation for serving on the 2017 retreat planning committee.

Why You Owe It to Yourself to Come to Family Camp

by Benson Troccoli, youth camper



Hey! My name is Benson Troccoli. If you're a regular at camp, you may have heard of me and my parents—we're the weirdos that come all the way from New York State for family and youth camps. I was asked by Janet James to write an article about why new families should come to Family Camp, and I found it kind of difficult to put my experiences into words. I've been going to family camps since 2009, and this past summer was my 7th family camp. I spent a lot of time thinking about what I wanted to write and how I wanted to say it, and I eventually decided to compile...

BENSON'S GRAND LIST OF REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD TOTALLY ATTEND FAMILY CAMP!

1. **It's a safe place for kids to grow up.**

I started attending camp when I was eight years old. Naturally, I've gone through a lot of changes since then. Family camp was one week out of the year where I was allowed to hang out with kids my own age in a space where I was totally safe and surrounded by loving people--just like me!

2. **The people are always kind and friendly, not to mention incredibly accepting.**

If you've ever been to a De Benneville camp, you know the camp staff are the sweetest people ever. The Family Camp volunteer staff, specific to summer Family Camp, are just as wonderful. The camp family, too, is an incredibly diverse and loving group of people who are always more than willing to talk to you and make new friends.

3. **You become part of a new family.**

A while back, I made up the word camp-ily. Basically, when you go to a family camp, you become part of the camp-ily, which means you are instantly loved and welcomed. You never have to worry about being an outsider, because in my seven family camps, I have never seen a case where newcomers (adults and children alike) were not offered seats at tables, invitations to games, and friendly introductions. It never ceases to amaze me how every year my camp-ily grows bigger and bigger, and how I see people who have literally never met before become friends for a lifetime.

4. **There is so much to do!**

You may be thinking, "Benson, friends and everything you mention are great... but what do you do while you're at camp?" My answer is "What don't you do?!" We have great worship and vesper services. Yoga is held every morning for those who wish to attend. We have tons of workshops: slacklining, kids improve games, discussion of previously mentioned worship services, archery, swimming, tie-dye, arts and crafts, and so much more. You can also play the most intense and awesome game of Capture the Flag ever—I am not joking, it's the best. Then there's Harmony Hour—a period of time before dinner where anyone can sing or play an instrument to some of your favorite tunes. After dinner there's always evening activities: night hikes, games, folk dancing, a Talent Show, and star gazing, just to name a few. The best part of all these activities? They're absolutely optional. You don't have to do anything if you don't want to.

5. **It provides a well-needed break from the daily routine and struggles "down the mountain".**

Life is hard, especially in a day and age where technology follows us everywhere. At camp, we like to unplug from our phones to clear our minds and senses, allowing us to fully enjoy everything the mountain has to offer. If you're worried about taking time away from your phones, don't be. Every year I hear people say "I can't go without my phone/tablet/laptop for so long!" But by Tuesday, they've buried their electronics in their bedstand and have totally forgotten about it. It's a rare occasion when you can unplug and relax for even an hour sometimes, but at camp we manage to do this for a full week.

6. **You'll make memories that'll last forever.**

I've grown up at Family Camp, and each year I make so many memories that make me laugh and smile like mad whenever I think of them. I've played so many silly games of Apples to Apples in the Homet Lodge. I've drunk enough hot cocoa to keep myself awake at sleepovers in the library that the tiniest things reduce me into fits of laughter. I've discussed my future plans and goals while riding on a horse made of pool noodles, and I've sang my heart out during the talent show even though I couldn't carry a tune if somebody gave me a bucket to put it in. I've canoed Jenks Lake countless times, and I've stared up at the beauty of the night sky in awe. I can honestly say that all these memories and experiences have shaped me into the goofy and nerdy young man I am today, and I know that as long as I keep going to Family Camp, I will keep on changing for the better.

Of course, these are just a few reasons I believe you should attend family camp. But I truly believe these reasons are important for adults and children alike, you can do so much growing after one week that you'll be changed forever. So please, don't hesitate to join our camp-ily! It's an experience like no other, and I feel like I speak for everyone when I say that you'll be welcomed with loving arms.



For more information on Summer Family Camp see ad on page 14

Magical de Benneville

by Judith Martin-Straw

My last trip to Camp de Benneville Pines lasted only an hour while picking up a child from camp, and it was still magic. I sat on the deck of the lodge and looked at the trees, thinking of all the time we'd spent together, and all the pages of my life that they had read. Fine companions, these trees.

There is a form of meditation that teaches you to 'go to your happy place,' to have an image, a visualization of a spot that truly fills you with joy. I always find myself on the deck of Homet Lodge, looking out at the trees. We have had a long and lovely relationship, one that I treasure more every time we meet again, every time I come back to camp.

In the 1970's Camp de Benneville Pines was still being built, and Pacific Unitarian Church came up for some hammer time. (There are few teenagers who like the phrase 'work party' - for some reason it seems contradictory.) My mother signed me up through PUC to go for a weekend work party at a UU church camp in the San Bernardino Mountains. I was happy to go. It felt like a very adult adventure, and at 17, I was the youngest member of the volunteer crew.

I spent the first few years of grade school in New Jersey, in an area that was very deeply wooded, and I count any landscape with trees as good country. Although the details are lost in the mists of memory, I think we stayed in Cabin Six and worked on Homet Lodge. We put in a good eight hours work every day, and I felt that I had added to something worthwhile; that I was part of something special. Even then I knew that this camp in the woods was a magical place.

I did not return to camp until decades later. I was a weary mother with two small girls coming up for a weekend with the Santa Monica Unitarian Universalist Church. Then, it seemed as if the magic began instantly. The kids were happy to roam around, jumping in mud puddles and playing with Dakota, the camp dog. Unitarians of the west coast don't believe much in miracles, but at that point in life, with a five-year-old and a two-year-old, just showing up and having someone hand me a plate with food that I hadn't had to plan, shop or cook for was completely miraculous. Sitting on the deck with people playing guitars and singing folk songs was a slice of heaven itself. Gathering for worship or workshops, it fed my soul to share with people, and I felt far less alone than I had in a long time.



What I loved, beside the trees, was the ease of the company. Just to be able to stop and chat with someone for a few minutes, or walk by with a nod of greeting. Living in community for a weekend gave me some time to get to know other church members a bit better, and to hear about their connections to the camp. It also made me realize I did not have those easy connections with my Santa Monica neighbors, and I committed to cultivating those when I got off the mountain.

It was at Camp de Benneville that my Southern California children first got to experience snow, at a weekend retreat I had organized for a Santa Monica parents support group. Seeing the wonder on my kids' faces as the snow fell from the sky is a memory I still cherish. They were less thrilled with how very cold it was, and despite layers of down-packed nylon and swaths of scarves, we only lasted a few sled runs before retreating back inside. The hot chocolate and the crackling fire put us back to our preferred temperature zone right away. We all giggled as we felt our noses defrost, our faces melting back to normal. Just like magic.

During the second year of my seemingly endless divorce (it was really only 18 months, but so was the Siege of Stalingrad), I was frayed and exhausted almost to the breaking point. Miraculously, I was invited to add my skill set as a yoga teacher to the annual summer family camp. It gave me and my daughters a truly lifesaving week out of town, an opportunity to teach yoga every morning at the Coffee House and spend even more time with the trees, the quiet winds sweeping down the side of the mountain, reminding me to breathe deeply.

While weekends at camp had been great, the truth of the time spent was that no sooner had I adjusted to the altitude and gotten comfortable than it was time to head back to sea level and "real life." The span of a weeklong family camp, from the gathering on Sunday to closing circle Saturday, gave me a chance to really unpack. Activities like hiking and canoeing at Jenks Lake, late night star-gazing and long evenings of card games at tables filled with friends. Those days added to my life in ways that I still can't fully calculate. True riches are those enjoyed at leisure.

After several truly wonderful years of summer yoga and family camp fun, the administration at family camp changed, and my status as volunteer staff member came to an end. That put family camp financially out of reach just at the same moment that I had been diagnosed with cancer. I was thinking I might not ever get to camp again. As a self employed single parent, not working as volunteer staff at family camp meant not being able to go. Without my "working vacation", that had kept me sane through some tough years, I was left to face my biggest challenge without the sanctuary I loved so much.

A change in administration at my church caused so much conflict that I that stopped attending. Surviving cancer was all the more remarkable when I looked around and saw how little support I really had in my life. Reimagining things was vital to my continued survival.

But from another quarter there was - unexpectedly, miraculously - more magic.

Years earlier, as part of the goddess movement, I'd traveled to a retreat called the Daughters of Diana in Wisconsin, and I imagined it would be a perfect event for Camp de Benneville Pines. Workshops, archery, labyrinth walking; it would be an ideal fit at my camp back home. But with the women who organized the gathering settled firmly in Wisconsin, a West Coast version did not seem likely.

A few years later, after politics and family needs had relocated the Wisconsin women to California, the coordinators of Daughters of Diana chose Camp de Benneville Pines to be the site of their annual gathering. How the stars must have aligned to make that all possible! I got to come back to camp for a glorious autumn weekend, and introduce women I knew from Topanga and Venice and Los Angeles to this delicious slice of the San Bernardino National Forest.

The second year the event was held at Camp de Benneville it was even better than the first, drawing women from as far away as Ireland, Germany and Belize. How wonderful for me that my goddess passion and my camp passion had come together in one perfect place under the pines.

My next trek to camp won't be for me - I'll be dropping off a daughter for a youth camp, as she has come to love the place as much as I have; it's our second home. I might stay for an hour, just to sit on the deck, gaze at the trees and savor the magic.

Ahhhh, the camp magic. It gives me goose bumps just thinking of it. The magic is always waiting for me at Camp de Benneville Pines...along with those trees...those glorious trees that hold the secrets and stories of so many camps and campers gone by.



Judith Martin-Straw with her daughters

Walking the Walk Social Justice Retreat
Saturday, August 12 - Wednesday, August 16, 2017

Raising Resilient Resistance

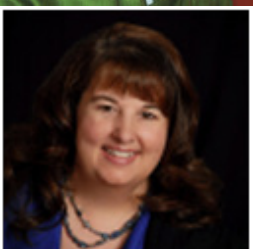


- Learn about key legislation at the state and federal levels critical to advancing justice in the face of the current political climate.
- Gain practical skills, no matter what your experience level, to effective advocacy.
- Attend workshops: engaging legislators effectively, case studies in congregational outreach, cross-cultural competency, communication skills and more.
- Share and learn with other justice leaders on issues including immigrant justice, equity and racial justice, economic justice, environmental justice, healthcare and equality.
- Refresh and revive your spirit with powerful worship and reflection in the peaceful retreat setting of Camp de Benneville Pines.
- Leave replenished and ready to make justice happen!



Special guests include:

Pamela Sparr, Associate Director of Justice Building at The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee



Katia Hansen, J. D., President and CEO of Unitarian Universalist Refugee and Immigrant Services & Education

For more information on these special guests and their important organizations, (UUSC & UURISE) please see article on page 11.

For more information on the social justice retreat, or to register, visit: uujmca.org/walkingthewalk

UURISE and UUSC: Making A Difference



About UURISE: Unitarian Universalist Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education

UURISE provides affordable, trustworthy legal immigration counseling, representation and resettlement services to marginalized immigrants and refugees, and presents educational advocacy to the larger community.

UURISE is creating a prominent national leadership in immigration and refugee advocacy and resettlement.

UURISE is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 2007 to empower immigrants and refugees in the U.S. by offering direct legal services, particularly to those who have few resources to obtain legal assistance. With offices in Vista, CA, UURISE provides legal advice and representation to individual clients; and extends services throughout the U.S. through the provision of workshops and trainings on immigration and advocacy. Through strategic partnerships, intensive coalition building and volunteer development, UURISE has crafted a method of extending legal services to large groups at no or nominal cost. Improving conditions for and treatment of immigrants and refugees is a moral issue that requires ongoing community education and action to raise awareness and impact policy. UURISE actively contributes to the national discourse on immigrant rights and immigration reform, and works with state, county and local officials to provide education and real life examples related to policies which impact the health and wellbeing of our communities.

UURISE is founded on and grounded in Unitarian Universalist principles which include a passionate vision to affirm and promote "a respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person." In harmony with these principles and in accordance with laws governing nonprofit organizations, UURISE is radically inclusive, intentionally creating a safe and welcoming environment for all people, without discrimination.

About Katia Hansen, J.D.

President & CEO of UURISE



Katia Hansen has over 19 years of experience working with nonprofit organizations in San Diego County, and in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. For 15 of those years she has worked on issues related to immigration and human rights, including anti-human trafficking work in Lithuania and Thailand. Katia has been with UURISE since its inception in 2007, first as a founding member of the Board of Directors, transitioning to Program Manager in 2010, and to Director of Programs & Development in 2013. In each of these positions, Katia is thrilled to be able to blend her education and experience as an attorney and social worker with her passion for social justice, empowering people, and advocating for systemic change. Katia is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Standing on the Side of Love Creative Advisory Team, the Social Justice Coordinator for the FarmWorker CARE Coalition, and she represents UURISE on the Advisory Board of the San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium.

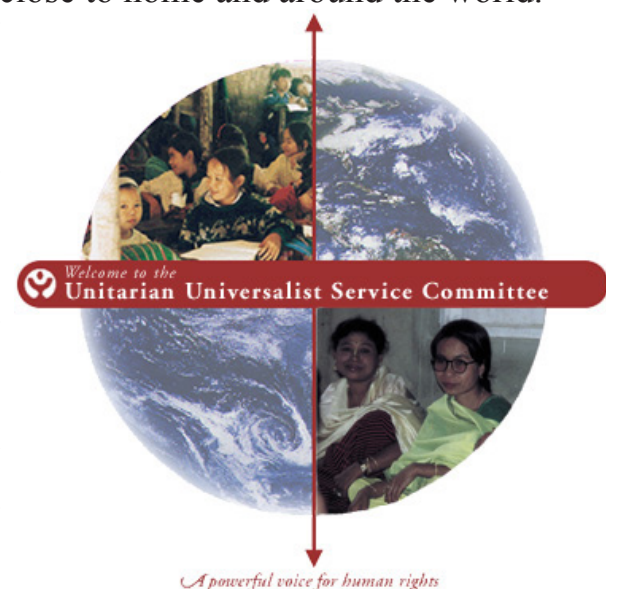


About UUSC: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

UUSC strives to advance human rights through grassroots collaboration. In more than a dozen countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. UUSC's innovative approaches and measurable impact in promoting economic justice, bolstering environmental justice, and protecting rights at risk are grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights.

Building justice is at the heart of everything UUSC and our partners do. They mobilize their members and supporters to advance human rights close to home and around the world.

No matter whether they are organizing an advocacy campaign to bolster their human rights programs or engaging volunteers to take action, the UUSC Justice Building Team is always looking for new ways to involve people in their work, from the most seasoned activists to those who want to participate for the first time.



About Pamela Sparr,

Associate Director of Justice Building at UUSC

Pamela Sparr works to cultivate UUSC's relationship with individual activists and congregations as well as grow its activist base. As associate director for UUSC's Justice-Building Program, she leads the development of campaigns to support UUSC's programs, spearheads advocacy and engagement opportunities for volunteers of all ages, and mobilizes ministers and congregations to advance justice.

Sparr brings strong strategy and program innovation skills to UUSC. She draws on a wealth of professional and volunteer activism experience that has included popular education, national and international movement organizing, civil disobedience, and formal governmental and corporate policy advocacy.

Before joining UUSC, Sparr ran a consulting business that helped nonprofits conduct strategic planning, develop and implement new programs and campaigns, and engage constituents in more powerful ways. Her work included advising the Ford Foundation and international development organizations on anti-poverty strategies, conducting a gender audit of worldwide operations for the AFL-CIO's Solidarity Center, and leading a national advisory group that worked on a justice-oriented sustainability road map for U.S. cities and towns. Sparr holds a bachelor's degree in economics and government from Oberlin College and a master's degree in economics from the New School for Social Research.

“Art Groove” Art Camp for Adults

Friday, August 18 - Wednesday, August 23, 2017



Join visual artists of all kinds for an exciting getaway in the mountains. Our 11th annual Art Groove provides an adventure into creativity and self-expression with paint, sketching, photography, and more! This year, visual artist and creative consultant Debra Mumm will lead an immersive, engaging art experience full of possibility.

Photography with Julie Diebolt Price and Life Drawing with Jean Krumbein are perennial favorites. And then there's painting with a twist. First, Acrylic Painting with an instructor new to Art Groove, Valentina Lamdin. Then, Creating Paintings Full of Texture with Kathleen Scoggin offers the chance to experiment with watercolor, acrylic, inks, and more. By popular request, Michele Ohanesian is teaching Portrait Photography this year.

Afternoons will be filled with workshops, shared discussion, and play. Choose a favorite field of study (or try something new!) and receive expert instruction from professional artists in that field. All materials are provided, and teaching accommodates all levels – from beginner to advanced. Class size is limited to 16 students (12 for Life Drawing) to ensure that instructors give individual attention to every camper.

Early registration is recommended to reserve a space in this popular, adults-only learning vacation. Where anything is possible!

Cost is \$920 per person until June 30, 2017 (\$995 thereafter) and includes instructional workshops, materials, food, lodging, and all activities at de Benneville Pines.

There are a limited number of double-beds available to spouses/partners of artists who want to come for a relaxing week in the mountains without participating in the art programs. The cost for spouses/partners is \$625 (\$700 after June 30).

REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 16TH

To register, please visit www.uucamp.org and click on “Camps & Retreats”. For registration questions, please call (909) 794-1252 (message line only) or e-mail registrar@uucamp.org.

Invite your friends to enjoy fellowship and inspiration among the pines, and get your own Art Groove on in the fresh mountain air.

director@uucamp.org. 909-435-6298

Dean: Debra Mumm <http://www.debraannmumm.com/>



All artwork pictured was produced by students at Art Groove Camps.

Singing In the Pines - UU Choir Camp

Sunday, August 6 - Thursday, August 10, 2017

"I see songs as armor when you need it. And I see songs as a blessing," writes Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell. Singing together can bring joy and solace, encouragement and enlightenment. At choir camp this year, we'll sing songs of hope and connection from many traditions – including canons, hymns, protest songs, and Taize chants. Come and be inspired by the beauty of de Benneville and the power of our collective voices.



This summer's guest choir director is the Rev. Ian W. Riddell who serves as the Minister of Music and Worship Arts at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego. Before he and his husband moved to San Diego in 2015, Rev. Ian served the Las Vegas congregation as Developmental Minister for three years. A graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School and the University of Toronto Faculty of Music, Rev. Ian previously served as Director of Music Ministry in congregations in Madison, Wisconsin, and State College, Pennsylvania, taught music in elementary schools in Victoria, BC, and conducted Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus in Madison and the Mosaic LGBT Choir in Victoria.

Choir camp facilitator Scott Rowe began playing music around the time he could sit up straight, playing the bongos to accompany his mother on the piano. He went on to write music for the hit television show *Rescue 911*, and helped with the production of music for the top ranked television show *C.S.I.* Scott was a recording artist signed to Geffen records

with the band Wild Colonials. His mother also took him to Sunday school at the UU church in Wilmington, Delaware, and now he works as music director at the UU Church in Santa Clarita. He brings his passion for music, people, and community to "Singing in the Pines" by helping to organize the event, singing with the choir, playing various instruments, and leading salsa dancing classes!



If you yearn to connect with others through music, if your heart is open to learning new music, if you want to commune with others for five days at camp, then come add your voice to "Singing in the Pines". Enjoy the morning keynote speaker, swimming, hike to the lake, salsa dancing, R & R, good food and friends...and lots of singing!

For more information about pricing or to register, please visit www.uucamp.org, and click on Camps & Retreats, or fill out the form on page 19. Register by June 30th and save \$30!

Registration opens April 16

Camp Summer Break 2017: The Power of Storytelling

Sunday, August 6 - Thursday, August 10, 2017

Deans: Barbara Shields-Leigh and Cyndy Leigh

Ministers in Residence: Rev. Tom Owen-Towle and Rev. Carolyn Owen-Towle

Join us for a Summer Break in the mountains Sunday afternoon, August 6 through Thursday morning, August 10, 2017, and discover the power of storytelling.

De Benneville Pines invites you to a summer camp designed for adults. Take a break from your cares, the city bustle, and the August heat. Retreat to the beauty of our mountain camp where UU's and like-minded friends share experiences and refresh their souls. Swimming, hiking, crafting, dancing, canoeing, star gazing, socializing, learning, and more! It is all happening during your "Summer Break"!

This year we are inviting storytellers who promise to excite, entertain, and help you improve your own storytelling. Author Chris Epting will be joining us again. Last year, the prolific author wowed us with his vast collection of tales that kept us on the edge of our seats. This year, Chris will present daily morning programs about the journals of our lives. A short morning worship meeting will precede his talk. In addition, throughout the week our camp chaplains the Reverends Tom and Carolyn Owen-Towle will offer spiritual talks in our beautiful new pavilion. During the afternoon, you create your own schedule from a variety of storytelling, craft, writing, and self-help workshops.

Get together with friends for our evening social hour and sing-along program. As night falls you will enjoy the clear summer evening beneath the stars while listening to fascinating storytellers. For instance Teddi Boston will tell her amazing story as the first woman to hike the Pacific Crest Trail alone. Her experiences will inspire you.

"Singing in the Pines" camp will be happening simultaneously with our "Camp Summer Break", and there is always a rich exchange of sharing between the two groups.



For more information and to register for "Camp Summer Break 2017", please visit www.uucamp.org and click on Camps & Retreats, then click on Adult Camps.

Base price : \$480 per person (Register by June 30, 2017 and save \$30)

Double bottom bed in Craig's Cabin: \$60 per person upgrade fee

Twin upper bed in Craig's Cabin: \$50 per person upgrade fee

Twin bottom bed in Cabin #6: \$40 per person upgrade fee

Double bed in Cabins 5, 7, 8: \$40 per person upgrade fee

**** Double beds are reserved for couples and then assigned to others as requested.**

PSWD Family Summer Camp: "Once Upon A Time..."

Sunday, July 30 - Saturday, August 5, 2017

Deans: Rev. Matthew Crary and Stephanie Crary

Once upon a time, at Camp de Benneville Pines, there was a Unitarian Universalist Summer Family Camp filled with beloved fables, fictions, personal narratives, and chronicles of adventure.

Join us for a celebration of story-sharing with creative activities, events, and workshops for all ages. Families will grow closer through the power of the stories they share and a tapestry of tales from friends old and new.

Of course, there will be your favorite family-centered camp activities: swimming, hiking, paddling at Jenks Lake, crafting, singing, dancing, and more! Take the time to relax, play a game, explore, and worship under the pines. Laugh, learn, love, and then take home some new stories to cherish.

"After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world." – Philip Pullman

And remember to register early! This camp sells out fast!

Pricing:

\$395 per adult

\$365 per teen (13- 18)

\$345 per child (3 - 12)

\$100 baby/toddler (0 - 2)

Cabin 6 upgrade: \$60 per adult

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

*Craig's Cabin is reserved for PSWD volunteer staff only. We apologize for any disappointment.

\$75 non refundable deposit per person required.

Monthly payment plans available.

To register, visit www.uucamp.org and click on "Camps & Retreats" and click on "Family Camps" or fill out the form on page 19.

THIS WEEK OF SUMMER FUN IS DESIGNED WITH FAMILIES IN MIND



The Telling of Tales: Two Remarkable Women and Their Journeys

by Author Chris Epting

At last year's adult camp at de Benneville Pines, one of my talks was built around a book of mine that had just come out, a memoir written with the great Olympic swimmer Shirley Babashoff. There was a terrific response to her courageous tale, and after finishing I made my way down to another presentation where an 89-year-old woman named Teddi Boston was about to recount her remarkable walk (alone) across the Pacific Crest Trail 40 years earlier.

To say I was blown away would be an understatement. And I think I'm speaking for many others that filled the room on that perfectly still summer day last August. For starters, Teddi has the energy and bounding spirit of someone half her age. Rather than a twinkle, she has fire in her eyes and her stories were riveting, poignant and emotional. One thing that struck me was that back in 1976, while Teddi was on her solo trek in the middle of nowhere, the subject of my book, Shirley Babashoff, was at that same moment dealing with her own challenges at the Olympic Games in Montréal. That these two remarkable women were both on their own personal stages changing history at the same precise moment struck me as something very profound.

Speaking with Teddi after her presentation, we arranged to have lunch the next day, and we got to talking about why she never got around to writing her own memoir. After all, she had kept detailed notes and a thorough diary. She told me in her chipper, upbeat way that she had simply never met the right person to work with. Well the more we got to talking the more it felt like maybe that was about to change.

And now here we are in mid-winter, working on her memoir which is tentatively titled, *Alone (but never lonely)*. We joked last summer that perhaps her book might be ready by the next adult camp. Well, as they say, there's a germ of truth to every joke, and it looks like this summer I will be back at camp with Teddi and the new book that we started talking about last summer.

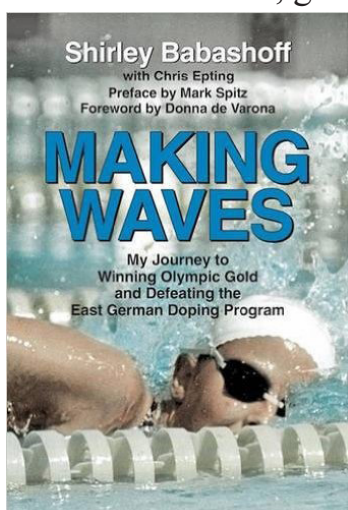
The theme for this summer's Adult Camp will be "the power of storytelling", and I can't think of anyone better than Teddi to get that ball rolling. Of course, storytelling doesn't mean that you have to get up and tell your own tales or write your own memoirs. After all, good storytellers require an audience, and if you like to sit back and hear good stories, no doubt those will be

in abundance this August. That said, for those who are interested in crafting their own histories, sharing their own experiences and helping breathe more life into what I consider to be the ultimate American art form, storytelling, please know that we're going to have a lot of fun up in the mountains this August.

Teddi's journey is a rich and rugged adventure that I find to be truly timeless. But, that said, everyone's life is an adventure, which is why I am so looking forward to this summer's camp. And who knows, maybe a topic will arise that will feel so special and so monumental that it may wind up in book form! Stranger things have happened at Camp de Benneville Pines. And I believe, when there are good storytellers present, anything is possible.



Teddi Boston in 1975



To learn more about this year's Camp Summer Break 2017: The Power of Storytelling, held Sunday, August 6 - Thursday, August 10, see ad on page 13.

Camp de Benneville Pines Begins 2020 Vision Campaign

Submitted by Jacki Weber, Development Director

With Janet James at the helm for more than 20 years, de Benneville Pines has covered most of camp’s operating expenses with registration fees. She’s amazing at setting spending priorities and sticking to a plan. But any time a pipe bursts or the camp needs to redo a roof, she struggles to raise the funds to make repairs. It is hard to get the message off the mountain that special funds are needed in an emergency or for a planned building project. Janet has dreams – that I think many of us share – that de Benneville Pines will thrive for our kids and for their children for many generations to come. Last year, a small group of families banded together to provide seed funding for camp to create and implement an organizational and fund development program to make camp stronger for decades.

2020 Vision

The vision for de Benneville Pines is that camp is a powerful place where people find inspiration in community. We reconnect to the power of the spiritual. We marvel at the wonders of nature. We can’t help but be filled with hope for the future, and we find ways to be good stewards of our world.

There’s a lot we can do to help camp more fully embody that vision. Right now, the de Benneville Pines board of directors is looking at three areas of focus for the coming three years:

- Strengthening youth and family engagement in the UU movement
- Improving the facilities with purposeful and well-planned upgrades
- Leading in environmental stewardship

This year the Board of Directors will develop a 10-year master site plan. Its aim is to make the Camp de Benneville Pines experience better for youth and adults who come to camp as well as those who work at camp. The plan will address things like:

- Adding counselor accommodations in all of our cabins so we can provide the best supervision possible
- Addressing accessibility issues so that our senior campers and those on wheels can get around camp more safely
- Creating a multipurpose indoor space for worship, workshops, and theater arts programs
- Modernizing and improving staff housing for camp employees. Did you know that our summer staff still sleep in tents?

Beyond a site master plan, an organizational plan will illustrate a vision for camp that inspires people to support camp today; invest in priority initiative areas; and leave a legacy that keeps camp strong for future generations.

In 2018 and 2019 we will be hard at work raising money to implement the first phase of the site master plan and the organizational development plan. By 2020, we should be in full swing with a stronger camp and construction on the first phase of improvement will be well on its way.

Want to find out more?

We are launching a fund development website for camp supporters. Debennevillepines.org will go live in March 2017. You can sign up to keep abreast of developments and find out more about how you can get involved. In the meantime, if you’re interested in learning more, you can email development@uucamp.org.



About Jacki Weber

Jacki is a fundraising professional with more than 20 years in the field. Most recently, Jacki served as Chief Development Officer for Homeboy Industries, the gang rehab and reentry center founded by Father Greg Boyle. A UU since 2001 when her son was born, Jacki now has three kids steeped in UU “spiritual tea.” She’s active in her local Santa Monica congregation, and she deans Santa Monica’s congregational retreat weekend, as well as camp’s annual Thanksgiving celebration.

Share the Vision

Thanks to hundreds of friends of de Benneville Pines for opening their hearts and giving to the camp’s annual fund drive, especially to our incredibly generous donors who put up a matching challenge. We raised over \$100,000 to support our Share the Vision Fund to complete an array of projects around camp from new roofs and cabin heaters to new lodge doors and much more.

We are deeply grateful to all donors, including those listed below who supported camp with gifts of at least \$250 in 2016.

Michael Akseven
Ellie Anderla
Kathleen Anderson
Anthony Schoenberg
Michelle Bowen Berlin
Edith Ann Block
Joyce Block-Miller
Corwin Brown
Barbara Calvi
Camp Recovery
Doris Dressler Clark
Kathryn Cole
McLane Downing
Andrew Eaton
Karen Eckhart
Peter Farriday
First UU Church of San Diego
Friends of de Benneville Pines
Andy & Marie French
Betsy Gilpin
Philip Goldsmith
Richard & Virginia Granoff
Chris & Liz Heaton
David Henkel

Lawrence & Suzanne Hess
Celia Hoenig
John & Peggy Holl
Janet James & Robert Gamp
Michael Jarvis
Thurman Jessup
Jay Kay
Martha Kazlo
Tracy King
Christina Kingshill
Eric & Louise Klatt
Sandra Kroll
Joanne Leovy
Live Oak UU Congregation
Long Beach UU Church
Beverly Majors
Charles McKinnon
Mark Monninger
Jerry & Sue Moore
Melinda Moore
Darlanne Mulmat
Glenn Noreen
Pete Nortman
Tom & Anne Thorward

Revs. Tom & Carolyn Owen-Towle
Paula Petersen
Marty & Joyce Poole
Thomas Powers
Cat Prindle
Karen & Ross Quinn
Judith Rafael
IN FAITH Foundation/Renaissance Foundation
Leslie Reuter
Terrance Robinson
Liz Bear
UU Church of Santa Monica
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Ingrid Slizewski
Sue-Ann Solem
Margaret Stallworthy
Steve & Helen Stapenhorst
Casey Williams
Rebecca Swenson
Tad Waddington
UU Congregation in Fullerton
Williams Company
John Zinner
Rev. Betty & Tom Stapleford

De Benneville Pines covers most of camp’s operating expenses with registration fees, but your charitable contributions make all the difference as we work to make camp more accessible & inviting for all who come. Most large repair/maintenance projects, along with camper scholarships, are funded through these gifts.

If you were a 2016 donor and did not receive an email or USPS letter of acknowledgement from us, please let us know! This year we consolidated our records into one donor database and we may have missed entering a few donor names in the process. We want to thank you! Email jacki.weber@gmail.com.

Share the Vision with us. Donate today at debennevillepines.org.

PSWD Summer YoUth Camps 2017

Cost \$595

\$495 if registered by April 15, 2017

Submit registration with a \$75 non-refundable deposit,
full balance due one week before start of camp.

No refunds after check-in.

Elementary Camp: Campers completing grades 2 – 5
Junior High Camp: Campers completing grades 6 – 8
Senior High Camp: Campers completing grades 9 – 12

Registration Form on Page 19

Or visit www.uucamp.org and click “Camps & Retreats”

Elementary Summer Camp “It’s in Everyone of Us...”

Sunday, July 9 – Saturday, July 15, 2017

Deans: Celeste Plumlee & Danielle Bell

Every single person alive has the ability to love, to think, to learn, and to grow. And when we do this together, in a community of friends, we grow stronger and bolder. These are the tools that help make the world a better place.

Camp is joy! We hike, we swim, we laugh, we sing. We create, we shoot arrows (safely, at targets!), we eat good food, and breathe fresh air. By making new friends and trying new things we build an amazing community of love and acceptance. Our theme, “It’s in Every One of Us,” connects the splendor of nature around us with the same awesomeness inside us all.

Campers are well cared-for by trained counselors who are guided by Unitarian Universalist principles and work to build a loving and inclusive camp community. Don’t miss this opportunity for a fabulous adventure in the forest! The new and rich experiences that kids gain at Elementary Summer Camp can be genuinely life-changing.

This event is for campers completing grades 2nd – 5th.

Junior High Summer Camp “Camp HOPE: The Journey Continues”

Sunday, July 16 – Saturday, July 22, 2017

Deans: Kathleen Moscato and Marianne Swift-Gifford

Who are we? Who are we becoming? Being UU is to live our beliefs and our seven principles. But, because ours is a creedless faith, discovering for yourself what that means can be challenging. Come explore with us how the covenant of Unitarian Universalism translates into life choices and everyday actions.

At Junior High Summer camp, trained counselors foster an accepting community of hope and resilience as we cultivate those characteristics in ourselves. Camp shows us the wellspring of joy and strength we all possess, even in the depths of mystery...the unknown.

Your journey is like no other. Your talents are unique to you, and your gifts can make a difference in ways others can’t. Your journey brings opportunities, every day, to make a difference and to share that hope with others, just by being YOU! Camp HOPE: Heart Open, Please Enter.

Come get away from it all and continue your UU journey with us at Junior High Summer Camp. Campers may participate in swimming, hiking, archery, team-building, games, arts and crafts, singing and dancing, and much, much more! Make friends for a lifetime, and together, become a force for good in the world. Camp de Benneville Pines calls us to realize our potential. Join us for the adventure.

This camp is for campers completing grades 6th – 8th.

“Once you choose hope, anything is possible.” - Christopher Reeve



Senior High Summer Camp “Camp JUustice League”

Sunday, July 23 – Saturday, July 29, 2017

Youth Co-Deans: Devon Swafford & Lucas Weed

Adult Deans: Lauren Worley & Riley Brazell

Today’s world seems to be filled with injustice, and it can be hard to fight alone. That’s why we are calling YOU to help form a JUustice League! This summer, flash up to Camp de Benneville Pines for a week of adventure and fun. The power of unity and our UU values can confront the forces of evil! Senior High Summer Camp will use the teachings of seven superheroes to convey our core principals. We’ll delve into what makes each and every one of us “super,” then reflect each day on what heroes believe in. Come, explore ideas like self-actualization and equality through activities designed to be both fun and meaningful. These include nature challenges with Batman and Superman, Poolympics with Aquaman, harnessing the power of will with the Green Lantern, and fighting for women’s rights with Wonder Woman. Senior High camp offers all the classic de Benneville experiences: hiking, archery, a service project, night crossing, raps, arts and crafts, dancing, singing, and much more. Don’t miss out! In brightest day and blackest night our camp will stand against the injustice in our world. So join a community as welcoming as it is powerful, and awaken the hero within yourself.

This camp is for campers completing grades 9th – 12th

PSWD’s Counselor-in-Training Program

Sunday, July 9 - Saturday, July 15, 2017

CIT Coordinators: Mary Carter Vail and Melinda Merkel Iyer

Do you want to share your amazing Camp de Benneville Pines experience with the next generation of campers? Ready for a summer of hard work and serious responsibility, mixed with outrageous fun and friendship? Then the CIT program is for you.

Jump in! A week of intensive learning lets you discover camp behind the scenes. We’ll explore individual leadership styles, build skills for working with children, and learn to lead age-appropriate workshops and games. We’ll practice emergency situations, conflict management strategies, and teach you how to be an all-round, top-notch counselor. CITs build a deeper connection to camp and to each other. The group plays a vital role in the joy and growth of the Elementary Camp community. Training takes place during the mornings. Then in the afternoons, CITs gain practical experience by assisting cabin counselors and program staff with campers and programs.

Space is limited to eight participants, with the goal that all selected will complete the program and be recommended to serve as a counselor for future camps – though this is not guaranteed. Applicants should be willing to commit to counseling for several years after completing the CIT program. Applicants must be 15 to 18 years old. A formal CIT application will be sent upon receipt of deposit and registration; applications, including letters of recommendation, must be received by May 20, 2017. Final notification of acceptance will be made by June 3, 2017.

Cost: \$425 (no discounts available for this program)

PSWD Young Adult Camp “Transforming Justice” A Retreat for Unitarian Universalists ages 18 - 35

Friday, September 1 – Monday, September 4, 2017

Deans: Ambar Pakdivichit & Bay Grabowski



Join us for UU Young Adult Camp, where we will transform ourselves through social justice work. Learn about different social justice movements and how to engage with them. Workshops, identity caucusing, and abundant opportunities for self-reflection will guide us as we heed the call to action in the wider world.

Together we will build community by learning about ourselves and each other. Relax over the long Labor Day weekend with arts and crafts, fresh mountain air, and pool time! Bridging senior high campers are encouraged to join this very special camp community. Fresh ideas, new leaders, and innovative workshop facilitators are always welcome! Come discover a special group of people in a very special place.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 35, then PSWD Young Adult Camp awaits you.

For more information, including pricing and registration, email yacampregistrar@gmail.com, or check out the calendar at www.uucamp.org for the registration link.

“The Many Faces of Yoga”

Friday, September 8 – Sunday, September 10, 2017

Deans: Lisa Harris and Kathy Bolte

When most people think of yoga, they call to mind images of “bendy” people doing “pretzel” poses. But that is only one small expression of yoga. There are many ways for people to practice yoga: breath practices, meditation practices, sound practices, health practices, mindfulness practices, and yes, the physical poses. These are all beautiful expressions of yoga, or the “union” of mind, body and spirit.

All skill levels from beginners to advanced yoga practitioners welcome! Sign up early to assure your place in this weekend of yoga expressions. Join Lisa and Kathy, along with all of the wonderful teachers they have gathered for Yoga Camp 2017.

Come explore The Many Faces of Yoga!

Price includes food, lodging, classes and activities

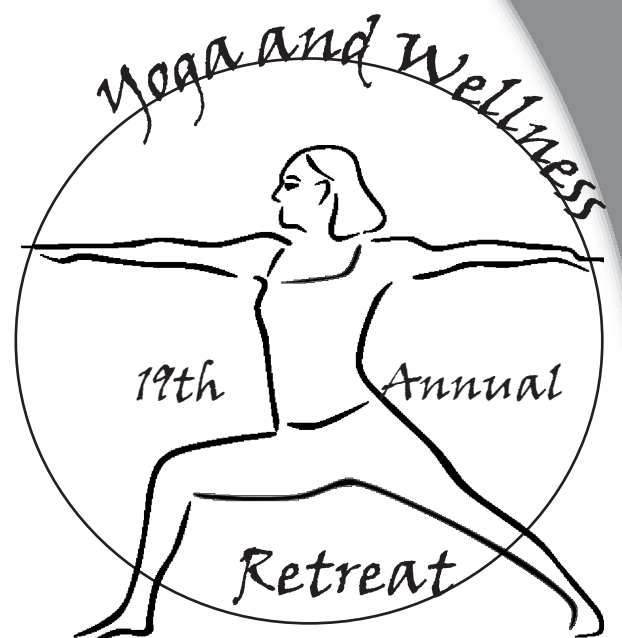
\$195 per person if registered by July 30

\$220 per person standard rate thereafter

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

Thursday arrival: + \$20 per person (Lodging only, bring picnic food.)

Additional fees apply for massage, acupuncture and individual instruction



To register, visit www.uucamp.org and click “Camps & Retreats”
Or fill out the form on page 19.

Non-refundable deposit of \$75 per person must accompany reservation.
Registration opens April 16



Orange County ACA presents the 29th Annual 12-Step Fall Mountain Retreat

Friday, September 22 – Sunday, September 24, 2017
Featuring ACA & 12-Step Program Workshops

Enjoy 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.

Activities include: 12-Step Meetings, Arts & Crafts, Warm-Fuzzies, Hiking, Saturday evening “Talent / No Talent” Show followed by a dance, Pool & Jacuzzi, and Massage (for an additional fee).

For information and pricing, visit acafallmountainretreat@gmail.com or call 562-367-4325

Save The Dates for Winter Fun 2017 - 2018!

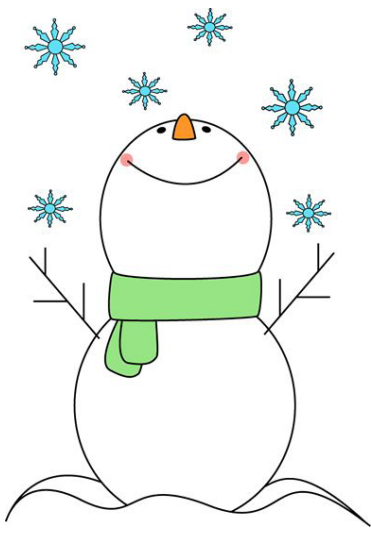
More details to come on these winter youth camp experiences!

PSWD Junior High Winter Camp November 17 - 19, 2017

PSWD Senior High Winter Camp December 27, 2017 - January 1, 2018

PSWD Elementary/Family Winter Camp February 17 - 19, 2018

Watch our website for details – www.uucamp.org



Music in the Mountains

Friday, November 3 – Sunday, November 5, 2017

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 “Camps & Retreats”

Registration opens April 16



Thanksgiving Celebration: A Family Tradition

Thursday, November 23 – Sunday, November 26, 2017

This Thanksgiving, take part in our traditional intergenerational camp offered over the holiday weekend at Camp de Benneville Pines. Enjoy the best, most hassle-free Thanksgiving you have ever experienced! Relax by the roaring lodge fire or take an energizing 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): \$155 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 “Camps & Retreats”.



Registration opens April 16

Volunteer Work Days 2017

Spring work camp: Thursday, April 13 - Saturday, April 15, 2017 (Easter Sunday is April 16)
Fall work camp: Monday, November 6 - Wednesday, November 8, 2017

There has always been a volunteer spirit at Camp de Benneville Pines, and that can-do attitude is what keeps our camp in such good repair. Whether painting a cabin, performing fire clearance measures, repairing pool furniture or staining the decks, volunteers from all over the district come to camp for a few days to get a little workout and enjoy the great outdoors. Each year the camp hosts two work camps, and we invite anyone age 11 or older to join in the experience. Rake leaves, clean rain gutters or split wood. Your help is needed and appreciated each and every spring and fall. Delicious food and comfortable accommodations are provided in exchange for the sweat of your brow!

Camp de Benneville Pines was built by the loving hands of thousands of district volunteers, and the tradition lives on with those who choose to take care of the camp in many helpful ways. We have room for 50 energetic souls, and hope you will join with us in community and camaraderie to spiff up the place!

Visit www.uucamp.org and click on “Camps & Retreats” or fill out the form on page 19.



Register online with a credit card and guarantee your reservation immediately
Visit www.uucamp.org, then click on “Camps & Retreats”.
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
								\$
								\$
								\$
								\$
Total enclosed/to be charged								\$
Address				Home Phone				
City & State				Cell Phone				
Zip	If you would like to receive confirmation that we have received your registration or if you would like to charge your fees, please include an e-mail address.			E-Mail				
Circle Requests:	Craig's Cabin	Cabin 6	Double Bed (upgrade may apply)		Bottom Bunk		Carpool (if available)	
Cabinmates:				Additional Information:				
UU Congregation								
To use a credit card, complete the following:				Expiration Date		Security Code (3 digits MC/VISA/DISC; 4 digits AMEX)		
Card #/Type (VISA/MC/DISC/AMEX)								



UUACCC
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ALLIANCE
OF CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTERS

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

Or scan and email registration form to registrar@uucamp.org



UUACCC
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ALLIANCE
OF CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTERS

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:						Expiration Date		Security Code (3 digits MC/VISA/DISC; 4 digits AMEX)		
Card #/Type (VISA/MC/DISC/AMEX)										

Camp de Benneville Pines
Board of Directors

2017 – 2018

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Andy Kissner

Vice President

Randy McDaniel

Secretary

Betsy Gilpin

Treasurer

Glenn Noreen

Members at Large

Michael Akseven

Nancy Fisk

Louise Klatt

Beth Leehy

Paul Wallace

Executive Director

Janet James

Camp Staff

Ed Bagdon

Daniel Caple

Randy Carroll Bradd

Fenay Ellis

Jackie Emery

Niki Giberson

Steve Johnston

Jill Lummus

Teresa Lupian

Trudy Mann

Elvia Prieto

Rhonda Reeves

Lori Standley

Our Mission:

Camp de Benneville Pines welcomes UUs and kindred spirits to connect in nature, igniting creativity and capacity to bring about positive change in the world.

Vision

We are integral to the growth of our Unitarian Universalist faith and we are impactful: for people, communities and our environment.

Values

We cherish and want to preserve our natural environment

We promote play and recreation in life-affirming ways

We encourage lifelong learning and spiritual growth

We can build beloved community

We can change the world for the better

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.

Editor
Shenoa Carroll-Bradd

Our sincere thanks to all contributors of stories and photos



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.

Love Camp? Join our staff and be part of the magic!
Summer Employment Opportunities at Camp!

Enthusiastic workers needed June through August
Hourly wage, plus room and board.
Office and kitchen work available.

Email inquiries to director@uucamp.org

Welcome to the Campers of Tomorrow!

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. line)
registrar@uucamp.org
Camp Website
www.uucamp.org

Elliott Martin Haider-Winnett

Born February 14, 2017
to Christine Haider-Winnett
and Alex Haider-Winnett,
former YRUU & Young Adult
campers who met & married at
Camp de Benneville Pines.

Ellison Ezra Anthony Thompson

Born December 10, 2016
to Katrina Daly Thompson and
Anthony Leubbert.
Katrina is a former Young Adult,
Thanksgiving, and Family camper.

Alexander Hsu Patterson

Born January 30, 2017
to Karen Hsu Patterson
and Dan Patterson,
former Young Adult campers.

James Robinson Goodman

Born June 8, 2016
to Sara Goodman and Shawn
Goodman, former YRUU, Young
Adult, and Family campers.