

Camp de Benneville Pines

Celebrating 57 years serving UU campers of all ages

Connection

Spring/Summer/Fall 2018

Your Unitarian Universalist Mountain Retreat

Awakening at Camp: Finding the Truest Version of Ourselves

by Ross Quinn, MD, adapted from sermons given at the Closing Ceremony of the 2014 Thanksgiving Camp, and at the UU Society of the High Desert September, 2017.

The last time I had the privilege of leading a Camp closing ceremony was about 50 years ago. It was the close of the 1966 LRY Summer Camp and I was Fed president. I don't remember too much about it, except that we were in high school, like the kids around us this Holiday, and we hugged a lot. We sang "We Would Be One," and talked movingly about our friendships, our love and through our tears, we swore we would bring what we had discovered about ourselves and each other, back to the "real world down the mountain," to change it.

I fear I mostly failed that oath, maybe under the pressures of my peers, maybe under self-imposed pressure. This feeling of failure always makes me crave to be with my friends here, and to bask in the special ways we seem to be able to understand and respect each other.

Back in 1966, we did not have the 7 Principles, nor their sources. We didn't have OWL or the internet. What we did have was a capacity for directness, honesty and compassion, which we strove for consciously. We developed an ability to talk with each other about the things we thought really counted: relationships and community. Well, I've grown up a bit since then, and yet some things never really change.

I lived out of Southern California for about 38 years, until my second wife, Karen, and I moved back from Ohio. We soon came back to Camp, and I immediately felt the powerful hold this place has on me. And I finally figured out something about why this is true, why it's important to me.

This is a part of it: here at Camp I learned consciously (at the UU Men's Retreat kinship group), what we unconsciously intuited in LRY- the power of first person. "I Talk" breaks through superficial and defensive intellectualizing, and deeply pierces into one's heart. It teaches you not to want to hear or tell unconnected stories about "things" that happen. "I Talk" teaches you to want to hear how it is for the other person when "things" touch their heart. It teaches you to honestly attempt to speak the important things, to tell how it feels when "things touch your own heart." And to fully embrace the connection being made between people; speaker and listener.



Here's another part: I am compelled to make room for the artist in me. Currently my passion is photography; before that it was high fire wheel ceramics. To create my art, inspiration now comes through a process. When I go into the woods to photograph, there's often a mission. I purposely try to notice something different, something I haven't seen before. It may be the angle of the morning light, or the random way creek water splashes on a rock. It may be a pattern in fallen pine cones, or animal tracks, or even just an appealing color. After I feel inspired comes the sweat of trying to capture the vision.

This is harder than it used to be. My hands, formerly really steady, have taken to a fine tremor at times, so now I lug a tripod with me. My once perfect eyes are now about 20/30 and require ever stronger correction in my lenses, which distort my visual field. I cannot always tell what is in focus. I have begun to rely completely on fast shutter speeds, image stabilization settings on my lenses, and automatic focusing. This reliance feels more mechanical and less artistic. I take lots more shots than I did years ago, hoping that maybe one in five will turn out as my mind's eye has seen it. All that is just to push the shutter button.

But to get to that requires an almost laughable sequence of posturing and framing, all the while zooming the lens just to try to get the best angle, exposure, or proper depth of field. I fiddle with the ASA settings, exposure compensation, spot metering, and shutter speed. Then grace happens, and I shoot a keeper. And then I know the truth: Inspiration is always there, all around me, if I open myself to it, let go of conscious control, and let it happen. This is my Zen of photography, learning to see.

Spiritual naturalist Annie Dillard, in her wonderful book "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek" writes about previously blind children's first moments of sight after removal of congenital cataracts. One child spoke of seeing "the tree with lights." Learning to see the tree with lights, with a new vision, and then learning how to best photograph it is a quest of mine. The first tree with lights to find me was in the canyon pocket of a stream, high in the Sierras: a flaming birch or alder, high up, and perfect. I was awestruck. But I knew I didn't have the skill, equipment, or experience to capture the photograph I envisioned. Over the years I invested in equipment and in taking photography classes with professional teachers here at Art Groove Camp. And here at Camp I learned how to empty myself, to jettison my preconceptions and let this place and the moment speak to me.

Those are moments of a deep grace, a gift of perception that charges me. They require a consciousness, an awareness: one must be awake. UU Rev. George Kimmich Beach in his book "Questions for a Religious Journey" poses two key questions: "How do you break free?" and "What do you respond to at the deepest level of your being with wonder, love, and hope?" Those questions happily resonate with me at a very deep level, culminating in the "aha" moment of realization.

I break free in my practice of photography walks in the woods, in my art. I have come to realize that what I respond to at the deepest level of my being is helping people to become awake to themselves, to learn to see

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Camp de Benneville Pines

Calendar of Events 2018

March

- 2 - 4 Neighborhood UU & Long Beach Family Retreat
- 8 - 11 LA Songmakers Retreat (CC & C6)
Camp Available for Lease: (909) 794-2928
- 13 - 15 UUCST In-Care (Craig's Cabin, Cabin 6)
- 16 - 18 Girl Scouts of Marina Service Unit (Private Group)
- 16 - 18 Conejo Valley UU Women's Retreat (CC & 6)
- 23 - 25 Rainbow Family Camp #1
See ad on page 4 for additional information
- 26 - 29 Inspire Homeschool Camp (Private Group)

April

- 2 - 4 Spring Volunteer Work Camp (Mon – Wed)
See ad on page 18 for more information
- 6 - 8 San Dieguito UU Family Retreat
- 13 - 15 Camp Transcend Family Retreat
See ad on page 8 for more information
- 20 - 22 UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal
See ad on page 4 for more information
- 27 - 29 Camp Recovery 12-Step Retreat
See ad on page 4 for more information

May

- 2 Pathways Academy (Private Group)
- 4 - 6 UU Women's Spring Retreat
See ad on page 7 for more information
- 11 - 13 David & Kelley's Wedding (Private Group)
- 18 - 20 Rainbow Family Camp #2 & GBLT Youth Retreat
See ad on page 4 for additional information
- 25 - 28 Camp Bravo Camper Reunion

June

- 1 - 3 San Diego & Chalice UU Family Retreat
- 5 - 7 *Camp Available for Lease*
- 8 - 10 Pacific Unitarian Church Family Retreat
- 12 - 16 *Camp Available for Lease*
- 17 - 23 Camp Bravo Theatre Arts Camp Week 1
www.campbravo.org
- 24 - 30 Camp Bravo Theatre Arts Camp Week 2
www.campbravo.org

July

- 1 - 7 Camp Bravo Theatre Arts Camp Week 3
www.campbravo.org
- 8 - 14 PSWD Elementary Summer Youth Camp
See ad on page 16 for more information
- 8 - 14 PSWD Counselor-in-Training Program
See ad on page 16 for more information
- 15 - 21 PSWD Junior High Summer Youth Camp
See ad on page 16 for more information
- 22 - 28 PSWD Senior High Summer Youth Camp
See ad on page 16 for more information
- 29 - 8/4 PSWD Summer Family Camp
See ad on page 14 for more information

August

- 5 - 9 *Camp Available for Lease*
- 11 - 15 Summer Break Camp for Adults
See ad on page 13 for more information
- 11 - 15 Choir Camp: Singing in the Pines
See ad on page 13 for more information
- 17 - 22 Summer Arts Program for Adults: Art Groove!
See ad on page 9 for more information
- 24 - 26 Neighborhood UU Family Retreat
- 27 - 29 Inspire Homeschool Camp (Private Group)

September

- 8/31 - 9/3 PSWD Young Adult Retreat
See ad on page 17 for more information
- 7 - 9 Yoga Retreat
See ad on page 17 for more information
- 10 - 13 Camp Bravo El Rancho School (tentative)
- 14 - 16 Santa Monica UU Family Retreat
- 21 - 23 ACA 12-Step Retreat
See ad on page 17 for more information
- 28 - 30 Conejo Valley & Monte Vista UU Family Retreat

October

- 1 - 5 Camp Bravo La Jolla Day School (tentative)
- 5 - 7 Orange Coast/Tapestry/Laguna UU Family Retreat
- 12 - 14 LA Valley Cluster UU Family Retreat
- 15 - 18 Autumn Homeschool Rendezvous
See ad on page 4 for more information
- 19 - 21 Pine-Con Board Gaming Camp
See ad on page 7 for more information
- 25 - 28 Daughters of Diana Retreat
www.daughtersofdianagathering.org

November

- 2 - 4 Music in the Mountains Folk Music Retreat
See ad on page 18 for more information
- 5 - 7 Fall Volunteer Work Camp (Mon – Wed)
See ad on page 18 for more information
- 9 - 11 Fullerton UU Family Retreat
- 16 - 18 PSWD Junior High Winter Camp
Watch for more information www.uucamp.org
- 22 - 25 Thanksgiving Family Celebration
See ad on page 18 for more information
- 29 - 12/2 Winter Art Camp for Adults (Craig's Cabin)
Watch for more information www.uucamp.org

December

- 5 - 9 *Camp Available for Lease*
- 14 - 16 Winter Yoga Retreat for Women
See ad on page 20 for more information
- 27 - 1/1 PSWD Senior High Winter Youth Camp
Watch for more information www.uucamp.org

Camp is available for lease mid-week during the school year

what's really there. I crave to be in the company of others who are free, who hear the small voice inside that guides us all toward the truest version of ourselves. Those who are awake to the compassion and interconnectedness of us all, and have the courage to express and show it. I find courageous people are most often artists, musicians, writers and maybe even doctors.

I find such people here at Camp de Benneville Pines, and among you I find solace. My tears come so easily when I recognize the deeply awakened people here. It happened this precious weekend in talk and play with several of you. And I felt it most profoundly this past summer when my daughter Nicole, my Nicki, came to Art Groove Camp and took the photography program with me. I found to my absolute joy that my daughter is awake. For many reasons, she didn't have the advantage of coming to Camp, or growing up in a UU church where being awake, questioning, and listening to your own deep voice is our birthright. But there she was, shining and awake. There is nothing, besides my wife, Karen, that I have responded to at such a deep, core level than finding my Nicki awake and open to the great winds that are urging her on.



I often wonder why that happens here on the edge of a mountain wilderness. I consciously come to Camp as often as I can to heal from the oppression of being a physician in the largest Federal prison in the Western United States. Concrete cinderblock structures actively oppress the already oppressed criminals in this prison and this environment exacts a heavy toll on me. Wilderness, the outdoors so clearly helps me. I am always puzzled why that is?

Richard Louv, in his book "The Nature Principle" deepens our understanding of the concept "Nature Deficit Disorder." His hypothesis is that "by living in cities, and especially now with the enveloping nature of personal electronic media, has caused a deficit in contact with the natural world. We are missing wild land and interacting with it, (which stimulates us naturally), making us smarter, more creative, better writers, painters, and photographers, humbler, more at ease with ourselves, more confident." Environmentalist Peter Forbes believes that the "community-based conservation movement holds equal the needs of the health of the people and the health of the land." He argues that "we're moving into an era in which the protection of nature, more than ever, must be placed in the larger sphere of relationships. Millions of acres of natural habitat have been protected in recent years: This is good, but not sufficient. Even with such protections, are Americans closer to the land or to the values the land teaches?" He advocates that "we must focus on the human heart as much as on the land itself. And what the human heart needs and craves today, as it has through the ages, is relationship and connection to the larger, more meaningful diversity of life."

This is why I come to our Camp again and again. Here we have magnificent land, open and awake hearts, a religion and theology supporting a mutual, deeply interconnected relationship with this healing, sacred land. We have, and we consciously work to create, a community that both enriches and nourishes the Earth and each of us, its people.

I want to circle back to my early years here at Camp, and why I failed to bring what I learned down the mountain to the "real world." It has dawned on me, some 45 years later, that this precious, interrelated community of awake people, of Earth, sky and forest is not something that can be taken down the mountain. I believe the fundamental reason why is that this is the real world. The world down the mountain of artifice, competition, oppression and violence is not MY real world. It is not responsive to, nor supportive of, the real me, the person I aspire to be at my deepest level.

It is here, at our nurturing Camp, that I am constantly being pointed toward the truest and deepest parts of me. My personal truth and reality is here, not down the mountain. Down there is a world in which I must immerse myself, but my real world is up here, on our precious mountain. My truth is deeply interconnected with you, and our land.

It has been a long time since I led a Camp closing service. I've returned home and feel compelled to lead one again. I've learned a few things since my first closing service and seen some things, too.



I've grown up a bit, and yet some things never really change. As I did in 1966, I will hug with you and I will weep with you.

Let us be open, creators and artists, even as we create our own lives, in this wild place. Let's return, again and again, to this crucible of our truest, awake selves. Let's sculpt, write, think and question our lives here. Let's speak with "I Talk." Let's share our thoughts, feelings and dreams, drinking deeply in the richness of the community we create here. Let's tramp, Thoreau-like, through this sacred forest. Let me take my pictures, with my clunky tripod, and maybe even photograph the Tree with Lights. For here we can learn to heal, to truly see again. "Let there be light," the photographer said, "that all can see what's really there."

Photographs in this article provided by Ross Quinn from his personal collection of camp photos.

Introducing Severin Browne to Music in the Mountains

Music In The Mountains has someone special coming this year.

Severin Browne will be the headliner at this year's *Music In The Mountains* weekend, November 2 - 4. Severin is a world famous performing artist, song writer and music teacher.

Severin Browne performs solo to packed house concerts, intimate listening rooms, and even an occasional almost-rowdy bar crowd with friends from his SoCal roots. He is a sought-after guest in many singer-songwriter festivals and shows and is regarded as one of the most delightful performers in the Los Angeles area. Severin's easy manner in front of an audience convinces you that playing his guitar and singing his songs is an effortless and second-nature activity. His brilliant lyrics invite listeners into the songs while his solid melodies carry the story from one note to the next. This natural and inviting delivery has charmed audiences for almost 40 years.

Severin comes from a very musical family. He has referred to his father – a talented jazz musician – as "the world's greatest unpublished songwriter." Severin started playing piano and guitar at a very young age. His brother, Jackson, is also a talented singer/songwriter.

Severin's career has run the gamut starting with a stint in the 1970s as a Motown staff songwriter and artist, during which time he released two albums. He then spent much of the 1980s performing as the "Severin Browne Band" and packing the Troubadour and many other clubs throughout the greater Southern California area.

In the 1990s, he released a solo album, then his fourth in 2001 and his most recent (and most acclaimed) fifth album, "Lucky Man," in 2012. Since forming the Tall Men Group with five singer-songwriter friends in 2012, he has released three CDs with them with a fourth on the way.

He is a popular guitar and songwriting teacher at festivals, retreats and camps.

For more information see www.severinbrowne.com.

For more information on the Music in the Mountains weekend, see ad on page 18.





Rainbow Family Camps: Twice the Fun!

Two Weekends designed with LGBTQ Families and Their Allies in Mind

Friday, March 23 — Sunday, March 25, 2018

Friday, May 18 — Sunday, May 20, 2018

Join us for ONE or BOTH exciting fun-filled weekends where families with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender parents/guardians come together to build a better community with other LGBTQ families. Get to know other families just like yours and build lasting connections and friendships!

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.

Kristen and Emily Lummus will be the deans for Rainbow Camp #1 and Torey Carrick will return as dean for Rainbow Camp #2.

Activities include: crafts, hiking, movies, talent show, costume dance, parent socials, outdoor sports activities, indoor games, community meals, and for those attending the March camp hopefully some snow activities (if we have some snow lingering in the woods!).

Rainbow Family Camp is sponsored by Camp de Benneville Pines and is coordinated and staffed by volunteers and camp supporters. Discounts will be given to those who share their talents or lead an activity.

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

UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal "Finding Light in the Challenges of Our Lives"

Friday, April 20 — Sunday, April 22, 2018

What are the challenges that limit us from enjoying fulfilling lives? Where do we look for the answers to what holds us back? What options are available to make a change? In a SAFE and SUPPORTIVE place, we can begin to unpack these issues, support each other, and celebrate new insights about our journeys.

There will also be time to fellowship with other brothers, make music, celebrate rituals, and enjoy the natural beauty of Camp de Benneville Pines.

Basic registration fee \$175

It is our policy that no brother be denied for financial hardship.

For information on scholarships and more, please contact

Mike Dorfi (619) 466-5952 or John Holl (619) 546-6525

www.firstuusandiego.org/uumf-registration-form



30th Annual Camp Recovery 2018 "Daring Greatly" Camp Recovery 12-Step Retreat

Friday, April 27 – Sunday, April 29, 2018



Join Camp Recovery in celebrating 30 years of "Daring Greatly." Practicing our 12-Step recovery program requires great bravery and courage. We offer workshops and activities that explore recovering from the effects of growing up in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional family. Fearlessly breaking the family rules of "Don't Talk, Don't Trust, and Don't Feel," we will navigate our feelings, speak our truth in a safe environment, and reparent ourselves with gentleness, humor, love, and respect. Bring your inner child to play and please join us for a very special weekend of "Daring Greatly."

Our program is based on the Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families program. Our 4th Tradition states that ACA cooperates with all other 12-Step programs, so persons from other programs are welcome to attend.

For more information or to register for this special event, please email Treasurer@camprecovery.org, Registration@Camprecovery.org or log onto camprecovery.org.

Autumn Rendezvous for Homeschool Families

Monday, October 15 — Thursday, October 18, 2018

Dean: Jorie Denny

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 a 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 interests: 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 bed rooms are available.

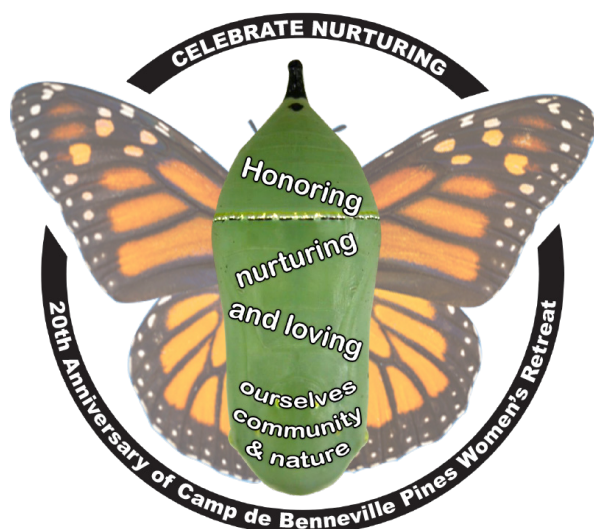
Visit www.uucamp.org and click on "Camps and Retreats" to view all of the details and pricing.

This camp is limited to 80 participants. Camp fees include lodging, meals and most activity supplies.



Nuturing the Chrysalis: 20th Anniversary of the UU Women's Retreat

This year celebrates the 20th anniversary of the UU Women's Retreat. During these past 20 years, over 1,500 women have come to Camp de Benneville Pines seeking nurture and nature. The theme for this year's retreat focuses on precisely these principles and is called "Celebrate Nurturing." Kelley Grimes, Kathleen Moscato, and Marianne Swift-Gifford are heading the planning committee from the Palomar UU Fellowship. Their minister, Rev. Beth Johnson, was on the original planning committee for the first UU Women's Retreat in 1998. They have designed a restorative weekend celebrating nature, community, creativity, and hope each participant will create personal self-nurturing practices to bring back to their daily lives.



Keynote Speaker, Kelley Grimes will explore "Nurturing the Chrysalis: Honoring, Nurturing and Loving Ourselves Through All the Transitions and Transformations of Our Lives" on Friday night to kick the retreat off.

Kelley Grimes, MSW, is a counselor, speaker, internationally best-selling author and self-nurturing expert. With more than 25 years of experience, she describes her life mission to empower overwhelmed and exhausted individuals to live with more peace, joy and meaning so they can nurture peace in the world from the inside out. She supports people in getting to the root of their habit of self-neglect and guides them in cultivating sustainable practices of self-nurturing, so they can shine their bright lights in the world.

Kelley believes that for generations women were taught to nurture others but not themselves. A "good woman" was defined as someone who always put others first. Women haven't been taught, encouraged or given permission to prioritize caring for themselves. Consequently, women end up feeling chronically stressed, anxious, depressed, resentful and overwhelmed.

The longer women deplete themselves by giving more of themselves than they have to give, the more health challenges they can face, the more difficulty they have in making empowered decisions and the more problems they experience in their relationships.

Now, according to Kelley, a long-needed paradigm shift is occurring, and women are realizing that they need to be as respectful, compassionate and loving to themselves as they are to others. Kelley believes that when women nurture themselves they find their "authentic selves." In this process they are no longer limited by what they were told they "should" do and begin listening to their own inner mentor to make decisions. "When we chronically care for others and not ourselves, we get disconnected from our true selves. We don't know what lights us up from within." The process and techniques of finding out who we each truly are is what Kelley defines as the "gift of self-nurturing."

Everyone has an inner "critic" but for women this critic is often harsh and judgmental. This inner critic keeps women stuck and viewing their world from the outside in. A woman who has the understanding and desire to live a life that is in alignment with

who she is will be healthier, happier, and have increased self-awareness and self-esteem. That's living life from the inside out. For example, simple techniques for vibrant health include drinking more water every day, sleeping 7 to 8 hours each night and taking a daily walk. It sounds simple but how many women give themselves permission to take care of themselves before taking care of others?

One of Kelley's favorite quotes is an old Chinese proverb: Dig the well before you are thirsty, as it highlights how important it is to develop a self-nurturing practice. In today's world, we live in a state of constant change. Women need to learn the difference between actively and passively taking care of themselves. Kelley uses the example of doing something that leaves one feeling filled up, elated and happy (active) as opposed to doing something that when it's over, it's over, like a glass of wine or watching a TV show (passive). Doing something that provides an active, long-term positive response is far more nurturing and healthy than doing something with only a temporary effect.

Kelley uses the analogy of self-nurturing as a garden. There are many aspects to a healthy, productive garden. It needs care: water, good soil, fertilizer, pruning, crop rotation. Neglected, it will dry up and die. Kelley encourages women to seek the nurturing aspect of their garden, to spiritually walk through it, meditate in it, water and feed it and have fun in it. She encourages women to prune out the aspects that are distressing the garden, like friendships or relationships that no longer serve a healthy purpose, or spending time in negative, unfulfilling pursuits. "We all have a fear of letting go of the familiar, even when we know what we're doing isn't good for us. It takes courage to leave the familiar behind. With courage we can nurture hope, possibilities and gratitude."

Leading women's workshops is a passion of Kelley's. She finds purpose and joy in helping others learn how to live in alignment with their authentic selves and nurture themselves in practical ways. Kelley believes that these changes have a profound ripple effect in the world as each woman is empowered to go out and teach other women how to self-nurture. As they pass on what they've learned to their friends, their sisters, and their daughters, they transform themselves and the world. And one by one, women experience joy and gratitude in ways they never knew were possible.

To learn more about Kelley Grimes, visit her website: <https://cultivatingpeaceandjoy.com>.

To learn more about the 2018 UU Women's Retreat from May 4 — 6, visit www.uucamp.org or see ad on page 7.



Making Memories for a Lifetime

by Elizabeth Sadlon, member Neighborhood UU Church Pasadena

Hosting over 25 family camp experiences a year, Camp de Benneville Pines has become a favorite place for families to come enjoy quality time with family and friends. Read on for a glimpse of one family's perspective on the importance and value of family camp.

My earliest memories of my younger daughter, Kenzie, at Camp de Benneville involve a Baby Bjorn carrier and a chair that clipped to the dinner table. As she shared her faith statement at Rites of Passage today, I reflected gratefully on all the ways the beloved camp in the woods has contributed to the amazing 14-year old she is today.

We have attended nearly 30 family camp weekends at de Benneville, summer and winter each year. When our daughters were little, we were drawn to the physical beauty of the mountains and won over by the simplicity of the cozy cabins, the treat of having someone prepare three delicious meals for us each day, and the circle of parents who would take turns monitoring the fun. Camp days were filled with exploring, archery, and swimming in the summer; sledding and snowplay in the winter. For several years we'd lead a kids' hike through the woods to a river not more than a quarter of a mile away. Whether organized around a scavenger hunt, a nature tour, or poetry, the trek would meander through space and time, arriving at the steep banks of the stream. Would there be water this year? Salamanders? Ice to crackle? Always rocks to scramble.

As the kids got older, de Benneville was the perfect setting for developing independence. Their territory began as the circle inscribed by the driveway, eventually expanding to include the neighboring hillsides. Hours would pass as they engineered intricate forts or hurtled down slick sled trails. We all gathered again at the sound of the meal bell, the kids filling a table, then their tummies, and tumbling back out for more adventures. By the time high school rolled around, we'd supervise a "teen room" adjacent to ours for our older daughter Allie and her friends. And this summer, at 19, they gathered from distant colleges, drove themselves to camp, had their own space, and kept the tradition alive!

Happy kids at camp make for happy parents. We're fortunate to have varied programming during family camps. From early morning yoga or hikes to writing, spa treatments, crafting, beer tasting, beewatching, and social hour, the camp schedule has everything. Or, I often choose to do nothing at all. My besties know to meet at the gazebo to share stories, support, and sometimes drop into quiet reading together. My husband brings a cribbage board to the only place in our busy lives where he can settle in for a couple of hours of conversation and cards. Over meals and in between, we look forward to connecting with long-time and new church friends, including those we only see when we're up the hill.

Nighttime at de Benneville continues the opportunity to disconnect from the usual media feeds. Our Bingo games are always high energy and good-natured; I'm amazed how excited we all get to "win" the castaway trinkets and doo-dads fellow campers bring along. Whether the schedule includes a talent showcase, TED-type talks, stargazing, movie watching, singalongs, or dancing...we know we'll meet new friends and share deep laughs.

After Saturday breakfast, we all roll over to the volleyball court and are greeted by a warm, grizzly photographer on the decked-out roof of his SUV. Instead of "cheese," the kids shout, "fuzzy pickles," and before we leave on Sunday we each have a glossy picture to commemorate this camp gathering. Back home, we lovingly slide each picture into our de Benneville binder. Flipping through, we see the kids' grinning faces, popping out of winter gear, or entwined in campers' limbs, changing over the years. This is a treasure book of memories, experiences, of growing up and loving well.

This is a church camp, after all, and Sunday mornings at de Benneville fill our souls. Depending on season, worship is either in the awe-inspiring grove of towering pines, or snuggled cozily in the Coffee House. We gather together to share songs, stories, poems, listen to the wind, and so readily connect to the source of wonder that surrounds us.

We all have families that lead the way...the friends whose kids are 5 or 10 years older than ours, who smile to hear our stories and give a preview of what comes next. I love hearing about the life-long friendships my friend C's girls have maintained from their de Benneville family camp days. And now maybe we're becoming the family leading the way. Twice each year, you can count on us to organize our schedules to make it to de Benneville, to celebrate the mountains, breathe in the pine-scented air, and make memories for a lifetime.



An Art Groove Camper's Experience

by Laura Chamberlin, art camper



Art Groove celebrates its 12th anniversary this August. Founded by then artist-in-residence, Laura Janes, with an original goal to give adults, confident or timid in their skill level, a safe place to come explore their artistic side.

The six-day camp always has five main disciplines or tracks from which attendees may choose. Mainstay disciplines are Life Drawing, Photography and Painting—some years acrylic, some years watercolor. The other two tracks vary from year to year, offering diversity and an opportunity to learn new skills.

During a typical day at camp, the mornings are spent in a 3-hour intensive, but fun, class in the discipline selected by each camper. After a break for lunch, there are two sets of afternoon workshops ranging from watercolor journaling to painting on silk to taking quality photos on cell phones or digital cameras. Each evening, the instructors give presentations titled "My Life as an Artist." Learning more about their journeys is always fascinating, informative and inspiring.

My personal journey to Art Groove started in elementary school when I started taking art lessons. I took lessons through high school and even got into a prestigious art school. Unfortunately, my parents were dead set against me going to art school. They feared I wouldn't be able to support myself as an artist; and in an all too typical fit of adolescent pique, I swore I would never paint again. I sure showed them!

But the creative part of me still needed an outlet, and I turned from fine arts to craft arts. I knitted intricate Irish Fisherman sweaters with complex cable patterns. I made beautiful Japanese Temari thread balls. I crocheted tablecloths and upholstered furniture. I silk painted and sewed wedding gowns and flower girl dresses. I enjoyed all these self-taught crafts, and I kept my vow, I never sketched or painted again.

Laura Janes and I became first business colleagues and then friends. Three summers ago, she was putting together her curriculum for Art Groove and asked me if I wanted to teach some afternoon workshops on Silk Painting. A week in the mountains in August had a lot of appeal (I lived in Palms Springs at the time), and it sounded like fun. She said I could take any of the morning disciplines I wanted. Yikes! Fine Art! It had been a long time and I was apprehensive. I elected to take Life Drawing and lived with butterflies in my tummy.

One of the many special things about Art Groove is how accepting and supportive the instructors are with attendees, and how supportive attendees are with one another. On the first day, I had gigantic knots in my stomach as I walked in to the Coffee House where the Life Drawing classes took place. The comradery began immediately with the group working together to get the room set up and the easels in place. There were old-timers, people who came year after year and were really talented, and there were newbies like me who shared my fears. As the three-hour class progressed, the knots started to subside and I was able to loosen up some of my rusty old skills. The instructor, Jean Krumbein, who is returning again this year, was gentle in her critique and encouraging. She even had left-handed me drawing with my right-hand using a stick and ink. And, it was one of the best drawings I did all week!

Laura Janes wanted the attendees to have the experience of a juried art show. She included in her programming an Art Show of our best work on the final morning of camp, just before the closing ceremony. Submitting your work for evaluation, and potential rejection, is often scary. The last night of camp, we met with our instructor and classmates to "jury" one another's work and select the pieces that would be in the show. In the years I have attended Art Groove, what I thought was my best work was not the one selected by my peers. Their critiques and rationales were informative and kind, and at times surprising, when a piece was selected that, in my mind, was not my favorite.

The last day of camp is always one of mixed feelings. The real world down the mountain calls one home: work, family, responsibilities. The intense immersion and joy from the flowing creative spirits all around makes one want to stay. The friendships formed during the week are genuine and special. The spectrum and quality of work at the Art Show is inspiring. Seeing what others created in their disciplines and how their work progressed through the course of the week inspired me to go home and to try new things. Even the photos I take on my cell phone are better because of an afternoon workshop led by Barbara Jordan, the photography instructor (who is also returning the year).

Art Groove 2018 runs from Friday August 17th through Wednesday, August 22nd. The five main disciplines are: Life Drawing with Jean Krumbein, Photography with Barbara Jordan, Watercolor Unwrapped with Kathleen Scoggin, Chinese Brush Painting with Lisa Curry and Whimsical Acrylic Art Using Recycled Paper/Objects with Ann Blessing Gallagher. Some of afternoon workshops will be Watercolor Journaling with Marcia Harris, Introduction to Encaustic Monotype Prints with Lin Holzinger and Ink Sketching with Diane Moore.

It's shaping up to be another great Art Groove, and I sincerely hope anyone yearning to spend more time with their creative side will join the fun. Please refer to the Camp's website, www.uucamp.org, for all the incredible details of this summer's program and the instructor line up and bios.

For more information, see ad on page 9.



PineCon - Gaming in the Mountains

A Family-Friendly Event

Friday, October 19 - Sunday, October 21, 2018

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.

Some comments from previous 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 games you can pack 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>



The 20th Anniversary of Women Retreating Together in the Pines!

"Celebrate Nurturing"

Deans: Kathleen Moscato & Marianne Swift-Gifford

Friday, May 4 – Sunday, May 6, 2018 with optional R & R day on Thursday, May 3

For women in need of a relaxing weekend: enjoy massage, acupuncture, hot tub, and meditation. For women wanting to tap into their active side: participate in dancing, hiking, yoga, and crafting. Inspirational theme speaker and workshops will be offered throughout the weekend. The retreat will be "as you choose" while reconnecting with yourself and connecting with others in a beautiful setting. Keynote speaker Kelley Grimes will explore "Nurturing the Chrysalis: Honoring, Nurturing and Loving Ourselves through all the Transitions and Transformations of our Lives." Kelley Grimes, MSW, is a counselor, speaker, internationally best-selling author, self-nurturing expert and founder of Cultivating Peace and Joy. She is passionate about empowering overwhelmed and exhausted individuals to live with more peace, joy and meaning by helping them get to the root of their habit of self-neglect. Kelley guides women in cultivating sustainable practices of self-nurturing. Married to an artist, Kelley has two empowered daughters, serves as the President-Elect of the Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and loves to sing with the small women's singing group, the UUnrecorded Divas. Learn more about Kelley at <https://www.cultivatingpeaceandjoy.com> and by reading her article on page 5. Our sincere thanks to our women friends of Palomar UU Fellowship for serving on the 2018 retreat planning committee.

Register early to take advantage of the early-bird rate. Volunteer to be a workshop leader and receive an additional discount off the price. This event sells out, so grab a friend and get registered early!

Pricing Information

\$210 per person

(Early bird rate = \$195 per person if registered by April 15th, 2018)

Craig's Cabin and Cabin 6 are sold out.

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

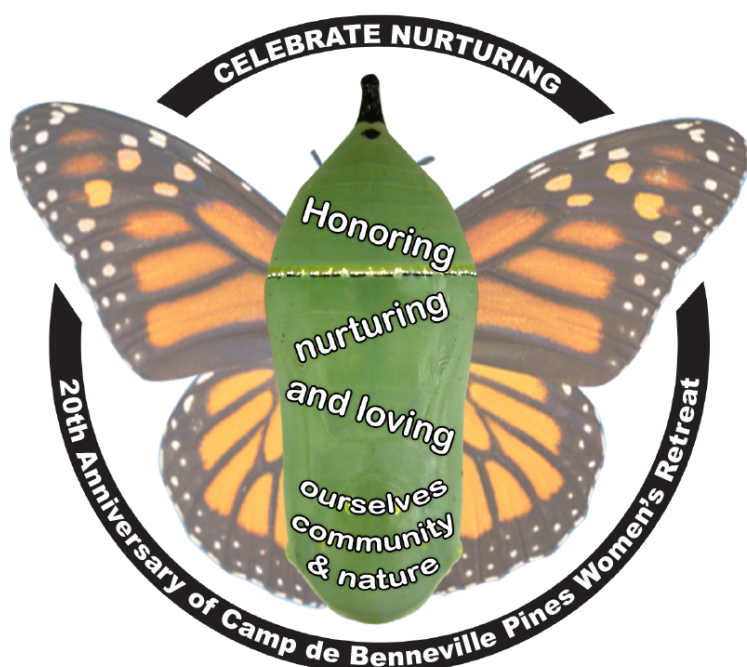
Don't put off registering if you have accessibility issues or want to room with a friend.

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

Join with us to celebrate joy and laughter, community and sisterhood at the 20th anniversary of gathering UU women and their friends.

For general information, contact Janet James, Camp Manager, director@uucamp.org or (909) 435-6298.

For information on registration and rooming, contact Laura Chamberlin, Registrar, registrar@uucamp.org or (909) 794-1252.





Camp Transcend Family Retreat

A camp for families with transgender and gender expansive youth

Friday, April 13 - Sunday, April 15, 2018

Dean: MG Hennessey

Camp Transcend is a fun-filled weekend of community building for the families of transgender and gender expansive kids, tweens, and teens. The weekend camp provides a unique opportunity for parents and children to share their stories with peers while developing a support network. Moderated discussion groups will take place in between traditional camp activities such as archery, hiking, and s'mores by the campfire. Bonds will be formed while weaving friendship bracelets, decorating cookies, playing table tennis, or just hanging around.

This year we're piloting a "big buddy/little buddy" mentorship program, as well as a sibling discussion group that will help strengthen their understanding of changing family dynamics. Our all-inclusive Saturday night talent show celebrates the wide range of talent among our campers, from stand-up comedy to singing to acrobatics. Sunday's open discussion forum will give parents and their children an opportunity to share life experiences.

Come join us as we forge new connections and deepen old ones in a gorgeous mountain setting. Each family will be assigned their own room in a cabin with bunk beds. Some double beds are available. Early arrival (on Thursday) is available for an additional \$20 per person. There is no food service until camp starts, so if you do come early, please bring picnic foods to hold you over. If you need to stay over on Sunday night, please let the camp know so that they can accommodate you.

As a self-organizing camp, we ask each family to help with games, activities, or panels. Please email our program coordinator to discuss how you'd like to contribute: mg@mghennessey.com.

Prices include all meals, lodging, activities and supplies

Adults/Teens: \$200 per person

Children ages 3 – 14: \$125 per person

Under 3 are free!

To make camp affordable, you can even make monthly payments!

Arrive a day early to make traveling long distances more appealing for an additional \$20 per person per night

Questions regarding program: Contact MG Hennessey, mg@mghennessey.com

Questions regarding facilities or the general camp: Contact Janet James, Camp Manager, director@uucamp.org, 909-435-6298

Questions regarding registration, payment arrangements or cabin assignments: Contact Laura Chamberlin, registrar@uucamp.org

One Family's Experience at Camp Transcend

By Mattie Smith

The first time we drove to family camp, my son was a mess. Halfway there, he asked if we could turn back, or go somewhere else instead. Seeing him so stressed out, I actually considered it. In all honesty, I was a bit nervous myself. I didn't know anyone who had attended this camp before, or anyone else who would be going.

Even though my son transitioned two years earlier, we hadn't spent much time around other families with transgender and gender expansive children. But, of course, that's why I'd signed us up in the first place. I thought it was important to develop a support network of people who were going through the same thing. So, I drove on, offering lots of reassurance (and a special stop for ice cream). We arrived a little before dinner to find a large group of families milling around Homet Lodge. We picked up our badges and itineraries. This was the first time I'd ever been asked to add my preferred pronouns beneath my name (which we both thought was pretty cool) and checked into our cabin.

As we walked to dinner, I was still wondering if I'd made the right choice; maybe we should've turned around. Both my son and I tend to be shy in new situations, and I'd signed us up to spend the weekend with a hundred strangers? In the woods, no less? (My family and I aren't exactly outdoorsy types). Had I lost my mind? Scanning the mess hall for an available table sent me right back to middle school — I had the same pit in my stomach. We nervously approached a table where a family whose kid looked to be around the same age as my son sat. We all made awkward small talk for a few minutes, then the mother asked, "So when did your son transition?"

And that's when it hit me; most of the people in our lives back home entirely avoid discussing the fact that my son is transgender. I understand the reasons for it; they aren't sure which questions are appropriate, don't want to make us uncomfortable, and probably worry about getting the terminology right. And the truth is, our family doesn't want to talk about it 24/7, either. In fact, in the past two years, it isn't something we think about on a daily (or even weekly) basis anymore. I've long since stopped thinking of my child as a girl. But to be asked in such a straightforward manner, without the usual undercurrent of compassion (or occasionally, pity) was incredibly refreshing. It felt like I released a breath I didn't even know I was holding. While our boys ate and chatted, eventually running off to play ping pong, we discussed all the challenges most parents don't ever have to consider: how did we handle sleepovers and school overnights? Had we seen an endocrinologist yet? Was my son out at school, or stealth? It was such a relief to be open with people who truly understood.

In the first panel the following morning, after being broken down by our children's ages, I sat with a group of parents and talked about our journey. Throughout the weekend other panels focused on more specific issues: stealth vs. out, gender specific panels, and more. Later, there was archery, hiking, s'mores by the campfire, and one of the best talent shows I've ever seen.

My son ran around with a pack of kids close to his age and in that

group, no one cared who was transgender, a cisgender sibling, (identifying with their assigned gender at birth), or gender expansive. It was such a joy to watch every kid at camp find their niche. The teenagers claimed a table in the dining hall where they spent hours cracking each other up; the younger kids made endless craft projects and played basketball. They all got a chance to just be themselves. For most, that was a welcome break from an outside world that's never as accepting as it should be.

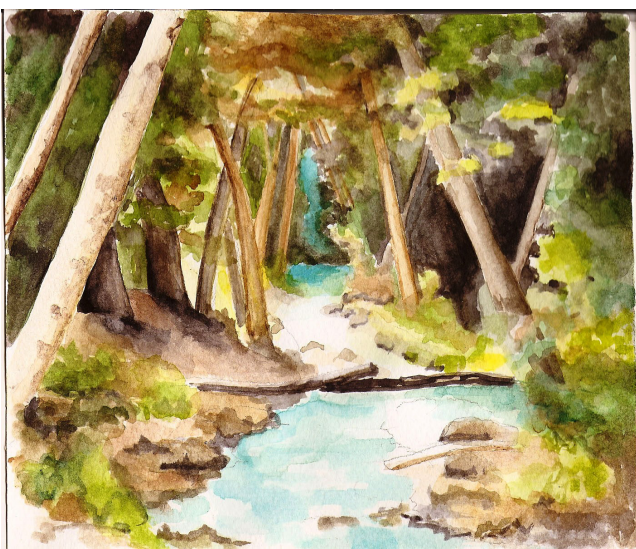
One of the best parts of the weekend was something I hadn't even anticipated. Many of the volunteers running the camp were transgender men and women. And they were some of the most wonderful, generous, funny, and kind people I've ever met — fantastic role models for any child, no matter how they identify. My son came up to me at one point and asked if his favorite male counselor was trans. When I said yes, he said, "And he's married, right? That pretty woman is his wife? But she's not trans, is she?" "No, she isn't," I said. He sat there for a minute thinking, then said, "That's really cool." And he ran off to play with his friends again. As I watched him, I couldn't help but think about that morning's discussion group. One of the other parents had started by saying, "When my child came out I didn't know much, so I looked it up online. And when I saw that suicide statistic, it scared me to death." The rest of us just sat there nodding.

Two years earlier I'd also sat up late, reading everything I could find, trying to make sense of why my child was insisting that he was really a boy. And almost immediately, I stumbled across the fact that 42% of gender nonconforming children attempt suicide. And the only thing that "might" change that statistic is acceptance: from their families, from their peers, from society as a whole. The raw terror inspired by that number — 42%, nearly half of the kids who were exactly like my son — kept me up the rest of the night. The next day, I sat my child down and told him that, no matter what, I loved him, I accepted him just as he was, and we'd figure this out together. All the parents in our discussion group expressed the same fear; I suspect it was a big part of why we'd come to camp. Meeting these strong and self-assured transgender and gender expansive adults with full and satisfying lives was the best gift that weekend gave to me and my son. I realized that deep down, for the past two years I'd primarily been fearing the future — but they gave us hope.

Our final lunch on Sunday was a teary affair, with everyone hugging and promising to stay in touch. It was hard to persuade my son to get in the car, he was still running around with the kids that he now called his "best friends in the whole wide world." As we pulled out of the driveway, he asked, "Why can't they have family camp every weekend?" Since then, we've gone back every year. As soon as we see the sign for Camp de Benneville Pines, my son and I both start cheering. And even though 12 months have passed, we always walk back into a room filled with old friends, and we always manage to make new ones. Family Camp is always the highlight of our year. As always, we're counting down the days to April.

“Art Groove” Art Camp for Adults

Friday, August 17 - Wednesday, August 22, 2018



Art Groove turns 12 this summer! This six-day adult program provides opportunities to deepen one's artistic skills or explore new areas of expression. Creativity, learning and fun are the rules of the day.

Each day is divided into two sections. Five morning disciplines (selected by each participant at registration) will be offered by skilled instructors. The afternoon format includes mini-workshops where one can sample the other disciplines or attend fun, quick workshops. A couple of new, surprise sessions will round out the daytime schedule.

Disciplines will be led by expert instructors, both beloved and new. Barbara Jordan will be returning this year as the Photography instructor. Jean Krumbein returns as the Life Drawing instructor and Kathleen Scoggin will be teaching a new class titled “Watercolor Unwrapped.” Our new instructors are Lisa Curry who will be teaching Chinese Brush Painting and Ann Blessing Gallagher's class is titled “Whimsical Acrylic Art Using Recycled Paper/Objects.”

Some of the afternoon workshops will be led by long-time Art Groove attendee, Marcia Harris, who will teach about the Fun of Watercolor Journaling and Lin Holzinger, who will provide a hands-on Introduction to Encaustic Monotype Prints. Diane Moore will be teaching Ink Sketching and how to incorporate patterns into sketches. Additional afternoon workshops are also planned.

Evening activities include gathering together for beverages, hors d'oeuvres and discussions about the day's activities. After dinner will be Art Groove's always fascinating “My Life as an Artist” presentations. Each instructor will speak on their life journey highlighted by evolution of their work and their story. These presentations are inspirational and offer opportunities to learn more about the instructors and fellow attendees.

Throughout the six days of camp, artworks will be displayed in a spirit of sharing and learning. The retreat culminates on the final morning in a special “juried” exhibition of art produced during the week.

Attendees are encouraged to combine art instruction with traditional Camp de Benneville Pines summer pleasures such as hiking, swimming, relaxing under the trees or in the hot tub. Located at an elevation of 6,800 feet in the San Bernardino National Forest, the camp is surrounded by towering pines, oaks and cedars. Barton Creek is nearby and Jenks Lake is within walking distance. It is the perfect location to enjoy the natural beauty of the forest. Delicious meals are served in Homet Lodge, with vegetarian and vegan entrees offered if requested. Cabins are comfortable, if rustic, with shared bathrooms and showers. Rooms sleep 2-3 persons in bottom bunks. There are a limited number of double bed rooms available for spouses/partners of artists who want to come for a relaxing week in the mountains without participating in the art programs.

The cost for this wonderful camp is \$850, which includes room and board, instruction and participation in all the activities available. A specific materials list for each discipline will be provided prior to arrival at camp. Materials will be supplied for the afternoon workshops.

To ensure the instructors can give individual attention to every student, class size is limited to 16 (12 for life drawing).

Registration is open! Register early to ensure your space in your favorite discipline!

Non-art participating partners can register for \$750.

Register by June 30, 2018 to receive a \$50 Early Bird Discount!

All artwork pictured in ad produced by Art Groove campers.



A Lot of Courage is Needed

An interview with Nick Teich, founder and CEO of Camp Aranu'tiq and friend of Camp de Benneville Pines *Reprinted with permission from Nick Teich and the ACA

For several years now, Camp Aranu'tiq has been holding its annual spring family camp at Camp de Benneville Pines. And for several years now, the de Benneville camp staff and volunteers have been opening their hearts and minds to the special needs of families with transgender and gender expansive children. Although Camp Aranu'tiq is on hiatus this year, with permission of founder Nick Teich, a group of parents has partnered with de Benneville Pines to offer a new family camp experience called Camp Transcend. Read more about Camp Transcend on page 8. Space is still available for a few more families with children who identify as trans or gender expansive, April 13 – 15, 2018.

Social Justice at its Core: Camp Aranu'tiq was founded in 2009 by Nick Teich, LCSW, who dreamed of a safe and fun place for youth who felt like they might not fit in at other camps because of their gender and/or who wanted to be with others like them. They launched their first summer week in New England in 2010 with 41 campers. They now have flagship summer camps in New Hampshire and California, as well as leadership programs for older teens and weekend family camps, serving 550 campers over the course of a year. Aranu'tiq runs weeklong and multiweek summer camps for new campers ages eight to 13 and returners ages eight to 15 in New Hampshire and Southern California, weekend family camps for all ages, and weeklong summer leadership camp for ages 16 to 18 in New Hampshire. Campers can come back until they age out of each program.

A nonprofit program serving transgender and gender-variant youth and their families, Camp Aranu'tiq is for those who feel they do not fit into the norms our society has prescribed for gender. This includes those who have “transitioned,” those who happen to express their gender differently than others, and those who may experience teasing or bullying because of their gender. Aranu'tiq is a Chugach word “(from the Yupik, an Indigenous people of Alaska) for a person who was thought to embody both the male and female spirit. Aranu'tiq people were often revered and thought to be very lucky because their existence transcended traditional boundaries.

Aranu'tiq is not a therapy camp and is in most ways a very typical overnight summer camp; its population (and great people) is what makes the camp unique. Aranu'tiq does not hold formal discussions about personal experiences of gender, though, of course, many campers talk about it with each other. Counselors are a mix of staff and volunteers who help create a wonderful place for youth. Many return summer after summer, and about half to two-thirds of the counselors at each program are trans-identified. Camp Aranu'tiq feels it is important to have role models who are of all gender identities and expressions and seeks a diverse group of staff and volunteers. The application process includes interviews, references, and background checks. Teich took some time out after the summer to chat with an ACA staff member about Camp Aranu'tiq's approach to supporting transgender and gender-variant youth. Here is what Teich had to say about social justice and his work with this camper population.

- **What approach does Camp Aranu'tiq take to ensure gender-related equity and justice?**

We ask the parents and we also ask the children when they're new campers what their gender story is. We get some sort of perspective on whether they're still on their journey, whether they're in transition, whether they're socially transitioned, or whether they're just questioning. We can get a sense of where they are. Then we ask the campers how they want to be bunked. The choices we give are trans-masculine spectrum cabins, trans-feminine spectrum cabins, and gender neutral. To date, we have not gotten enough kids who wanted gender neutral cabins in a specific age group that we were able to put that cabin to use. We actually only have had kids in trans-feminine spectrum cabins and trans-masculine spectrum cabins. Say someone who is on the trans-feminine spectrum is somebody who identifies as female, or more feminine than typical person labeled male at birth. That's sort of how we put it to them. It's a very broad spectrum, so we definitely get gender nonbinary kids, or third gender, genderqueer, or gender variant, or anywhere in between—but these are kids who feel like the trans-feminine cabin fit them, for example. Within the trans-masculine and trans-feminine cabins there is an entire range of gender going on. That's sort of the whole Aranu'tiq approach. All of our bathrooms are gender neutral. You can just use whatever bathroom is closest to you at the time you need it. Nothing is split. Campers' activities aren't split; their tables aren't split. We just really have adequate supervision and safety measures in place; besides that, we really don't care what's going on with people's anatomies. That is not a primary concern with us in terms of whether they're going to be in the bathroom together. We find it just makes everyone a bit more comfortable because usually outside of camp they are dealing with situations with bathrooms, wondering “Am I going to fit in here?” We have a pretty free approach to that.

- **What sort of results have you seen in people who experience that sort of environment where people don't care about anatomies?**

They feel very free. They feel like they don't have to defend themselves or explain themselves or even pay attention to it. They can concentrate on camp and having fun and being kids. Of course, they're talking about it with each other all the time, just getting support and making friends, knowing that they've all been through similar things. I think the really important thing is that it takes away that anxiety of the bathroom and everyone worrying about what kind of anatomy they have. When you take that out of the equation, they feel much freer to be themselves.

- **Why is it important for kids to feel free about gender, to be themselves?**

I think it's the same for anybody: If you can't be yourself in the most elemental sense, then what can you do? How can you have confidence and resilience, which as counselors is what we want to instill in our kids. If you can't be yourself, then there's no way you can accomplish anything. I think the importance is huge, and once you're able to really not worry about having to be something that you're not, you can learn new skills. You can make new friends. You can gain a sense of independence and confidence. I think you can't do any of that if you're starting from this false-self place.

- **Thinking not only about Aranu'tiq, but camps in general, what are three wishes that you have for camps regarding social justice?**

I wish that camps would be able to see the health and well-being of campers and be able to feel strong enough to use that as a way to explain to the parents to whom they have to answer that their fears of transgender kids are their own concern. In other words, how can we get parents to see that the campers' safety and ability to be themselves is paramount, that all campers need to feel safe and be themselves, and that parents' worries about “transgender kids in my kid's bunk” are secondary? I wish camp directors wouldn't be so scared. My second wish would be that people would look at any difference (not just transgender campers) as a looming opportunity, not as a reason to get worried thinking about “What's going to happen and how do I handle the situation and do I have everything? I'm not going to take this camper until we have absolutely everything in order.” And I think, while there's something to that, a lot of it is panicking that's not necessary. Just take the camper's lead and say, “You are the first camper to come to our camp who is (fill in the blank), and we want to make this a great experience for you. How can we help you?”

Really ask the parent and the camper, “How can we be most helpful?” And let them take the lead instead of thinking that before you have that conversation with the parents and campers you have to be an expert in something. Just slow down and think about it very rationally: “What would I want if I were a different camper coming to this camp?” I would want to know that the camp was safe and that the staff members were looking out for me. The first way to help that along is to ask directly, “What can I do?” and involve the families.

The third wish is figuring out how counselors can help kids distinguish between anxiety and going outside their comfort zones. In our camp, it's particularly heightened because they're dealing with anxiety from being transgender all the time. How can we get the campers to get to a place where they parse out the difference between true anxiety and going outside their comfort zone, and be able to articulate that; and have counselors be able to say to the campers, “I'm glad you articulated that. Now we're going to push you a little bit outside your comfort zone and you're going to do things that maybe you haven't before.” I think if we let kids opt out all the time, it's doing them a disservice. We as camps need to commitment to helping kids build resilience and confidence and independence, and engage the campers in that conversation. “I understand you feel anxious. Are you sure you feel anxious, or maybe you feel that you don't want to do this because it's pushing outside your comfort zone? Those are two different things.” Then just listen to their answer and go with that.

- **What advice do you have for other camps wishing to promote gender-related justice and equity?**

Don't be so scared. Think about this step by step. Instead of thinking about the endgame consequences of what could happen if somebody who didn't have the same anatomy as her bunkmate's drops her pants (which is what I hear all the time), let's step back a little bit and ask, “What is best for the well-being of the kids?” Don't go to that worst-case scenario. Start by thinking about how this can work, how it won't be a big deal, and how it might even teach tolerance to other campers and counselors and parents. That's my biggest piece of advice: Stop and think.

I think a lot of courage is needed. It's really not hard. Just like camp staff work with other campers before they sign up or arrive to camp—what questions are you asking them on the application? Do you meet them in person? Do you talk to them on the phone? You reach out and learn something about them. It's that same kind of work with a little spin. It's not rocket science, it's really not. I think people get so worried about how hard it's going to be and then, inevitably, afterwards they're like, “Hey, this was not that hard and it worked out great.”

For more information, visit the Camp Aranu'tiq website at camparanutiq.org. Also refer to the following:

Camping Magazine

-20/20 Toolbox: Everybody's In, Nobody's Out! by Bob Ditter, May/June 2009

-20/20 Toolbox: Transgender Youth—The Role Camps Might Play, by Sarah Holder, Sept/Oct 2011

-Does Your Camp Reinforce, Resist or Relieve Gender Stereotypes? by Ann Gillard, PHD, March/April 2012

CampLine

-Transgender Staff and Anti-Discrimination, by Nick Teich, April 2015

Book

-Transgender 101: A Simple Guide to a Complex Issue, by Nicholas M. Teich (2012)

Memories of Camp Arataba Boy Scout Camp

by Randall Peeters, avid camper and adventurer

After a recent visit to Camp de Benneville Pines, I was asked by Janet James, Executive Director, if I would submit a short write-up about the last days of the Arrowhead Area's Boy Scout Camp Arataba near Barton Flats. Arataba occupied the site that is now Camp de Benneville Pines.

In operation since the 1920's, Camp Arataba was the victim of a lodge fire in 1960 and was subsequently relocated to Running Springs near Lake Arrowhead. The Universalists bought the leasehold, took over the beautiful site at 6,800' elevation on the north slope of Mt. San Gorgonio, and began operation in 1961 of Camp de Benneville Pines. By this time the Unitarians and the Universalists had merged, and the PSWD of the UUA had a camp!

Remains of Camp Arataba which are visible today include: a water storage reservoir made of concrete pipes cemented together and sealed, the swimming pool and bathhouse, the remains of the burned lodge (slab and fireplace), the infirmary (now the Director's cabin), an original outhouse (now a paint storage shed by maintenance), the fire-circle with the stone wall, Inspiration Point where "Chapel" services were held (barely discernible on the promontory over-looking the present water tank), and the building being used as the Infirmary today.



Camp Arataba Old Lodge 1957



Boy Scouts Cooking Out



Camp Arataba served several generations of Boy Scouts from the San Bernardino area. In my case, my father had attended camp there as a youth, so when I attended it had special significance to me personally. At 11-years old, I first camped there in the summer of 1957. Each camp session consisted of a full week of activities. That year, each of the six to eight troop sites, which were widely dispersed over the 16 acre site, consisted of a dozen or so 2-man tents, picnic style tables, a large trough-like wash basin and an outhouse. To this day I can remember some of the graffiti inscribed in that primitive toilet facility! Waterlines ran on top of the ground to each campsite.

By the summer of 1958, the individual 2-man tents were replaced by several 16'x16' tent platforms on which large army-style tents were erected, complete

with metal spring cots and mattresses. Several of these tent platforms are now located behind the present day Staff House. I understand they are used by the seasonal staff each summer. My last adventure at Camp Arataba was in the summer of 1959.

Several times a day we would make the long trek to the lodge to pick up food, and each troop was responsible for cooking all their meals. Earning merit badges consumed a big part of our daily routine. Swimming and Life Saving badges took place in the pool – which looks largely unchanged to this day with only the diving board being removed.

For the Pioneering merit badge



Cargo Net Climb

we constructed a large tower type structure, and earning the Nature merit badge in the woods was a great experience.

I particularly remember hiking to Jenks Lake daily to complete the Canoeing and Rowing merit badges. There was also free-time for just swimming in the pool, making crafts, and climbing on a big ship-type cargo net erected between two trees. Each evening there was a campfire (held in the present fire circle near the flag poles). Singing songs, nightly

skits by each troop, and ever-popular counselor skits filled out many memorable evenings.

The Order of the Arrow, a fraternal-type organization consisting of scout selected by their peers, played a role in these campfire programs with Indian dancing, and induction ceremonies (i.e., "Tap Outs"). I vividly remember that the induction to the Order of the Arrow involved, among other things, spending a night alone in the woods above the camp followed by a day of complete silence.

By the time the camp moved to Running Springs, my tenure in the Boy Scouts had shifted to the Explorer Scouting program, and for me, summer camp had been replaced by other scouting activities.

The three years I spent at Camp Arataba were very formative, and I strongly feel that they contributed to my success later in life.

I truly cherish those memories.

I enjoyed my recent tour with camp employee Steve Johnston the day I visited what is now Camp de Benneville Pines.

The sounds, smells, towering trees, and mountain peaks brought me back to a time when I was young and carefree, and when roaming the woods with my scout friends was a very important part of my youth. I am glad to have had the time to walk with Steve and share a memory or two.

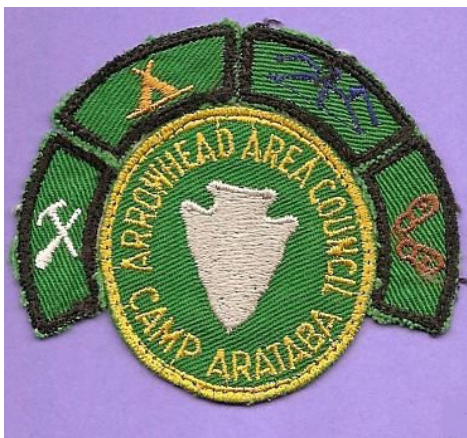


Order of the Arrow demonstrations



Going to the Woods is going home.

- John Muir



Explore The Music of Life with Peter Bolland

Peter Bolland is the dynamic and always fascinating keynote speaker at this year's "Summer Break" Adult Camp, from Saturday, August 11th thru Wednesday, August 15th. He is an award-winning singer, songwriter, lecturer and philosopher. Peter uses music and storytelling to share the wisdom of world mythology, comparative religion and practical philosophy.

All this wisdom began while he was in the religious studies program at UC Santa Barbara. Despite the distractions of surfing, playing guitar, hiking and arguing philosophy with his friends, Peter graduated with a BA in Religious Studies. Like many young people, he drifted for a while after graduation finding his passions in surfing and playing the guitar.



He met his wife, Lori, almost 35 years ago and heard a call to "do more, be more, and serve more." He decided his path was to become a philosophy professor. That meant going back to school, so Peter and Lori moved to San Diego and Peter enrolled in the master's program in Philosophy at San Diego State University. He became a full-time professor in 2001 and is currently a philosophy professor and department chair at Southwestern College in Chula Vista, California.

Music has been a constant in Peter's journey. He's been playing music and writing songs his whole life. His first album was a solo album in 2002, titled *Frame*. He also formed a band, named The Coyote Problem and they performed and recorded two albums from 2002 through 2010. The complexities of spreading oneself too thin caught up with him. Running a rock and roll band is demanding. Rehearsals, booking, marketing, media, management and long bar gigs late into the night began taking their toll. He fired himself from his own band and began, once again, to focus on his solo work.

In 2014, Peter released his latest album *Two Pines* with the assistance of drummer Bob Sale and bassist Jim Reeves. They played their respective instruments on the 14 songs and Peter played everything else. He describes this album as "my most intimate, most honest album yet."

All three of Peter's albums are available on his website: www.peterbonnard.com.

Peter is completely involved in the San Diego music scene and culture. For over nine years, he has been a columnist for the San Diego Troubadour, a monthly independent music magazine. His column is called "Stages: Philosophy, Art, Culture and Music." He also writes a column about world spirituality in Unity Magazine called "A to Zen."

In addition to his teaching and writing responsibilities, Peter also lectures on a wide variety of philosophical, spiritual, and mythological subjects at venues like The Chopra Center, The San Diego Vendanta Monastery, First Unitarian Universalist Church. He brings all this knowledge and experience

up to camp and will be the keynote speaker every day during "Summer Break" Adult Camp.

Peter believes "there is great joy in gathering together around shared inquiry, and great healing in the space we create when we step out of our busy lives to share a song, a question, our laughter, or a perennial truth. What we cannot do alone we can surely do together. This is why we gather — to feel the wisdom welling up through the cracks of our own lives. That is what all this work is about."

Come join Peter and other like-minded individuals to probe into and celebrate "The Music of Life" at Camp de Benneville Pines this summer.

See ad on page 13 for additional information

Report from the Board

FROM THE CAMP DE BENNEVILLE PINES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

When Camp de Benneville Pines was "born" in 1961, it was a full subsidiary of the Pacific Southwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, used exclusively by UU congregations as a haven for building beloved community in nature.

Since then, Camp de Benneville Pines has grown and evolved, and last year more than 4,000 UUs and kindred spirits flocked to camp to recreate, reconnect, and refuel. Today, de Benneville Pines, Inc is an independent organization, sometimes serving as visitors' primary connection to Unitarian Universalism.

Looking toward Camp's 60th anniversary, the Camp de Benneville Pines Board of Directors embarked on a new strategic planning process to consider how we can better foster UU values in the Pacific Southwest corner of the country. With the right focus, and by partnering with a diverse array of organizations, Camp can become more impactful within and beyond our congregations.

Camp has a vision to become a potent force for healing in communities and our environment. We imagine...

- **A more welcoming retreat center that accommodates campers regardless of age, physical ability, or identity**
- **Inventive programs and partnerships that help more (and more diverse) people to deeply experience the interdependence of our mountain home and become advocates for applied environmentalism in the city**
- **A strong financial foundation that ensures Camp continues to be a beacon for people of all faiths to connect in nature, igniting creativity, strengthening community, and building our capacity to fuel healing in the world.**

The board spent the better part of 2017 working with Jacki Weber (retained as fundraising counsel) to develop a strategic plan to lead us in this direction and officially adopted the plan in September. The board also charged Jacki with developing the infrastructure to begin major fundraising to upgrade our retreat facilities, improve the camp experience, and increase sustainability. Jacki is a UU from Santa Monica and former Chief Development Officer for Homeboy Industries.

We completed a mission critical campaign to secure Camp's water storage future in 2017. We thank the 235 supporters who stepped up to contribute. The next time you're at Camp, you'll see a new water tank adjacent to the original. This will sustain us during drought years and will allow the USFS to fight any fires that might threaten us. We also raised funds to support energy efficient upgrades to cabins and the lodge. And more than 35 kids came to camp with the help of the Craig Block Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Throughout 2018, you'll continue to see improvements like a new accessible trail to the amphitheater and a new roof on Craig's Cabin, thanks to the help of 190 campers who contributed to *Share the Vision*, our annual campaign.

Board leadership is now turning its attention to a site master plan, with environmental and architectural studies to address the need for sufficient staff housing and green facilities upgrades. And members are meeting with congregations and allied organizations throughout the Pacific Southwest to explore how Camp can be a better resource in healing communities and our planet.

You can play a role strengthening our beloved spiritual home in the mountains. A new monthly giving program (Camp Conservationists!) makes it easy for you to support living wages and camp improvements so we can keep registration fees low. A planned giving program means you can leave a legacy for future generations (check your mailbox soon!). And if you've been wanting to see upgrades to our campus (staff housing, bathrooms in the Coffee House, improved lodging, etc.), the opportunity is on the horizon.

We are also building a team of volunteer leaders interested in using their expertise and enthusiasm in the areas of marketing and promotion, fundraising, and leadership and program development.

Visit debennevillepines.org or email jacki.weber@debennevillepines.org for information on how you can become more involved.

Thank you for your support!

Singing In the Pines - "Connections"

Saturday, August 11 - Wednesday, August 15, 2018

"Connections!" Singing together can connect our minds, hearts and spirits with those around us. It can bring stonger connection with our own strength and hope. And it can bring connections in the greater community with our actions and thoughts. So, let's sing together and get connected! Enjoy the morning keynote speaker, swimming, hike to the lake, salsa dancing, R & R, good food and friends...and lots of singing! If you yearn to connect with others through song, if your heart is open to learning new music, if you want to commune with others for five days at camp, please come add your voice to "Singing in the Pines." *If you have songs about connections, please bring them with you!*



Again, this summer's guest choir director is the Reverend 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 Musaic LGBT Choir in Victoria.

Choir camp facilitator Scott Roewe 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."



Registration is open and limited to 20 people. Open to all UU's and friends who love to sing!

Base price : \$495 per person

Double bed in Cabins 5, 7, 8: \$40 per person upgrade fee (2 persons required)

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

Save \$15 and register by June 30, 2018

Visit www.uucamp.org and click on "Camps and Retreats" to view all the details and pricing or fill out the form on page 19.

Camp Summer Break 2018: The Music of Life

Saturday, August 11 — Wednesday, August 15, 2018

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 to explore the music of life. A camp just for adults, we invite you to retreat to the woods, breathe in nature, and enjoy the company of UU's and like-minded friends.

Here's the line-up:

Keynote speaker, Peter Bolland, is an award-winning singer and songwriter and also a philosophy professor. In the many programs he presents throughout southern California, Peter uses music and storytelling to share the wisdom of world mythology, comparative religion, and practical philosophy. Enjoy his daily talks and broaden your vision of the world.

Beloved UU leader Reverend Tom Owen-Towle will present discussions each day that are sure to be transformational. Tom has written two dozen inspirational books. He and his wife Reverend Carolyn Owen-Towle served as ministers in the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego for 25 years. Carolyn will serve as camp chaplain and lead daily morning worship.



Back by popular demand, Chris Epting, award-winning journalist and storyteller, will provide a daily workshop that promises to entertain and spark the writer within you. Chris has written more than 25 books and many articles about famous people and places. For instance, Chris has written about the Elvis Presley tour, jazz landmarks, REM's church, Gershwin's New York, Bruce Springsteen walking tour, Tin Pan Alley, and Prince's Paisley Park.

Attend live performances by different musicians each night such as Karen Hart who has been honored with four world premieres of her music at the Los Angeles Music Center.

Also returning to the Camp de Benneville stage are the members of Choir Camp who perform a wide range of music.

In the tradition of Summer Break Camp, campers share their skills and wisdom at scheduled events throughout the day. Make a craft, join a guided hike, attend a morning stretch, sing along with musicians on the porch...the schedule is packed!



Base price : \$495 per person

Double bottom bed in Craig's Cabin:
\$60/person upgrade fee (2 people required)

Twin upper or lower bed in Craig's Cabin: \$50/person upgrade fee

Twin upper or lower bed in Cabin 6: \$40/person upgrade fee

Double bed in Cabins 5, 7, 8: \$40/person upgrade fee (2 people required)

Register by June 30, 2018 to save \$15!

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

“Live, Love, Music: The Magic of Family Camp”

Sunday, July 29 - Saturday, August 4, 2018

Dean: Kathryn Deal

Ahhhh, Family Camp! For over 50 years families have been coming together at Camp de Benneville Pines to experience the life and love that is our Family Camp in the pines.

New families...please! Returning families...yes! Of course! Join us as we once again come together in the joy of community. Rejoice in the spirit and song that we create as we explore, sing, learn, worship and play together (a lot of playing together) and rediscover the sense of real family love, as well as that wonderful kinship we know as *family camp love*!

All the traditional camp activities will be offered: archery, tie-dye, hiking to the lake, canoeing, campfire stories, group singing, capture the flag, worship, swimming, and dancing. And a few new surprises, too!

Families sleep in family rooms and dine together in Homet Lodge. No dishes and cooking for a week, and all the family fun you can squeeze in.

Come join UU's and their friends from around the district for this intergenerational camping experience. *Live, Love, Music: The Magic of Family Camp* is sure to carry your soul into a place of love and harmony, joy and exaltation!



Pricing:

\$399 per adult (19+)

\$379 per teen (13 - 18)

\$359 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

\$75 non refundable deposit per person required.

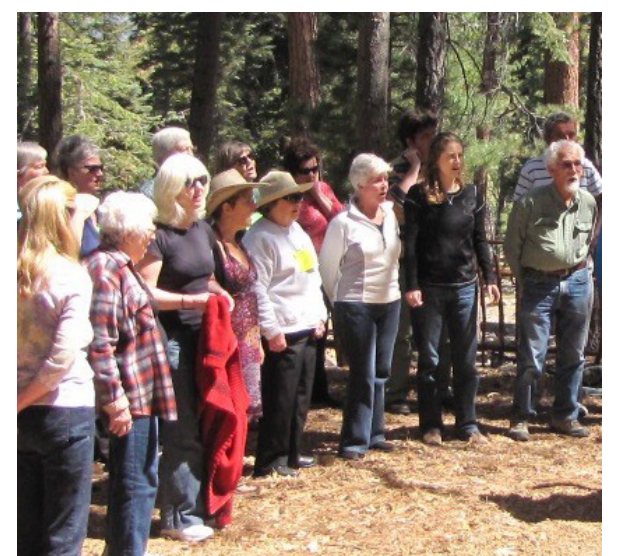
Monthly payment plans available.

To register, visit www.uucamp.org or fill out the form on page 19.

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

THIS WEEK OF SUMMER FUN IS DESIGNED WITH FAMILIES IN MIND

Camp Fun All Year Long!



Monthly Giving: What Does a Camp Conservationist Look Like?

by Jacki Weber, Development Director

What does a Camp Conservationist look like?

Elle' Long was just about the first camper to sign up for de Benneville Pines' new monthly giving program, Camp Conservationists. What made her decide to join? "I love de Benneville almost as much as I love my son and grandkids," she says in her charming Southern accent.



Elaine Durson

Fellow Womens' Weekenders also joined Elle as early Camp Conservationists: thanks Amy Brunell, Elaine Durson, Kathleen Moscato, Louise Klatt, Margery Pope, and Karen Quinn!

Rev. Kathleen Owens answered the call when her congregation (First UU Church of San Diego) headed up to their family camp last summer. "Being on the 'mountain top' offers an important and great perspective, heals my weary mind and heart and re-energizes me for the work that awaits below. And it offers yet another way to live my values in a practical way, every month!!"



Louise Klatt

Randy and Karen McDaniels say that "supporting the camp ensures UUs will continue to have a magical place to come together and create memories with family and friends, develop new bonds, strengthen our UU faith and commune with nature."

Indeed, campers like Ross Quinn from High Desert UU and Jean Prinz from Throop Church have been creating precious memories at camp for more than 50 years: first snow, work weekends, singing on the patio, learning about the trees and birds from a friendly fellow camper.

Musicians are Camp Conservationists: Marge Wurgel says, "I enjoy giving monthly to nourish the camp that nourishes me. De Benneville brings me happiness, peace, and tranquility, and while I am at camp I cherish the

mountains, trees, hot tub in the early morning, sense of belonging, community, singing, and delicious food (even tailored for vegans like me)!"



John and Ardath Schaibly

John and Ardath Schaibly call de Benneville Pines "a treasure for our church and the rest of the PSWD. We are aware not only of the beauty of the place but of the highs and lows of camp operations and funding. Sure, we respond to special fund drives like the fire relief fund and new water tank campaign, but we also are proud monthly supporters of the camp. We support our church monthly for salaries and maintenance, and we feel it's just as important to provide steady income to our beloved camp."

Andy Kissner from Pacific Unitarian Universalist Church says, "Camp goes beyond the congregations. Camp allows so many to rest, recharge, and gain a new (6800 ft.) perspective on life. I give because I can. I am a schoolteacher and do not

make much money. I chose to give \$100 a month, not because it is easy, but because it is hard. Each month, I know that my continued giving will go towards the much-needed upkeep and repairs at camp. In addition, my monthly giving allows camp to get consistent revenue that can support camp operations and employee wages. Each month that I give to camp keeps me connected, knowing that what I choose to give is going to a good place. At PUC we end our Sunday giving with the following words that I think are also appropriate for Camp de Benneville Pines:

"Let us be grateful when we are able to give, for many do not have that privilege. Let us be grateful for those who share their gifts, for we are enriched by their giving. Let us be grateful for our own needs, so that we may learn from the generosity of others."



Elle Long



Karen and Randy McDaniels



Marge Wurgel



Andy Kissner (on left)



Denise Edgell, Janet James, and Jacki Weber

Regular contributions from more than 50 inaugural Camp Conservationists are already funding living wage increases for camp staff this year.

Next up, an accessible trail to the amphitheater for those with limited mobility and energy-efficient kitchen equipment upgrades!

Want to put YOUR UU values into action?

You can sign up at debennevillepines.org.



Tom and Anne Thorward

PSWD Summer YoUUtH Camps 2018

Cost: \$595 per camper

Registration Form on Page 19

Early Bird Discount: \$75 off if registered by May 15, 2018

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

Elementary Camp: Campers completing grades 2 – 5

For general information: Janet James, Executive Director, director@uucamp.org or call (909) 435-6298.

Junior High Camp: Campers completing grades 6 – 8

For program information: Geoff Anderla, Camping Ministries Director, pswdcmd@gmail.com or call (623) 252-5619.

Senior High Camp: Campers completing grades 9 – 12

For information on registration: Laura Chamberlin, Registrar, registrar@uucamp.org or call (909) 794-1252.

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

Elementary Summer Camp “Where the Wild Things Are”

Sunday, July 8 – Saturday, July 14, 2018
Dean: Mira Mickiewicz

Welcome to the realm of the wild things! During this week, we’ll learn forest survival skills, like which wild plants we can eat, how to become stealthy and camouflaged, and how to use a bow and arrow. Of course, we’ll also take part in all of the camp favorites: pool time, art, games, and music, but this week they may well turn into distant ocean explorations, costume-making, magic tricks, and a wild rumpus! We’ll explore our own wildness and passions, building a community where we can each be our own unique, wild self.

We’ll also explore the “peace of wild things,” taking time to reflect and enjoy the stars, the trees, and the family we build in our home away from home. Just like our Unitarian Universalist faith, “Where the Wild Things Are” at Camp de Benneville Pines means celebrating our individuality and our community, and the whole web of life of which we are a part.

Don’t miss this opportunity for an imaginative forest adventure. And don’t worry, we’ll never go to bed without a delicious dinner!

Junior High Summer Camp “Camp Common Ground”

Sunday, July 15 – Saturday, July 21, 2018
Deans: Kathleen Moscato and Marianne Swift-Gifford

Connecting with people is a basic human need. One way of forming this connection is to find common ground. When you find common ground, it is possible to connect. It is easier to have smooth working relationships and to avoid needless conflicts, while having greater harmony in your life. No matter how different and unique people are, there is bound to be common ground if you look for it.

In this world, finding common ground is necessary in building bridges between us. With common ground comes common understanding. Each day we will explore the common ground in our lives, and connect with each other through focusing on how we can make a difference in this world through our Unitarian Universalist principles and values.

Explore all that Camp de Benneville Pines has to offer at Camp Common Ground. Come build community by getting out in nature, playing games, dancing, relaxing, swimming, unwinding and creating while we find common ground with friends old and new.



Senior High Summer Camp “RevolUUtion”

Sunday, July 22 – Saturday, July 28, 2018

Youth Co-Deans: Grace Engleman & Elliot Crary Adult Deans: Sequoia Prindle & Riley Brazell

Come join us this summer in a social justice RevolUUtion! Youth will spend a week playing games, laughing with friends, and learning how to make a difference. Camp de Benneville Pines is an open and welcoming community that affords campers the opportunity to make lifelong connections. Its location in the San Bernardino Mountains makes it the perfect place to get away from the busy city to meet in community and with purpose in a secluded setting. Revolutions have been integral in creating change throughout history, both good and bad; and Unitarians/Universalists have often been at the forefront of that change. Through workshops, activities, and worship, youth will explore how revolutions have affected the past, what they look like today, and how they may be impactful in the future. Today’s youth, are the next generation of leaders. At “Camp RevolUUtion” each youth will be empowered to find a cause and get behind it. Every camper will be inspired by ideas and provided support to set real action into motion upon returning from the mountain. We hope every camper will walk away with the desire to make change, a plan for action, and the means to fight for justice. Come to camp for a revolutionary experience that won’t be found anywhere else.

PSWD’s Counselor-in-Training Program Sunday, July 8 - Saturday, July 14, 2018

CIT Coordinators: Mary Carter Vail and Melinda Merkel Iyer

Do you want to give an amazing camp experience to the next generation of campers? Ready for a summer of hard work and serious responsibility, mixed with outrageous fun and friendship? Train to be a cabin counselor with the CIT program! Delve into a week of intensive learning as you discover the behind-the-scenes side of camp! We’ll explore leadership styles and conflict management, build skills for working with children, practice handling emergency situations, learn how to lead age-appropriate workshops and games, and so much more. In addition to learning how to be top-notch counselors, CITs build connections with each other and become an integral part of the Elementary Camp community. Training takes place in the first half of the day; in the afternoon, CITs will assist cabin counselors and program staff to gain practical experience. Space is limited. Given de Benneville’s ongoing need for counseling staff, applicants should be willing to commit to serving the counseling program for several years after successful completion of the program.

All applicants must be between 15 and 18. A formal CIT application will be sent upon receipt of deposit and registration. All applications, including letters of recommendation, must be in by April 6, 2018. Final acceptance notification will be made by April 15, 2018.

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

Young Adult Camp “Resisting Injustice” A Retreat for Unitarian Universalists ages 18 — 35

Friday, August 31 – Monday, September 3, 2018

Deans: Katharine Anderson & Isaac Castro



Come connect with fellow UU Young Adults at Camp over Labor Day Weekend!

YA Camp is a great space providing creative & self-reflecting workshops, social justice streams, identity caucusing, and spiritual fulfillment. Social justice ‘streams’ will dive into various social justice movements and give campers tools to engage with those issues outside of camp. Swimming, canoeing, archery, board games, and time to hang out with friends old and new await just up the mountain!

YA campers believe it is important to not only remember UU values, but to live by them. *“Faith is the sister of Justice.”* Explore your role as a young adult in the justice movement(s), build relationships with one another around intersecting identities, share practices for healing and resistance, and learn how to support one another on the path toward liberation. Affirming and promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person means answering the call to resist injustice.

SAVE THE DATE! Registration opens April 1st. Watch for updates on www.uucamp.org.

For questions email yacamp@uucamp.org. Be sure to check out the Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/2018YACamp>

“Healing Body, Mind & Spirit Through Yoga”

Friday, September 7 – Sunday, September 9, 2018

Deans: Lisa Harris and Kathy Bolte

Yoga Camp 2018 will hold space for our campers to heal their bodies, free their minds, and awaken their joyful spirits. Deans Lisa and Kathy have recruited teachers who are skilled and passionate about creating healing moments through the practice of yoga and movement, and the classes are sure to inspire students to move and stretch, grow and heal.

Whether participating in a physical yoga or movement class, making therapeutic art, listening or singing along to devotional music, enjoying the healing spirit of the pines, or contemplating the wisdom philosophies our teachers offer, your body, mind, and spirit will be awakened to its own healing abilities.

All skill levels from beginners to advanced yoga practitioners welcome! Sign up early to assure your place in this weekend of yoga healing. Come explore healing the body, mind, and spirit through yoga! Move well and be well.

Price includes food, lodging, classes and activities

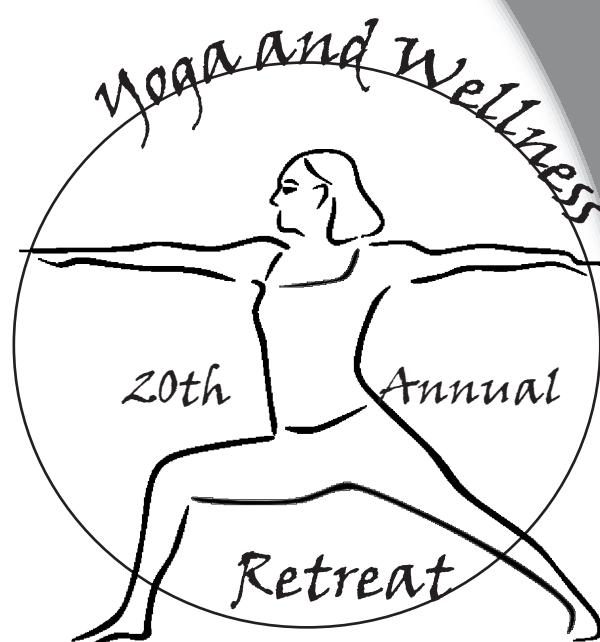
\$199 per person if registered by July 30

\$225 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.



Orange County ACA presents the 30th Anniversary Celebration 12-Step Fall Mountain Retreat

Friday, September 21 – Sunday, September 23, 2018
Featuring ACA & 12-Step Program Workshops and Activities

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, swimming, and fellowship.

We invite all persons from ACA, CODA and similar 12-step programs to come participate in this event.

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

Save The Dates for Winter Fun 2018 - 2019!

More details to come on these winter youth camp experiences!



PSWD Junior High Winter Camp November 16 — 18, 2018

PSWD Senior High Winter Camp December 27, 2018 — January 1, 2019

PSWD Elementary/Family Winter Camp February 16 — 18, 2019

Watch our website for details – www.uucamp.org

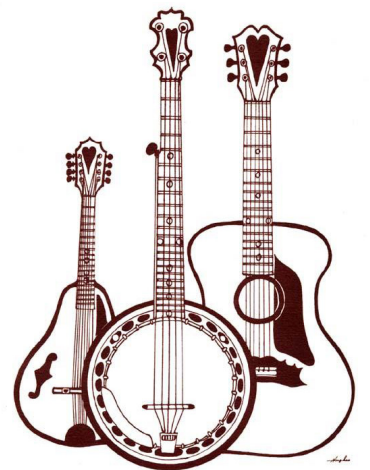
Music in the Mountains

Friday, November 2 – Sunday, November 4, 2018

There is something truly inspiring about a creative weekend of music-making together in the mountains. Join us to elevate and celebrate the traditions of acoustic folk music at this memorable weekend of toe-tapping music. Our headliner this year is performing and recording artist Severin Browne (see page 3 for more information on Severin).

Seldom will you find such a gathering of great talent as that which assembles annually at 6,800 feet above sea level. Sing, play, jam and dance, all day and into the night. Meet musicians and singers from all over California and beyond. This amazing weekend is so reasonably priced that you can hardly justify staying home. Price includes lodging, meals and workshops.

For details and pricing: go to www.uucamp.org and click on “Camps & Retreats” or fill out form on page 19.



Thanksgiving Celebration: A Family Tradition

Thursday, November 22 – Sunday, November 25, 2018



Imagine sitting around a blazing fire in the fireplace of the main lodge, surrounded by family and close friends you didn't even know you had. The aromas of roasting turkey, fresh-baked apple pie, homemade bread and hot apple cider fills the air, mingled with the faint aromatic fragrance of cedar smoke. Bring the whole family to Camp de Benneville to experience a hassle-free Thanksgiving that will be the best you have ever enjoyed. This is a special weekend for families, singles, couples and young adults. Truly an intergenerational event.

We ask participants to lead a program or offer a workshop in order to provide a wide variety of activities throughout the weekend. Please start thinking about what you can share with others to make this weekend even more special.

Adults: \$199

Youth (3 - 17): \$159

Children 2 & Under: Free

Arrive Wednesday: add \$20/person (no food service until Thursday dinner)

Arrive Friday: subtract \$20 (rooming priority for those arriving Thursday)

Craig's Cabin/Cabin 6: +\$35 per Adult

Double Bed in Cabins 5,7,8 (two persons required): +\$35/room

Non-refundable deposit of \$75/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 1, 2018

Volunteer Work Camps 2018

Spring Work Camp: Monday, April 2 — Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Fall Work Camp: Monday, November 5 — Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Twice a year, every year, volunteers come up the mountain to help spiff up camp. And every year, everyone has a great time working together to keep Camp de Benneville Pines in good repair. We need all kinds of help; painting, raking, organizing the library or repairing pool furniture. There are tasks for everyone, from easy jobs to heavy lifting, both indoors and out.

We have room for 50 energetic and generous individuals, age 11 and older, who are willing to spend a little “sweat equity” at camp. We promise you delicious food, comfortable accommodations and great camaraderie. You'll leave knowing your efforts are appreciated by the staff and will ensure that future campers have a safe and wonderful experience at Camp.

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



All events require a \$75 per person non-refundable deposit. Your payment in full will be required one week 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:								
Card #/Type (VISA/MC/DISC/AMEX)				Expiration Date		Security Code (3 digits MC/VISA/DISC; 4 digits AMEX)		



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	DOB	Grade in Fall	M/F/ GN	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
2018 – 2019

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Lori Mahaffey Haahr

Karen Irgang

Steve Johnston

Jill Lummus

Trudy Mann

Elvia Prieto

Rhonda Reeves

Lori Standley

Elias Suarez

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

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

Join Kathy Bolte & Dr. Christie Smirl for a Women's Wisdom Retreat in Craig's Cabin December 14 — 16, 2018.

The weekend will revolve around the teachings of the Dagara Tribe of Burkina Faso, West Africa. We will explore the tribe's system of the elements to understand the power of Fire, Water, Earth, Nature and Mineral. We'll combine these ancient teachings with our Western sensibilities to dig deep and gain a better understanding of who we are and how we relate to our world.

The weekend will be filled with story, journaling, discussion, ritual and sisterhood. Each of us will learn which of the five elements we resonate with, and whether we are a "Seeker" or a "Keeper" of the element. We will explore the ways in which we can understand our unique path more fully and take our gifts home with us to further nurture our own lives, our families, and our communities.

Gentle yoga, a little live music, and some meandering nature walks will be a part of our weekend.

Your Facilitators: Kathy teaches Yogāsana and Nāda Yoga. She is a story teller and has been leading Women's Wisdom Circles for 18 years. Christie is a Nurse Practitioner, Doctor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Reiki Master. She teaches interdisciplinary wisdom classes to improve people's physical, emotional and spiritual health. Together, Kathy & Christie lead the popular kīrtan band, Ākāśavāni.

Cost for the weekend is \$275 and includes your lodging and food.

Get the discounted rate of \$250 if registered by October 1, 2018.

KathyBolteYoga.com/WisdomRetreats
Register early – space is limited.