

Camp de Benneville Pines

Celebrating 58 years serving UU Campers of all ages

Connection

Spring/Summer/Fall 2019

Your Unitarian Universalist Mountain Retreat

SAWUURA, our UU camp in a canyon in Arizona

By Curtiss Seale, SAWUURA Board Member

Imagine sitting in a grove of ancient Alligator Juniper trees, listening to nature's poetry. Those Alligator Juniper trees grew, not in the same direction, but outward from each other, forming a circle in the middle of which is an open space, the place where the mother once stood, huge, grand, leaving her children to mark her memory. That

is sacred space, a sanctuary, virtually unknown, remote, almost hidden, where people seldom come. SAWUURA is an ideal retreat in community or in solitude that will renew your connection to the 7th UU principle, respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The founding of SAWUURA shares a history with de Benneville Pines. While serving the church of Riverside, California in 1961, the Rev. Ray Manker provided leadership in the acquisition of de Benneville Pines in Angelus Oaks, California. Then in 1977, while serving at First Church of Phoenix, Rev. Manker found a property in the Sierra Ancha mountains of Arizona that he felt would be a perfect retreat site. Congregants Frank and Loraine Kadish had recently



sold their business and wanted to give some of its proceeds to a noteworthy church project. With their money and Ray's vision, SAWUURA came to be.

SAWUURA

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REV. DR. RAYMOND GEORGE MANKER

Rev. Dr. Raymond George Manker (Sr.) died peacefully December 16, 2018, in Phoenix, AZ, at the age of 93. He was born on April 6, 1925, in Santa Monica, CA. His father was Rev. Charles C. G. Manker who became minister of the Unitarian congregation in El Paso, TX, and his mother was Annie Marie Fehn. Raymond received his B.A. from Texas College of Mines & Metallurgy in 1945. He then studied for the Quaker ministry at the College of the Bible at Transylvania University in Lexington, KY, receiving a B.D. in 1948, and then was ordained and entered the Unitarian ministry. He received an honorary Doctor of Sacred Theology (STD) from Starr King School of the Ministry in 1974.

He married Gretchen Brammer Loomis of Houston, TX in 1949. His ministries were in Toledo, OH (1949-50), Wayland, MA (1950-1955), Riverside, CA (1955-1963), and Phoenix, AZ (1963-1990). He also served as Executive of the Pacific Southwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association (1958-1963), during which time he was the founder of de Benneville Pines Conference Center in Angelus Oaks, CA. Later, in the 1970s, he also founded SAWUURA (Sierra Ancha Wilderness UU Religious Association), a wilderness retreat in Arizona.

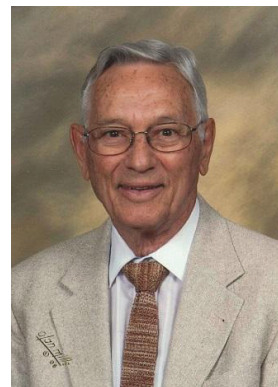
In his long ministry, he defended targets of McCarthy era hysteria, counseled and advo-

cated for youth, was very active in the civil rights movement including marching with MLK in Alabama and visiting with voting rights workers in Mississippi. He

advocated for peace and nonviolence, promoted feminism and attended international women's conferences, and promoted LGBT rights (including as an early officiant of same-sex weddings). Ray was active in the sanctuary movement of the 1980s, and committed

civil disobedience with Gretchen at the nuclear testing site in Nevada. He was a draft and abortion counselor, supported the United Farm Workers union and the ACLU, served on the Board of the UU Service Committee, was active in IARF, and much more. He was a humanist, a Christian, and attuned to nature spirituality.

He traveled the world extensively with Gretchen and family. Upon his retirement from active ministry in 1990, he was made Minister Emeritus of the UU Congregation of Phoenix AZ. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Charles Manker Jr, sister Pauline Gay, and son Wendell. He is survived by his wife Gretchen, his children and their spouses Katherine (Bruce Gardner), Raymond Jr (Patti Atchley), Susan (Curtiss Seale), and David (Larry Purifory). He is also survived by four grandchildren Tiffany Brock, Nicholas Manker, Benjamin Manker-Seale, and Kat Choyguha, and three great-grandchildren, as well as nieces and nephews and cousins.



Non-profit
Organization
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Camp de Benneville Pines
41750 Jenks Lake Road West
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305
Change Service Requested



Camp de Benneville Pines

Calendar of Events 2019

January

- 12/27 - 1/1 Senior High Winter Youth Camp
4 - 6 Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
11 - 13 Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
17 - 21 SCA
25 - 27 Pack 5

February

- 1 - 3 Girl Scouts - Huntington Beach
8 - 10 Ohr Hatorah School Retreat
16 - 18 UU Elementary/Family Winter Camp
22 - 24 Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928

March

- 1 - 3 Neighborhood UU & Long Beach Family Retreat
8 - 10 LA Songmakers (Craig's Cabin & Cabin 6)
Remainder of Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
15 - 17 Girl Scouts of Marina S.U. Family Camp
22 - 24 Conejo Valley UU Women's Group
(Craig's Cabin and Cabin 6)
29 - 31 Rainbow Family Camp #1
[See ad on Page 7](#)

April

- 2 - 4 Ministerial Formation Network
(Craig's Cabin and Cabin 6)
5 - 7 San Dieguito UU Family Retreat
12 - 14 UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal
[See ad on Page 5](#)
19 - 21 Breath Works Health Restoration Retreat
(Craig's Cabin and Cabin 6)
Open to all! For information call (951) 399-1695
26 - 28 Camp Recovery 12-Step Retreat
[See ad on Page 21](#)

May

- 2 Pathways Academy
3 - 5 UU Women's Spring Retreat
[See ad on Page 5](#)
10 - 12 Camp Transcend Family Retreat
[See ad on Page 11](#)
13 - 15 Spring Volunteer Camp (tentative)
[See ad on Page 7](#)
17 - 19 Rainbow Family Camp #2
[See ad on Page 7](#)
24 - 27 Camp Bravo Camper Reunion

June

- 5/31 - 6/2 San Diego & Chalice UU Family Retreat
7 - 9 Pacific Unitarian Church Family Retreat
10 - 14 Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
16 - 22 Camp Bravo Theatre Arts Camp Week 1
23 - 29 Camp Bravo Theatre Arts Camp Week 2

July

- 6/30 - 7/6 Camp Bravo Theatre Arts Camp Week 3
7 - 13 UU Elementary School Summer Youth Camp
[See ad on Page 8](#)
7 - 13 UU Counselor-in-Training Program
[See ad on Page 8](#)

July (continued)

- 14 - 20 UU Middle School Summer Youth Camp
[See ad on Page 9](#)
21 - 27 UU Senior High Summer Youth Camp
[See ad on Page 9](#)
28 - 8/3 UU Family Summer Camp
[See ad on Page 11](#)

August

- 4 - 8 UUJM Justice Leadership Summit
[See ad on Page 21](#)
10 - 14 Summer Break Camp for Adults
[See ad on page 13](#)
10 - 14 Choir Camp: Singing in the Pines
[See ad on Page 13](#)
16 - 21 Summer Arts Program for Adults: Art Groove!
[See ad on Page 17](#)
23 - 25 Neighborhood UU Family Retreat
30 - 9/2 Young Adult Camp
[See ad on Page 19](#)

September

- 6 - 8 Yoga Retreat
[See ad on Page 17](#)
9 - 12 El Rancho Camp Bravo
13 - 15 Santa Monica UU Family Retreat
20 - 22 ACA 12-Step Retreat
[See ad on Page 23](#)
27 - 29 Conejo Valley & Monte Vista UU Family Retreat

October

- 4 - 6 Orange Coast, Tapestry, Laguna UU Family Retreat
11 - 13 LA Valley Cluster UU Family Retreat
18 - 20 Pine-Con
[See ad on Page 21](#)
24 - 27 Daughters of Diana Family Retreat

November

- 1 - 3 Music in the Mountains Folk Music Retreat
[See ad on Page 15](#)
4 - 7 Conejo Valley Homeschool Group
8 - 10 Fullerton UU/Alianza Indigenous Alliance Family Retreat
15 - 17 Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
22 - 24 Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
28 - 12/1 Thanksgiving Family Celebration
[See ad on Page 19](#)

December

- 6 - 8 Winter Art Camp for Adults
(Craig's and Cabin 6)
13 - 15 Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
20 - 22 Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
27 - 1/1 UU Senior High Winter Youth Camp

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

For information about leasing camp, contact Janet James, Executive Director, at director@uucamp.org or (909) 794-2928



From the Beginning

Remembering the Journey that Helped Create our Sacred Home in the Mountains

By Rev. Ray Manker (reprinted from 2011 Golden Anniversary issue)

I originally studied for the Friends ministry after graduating from college in 1945. I attended seminary in 1948. My first Unitarian connection was in Toledo, OH as an associate minister under Arthur Olson. Next, I had a Unitarian church of my own in Weyland, MA. The east coast was great, but I wanted to return to a more southern and warmer climate. In 1955, I transferred to Riverside, CA to lead the congregation there. It was historically a Universalist church but had also taken in Unitarians.

I'd been there a short time when the Universalist regional director asked me if I would do some district work. I took on responsibilities for Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, and west Texas for the Universalists. This was before the merger occurred and the Unitarians asked me to do the same job

for them. I found myself wearing three hats, two district responsibilities while still having my congregation in Riverside.

I became the first District Executive for this area. Most of the area's congregations merged about two years before the denomination did. This made it easier for me to fulfill my district responsibilities.

The Universalists had sold two of their buildings, one in Los Angeles, and one in Hollywood. There were very few Universalist churches left in California and the money from these sales was sent back to headquarters. It was held "on account" and designated for use in Southern California.

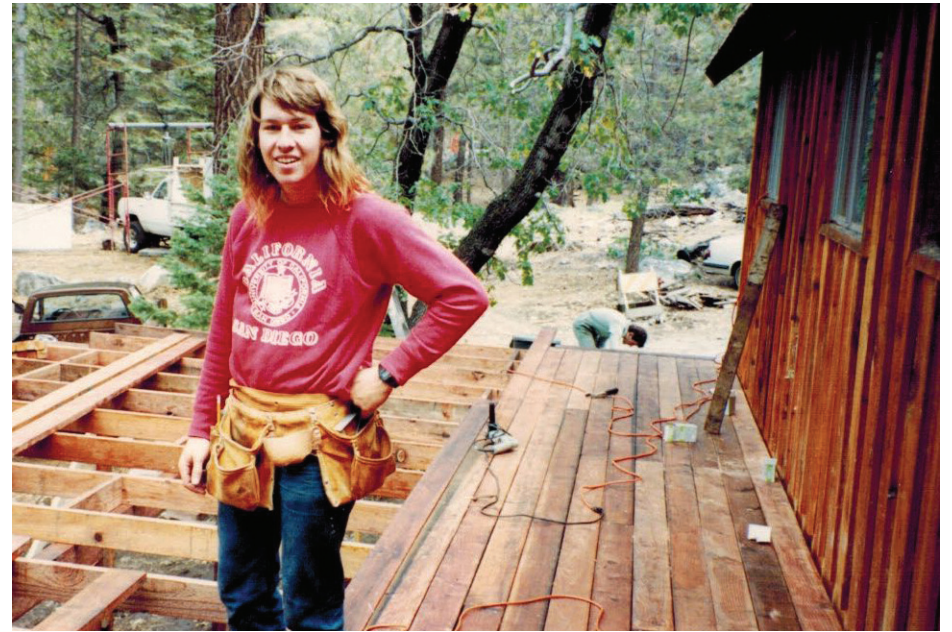
Through my ministry work, I developed a deep and compelling need to create a camp where people of liberal faith could join together in a safe and sacred environment.

With the pending merger of the two faiths, myself and others carried out a plan to build a camp in the San Bernardino mountains, which is now Camp de Benneville Pines.

The Pacific Southwest Institute of Religious Liberals (PSWIRL) had been renting out Camp Radford for their annual summer family camp. They approached me during one meeting at Radford, and said "Ray, we've decided we have to have a camp of our own." Radford had become too small, and they asked me to go out and find a site.

I formed a committee and we

From the Beginning
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Building new decks in early 70's to help improve winter use.

Eulogy: Rev. Ray Manker

Dr. Ross Quinn presented this eulogy during the Memorial Service for Rev. Raymond Manker held on Saturday, January 26, 2019. The service was held at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix in Paradise Valley, Arizona.

Good afternoon. My name is Dr. Ross Quinn. I am here on behalf of Camp de Benneville Pines, its Board of Directors, and its Executive Director, Janet James. They strongly desired to be here, but due to a long-scheduled Camp fundraising commitment, they were unable to come today.



As a former Camp Board member, I am honored to join you in celebrating the life of Rev. Ray Manker. He was one of those rare dreamers who had the vision, and the determination, to make his dreams a reality: the reality of our Camp de Benneville Pines.

While I confess that I do not have the depth of personal relationship

with Rev. Ray that is common to so many of you, I stand before you as a witness to, and maybe as an example of, the power of his Camp dreams. I first saw Camp de Benneville Pines almost 60 years ago, as a boy. It was then a tent camping site for the Boy Scouts, Camp Arataba. I first went there in 1960 with my father, John Quinn, who became the first PSWD President after the Unitarian-Universalist merger in 1961. My dad and Rev. Ray, and many others, shared a dream of having our own retreat site where UUs could gather in community. These folks worked tirelessly together to find that perfect place. Dad and Rev. Ray, then of the Riverside, California Universalist Church, proposed to buy our Camp in 1960. Always a negotiator, Rev. Ray helped bring this to fruition in 1961, working hard to secure funding from the Universalist Association, to purchase surplus cabins from the Air Force, and to raise money to build a lodge.

Camp de Benneville Pines first grew in our minds as a dream, then in our hearts, and backs, one shovel scoop at a time, as we built our

Camp, literally from the ground up. I essentially grew up at our wilderness Camp, which nurtured me deeply. There I first learned the dignity of hard manual labor during innumerable work weekends. I grew to know and appreciate the wild mountain and attended as many youth and LRY retreats there as possible. As a teenager, I developed an ability to speak; I learned about compassion and love, work and responsibility, and even some about leadership. I led youth worship services under its great trees, where, with my LRY friends, we somehow intuited the essence of our great 7th Principle, about our deep interrelatedness, before it was written. Camp de Benneville grew me into our U-U denomination and cemented me to it: Unlike so many youths who drift away, Camp helped me to stay within our faith. This too was Rev. Ray's dream.

Our Camp wilderness, with its awesome power to teach and heal us, is truly a sacred home for our spirits. Zoe Nelson, a senior high camper this winter, wrote about this beautifully: "Camp de Benneville Pines

means more to me than I can express. It has provided me with a space to be my true self and has given me confidence that I am able to take down the mountain. Camp showed me the value of a strong, supportive community and yet taught me how to be an individual. I am beyond grateful for this camp." So many lives, like Zoe's, are better and stronger through Rev. Ray's work.

To conclude, to those who have come to Camp since 1961, and to those who will continue to come for generations more, I am honored to say that Ray Manker, your husband, your father, your minister and your friend, worked hard to make his dreams a vibrant reality for all: He made us, and our world, better, and we are deeply in his debt. This man, a dreamer, a worker, a lover of life and people, and of our Earth, contributed immeasurably to multitudes of lives in our district: People who have now spread out into the world to make a difference in their own right. Rev. Ray's dream endures. And we pledge his life's work will continue at Camp de Benneville Pines.

Namaste, Rev. Ray Manker, we thank you, and we miss you. The holiness in you, quite literally, helped develop the holiness in me, and in so many others. Blessed we all were, and continue to be, by your time with us.



From the Beginning

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started searching. We found a Boy Scout camp, Camp Arataba, which was not too far away from Camp Radford. It was at about 6800 feet altitude and seemed to be ideal.



PSWIRL campers singing at Camp Radford circa 1958

The camp had lost its main lodge due to a fire. A wealthy donor had given the Boy Scouts a new camp on a ridge near Lake Arrowhead, and Camp Arataba was put up for sale. My committee deliberated and decided to go ahead with purchasing it.

When we wanted to buy de Benneville, the district Universalists said they had \$40,000 sitting in an account and wrote to headquarters to ask for the money back. The merger was just about to happen, and it was agreed to let us use the money, but instead of a gift, it was to be a long-term loan with no interest, and no due date. In 1986,



Rev. Ray Manker at Camp de Benneville Pines dedication ceremony circa 1964

with the help of then UUA trustee from PSWD, Peter Haslund, they

wrote off the loan.

As the money originally came from the Universalists, and I wanted to make sure a Universalist name was on the camp, we chose to honor George de Benneville; hence, the name "de Benneville Pines."

We needed to have some place to sleep besides just the tent platforms, which may have been okay for Boy Scouts but were too rustic for our purposes. We discovered that the US Government was currently selling WWII buildings at March and Edwards AFBs. We went and looked at them, primarily the ones at Fort Edwards. We decided to purchase 6 of them.

We had to bring all these buildings in by truck and find a place for each of them. It was a great time! From the beginning, the district churches were heavily supportive of the new camp and helped with digging by hand the new sewer and water system. The churches sent up teams of teens and adults to help with the digging and building. They all used the camp quite enthusiastically, and I became the first camp manager.

PSWIRL was the first camp and became the most regular user of de Benneville. The group was the same one that had been using Camp Radford and they were glad to have a new and bigger camp for their retreats.

Once the improvements were done, we had a dedication ceremony, and from then on it was heavily used by all the same churches who currently use it today. PSWIRL remained as a family camp, and a second family camp was started by Religious Educators.

At this point, the USFS told us that we had to be open all year or make it available for other groups to use when we weren't using it. The camp became year-round from its early beginnings, even though it was never intended to be a year-round camp. We needed someone to stay in camp and run it, a role

I could not take on. We heard about someone in Minnesota who wanted to come to California to manage the camp. We hired him and he lived on site. He initially moved into the nurse's cabin, which was an original Boy Scout building.

Once we committed to year-round use, we had to make the cabins winter proof. They had been living quarters in the high desert and were not intended for winter use. We were very fortunate that we had several congregants who were excellent builders and who were willing to be involved with this conversion. I remember one fellow, Bob Land from Anaheim, who designed new porches for the cabins. We had to put foundations under the cabins, tear all the siding off for insulation, and then put new siding on. All the roofs had to be redesigned and replaced to carry the snow load. The swimming pool and bathhouse were already on

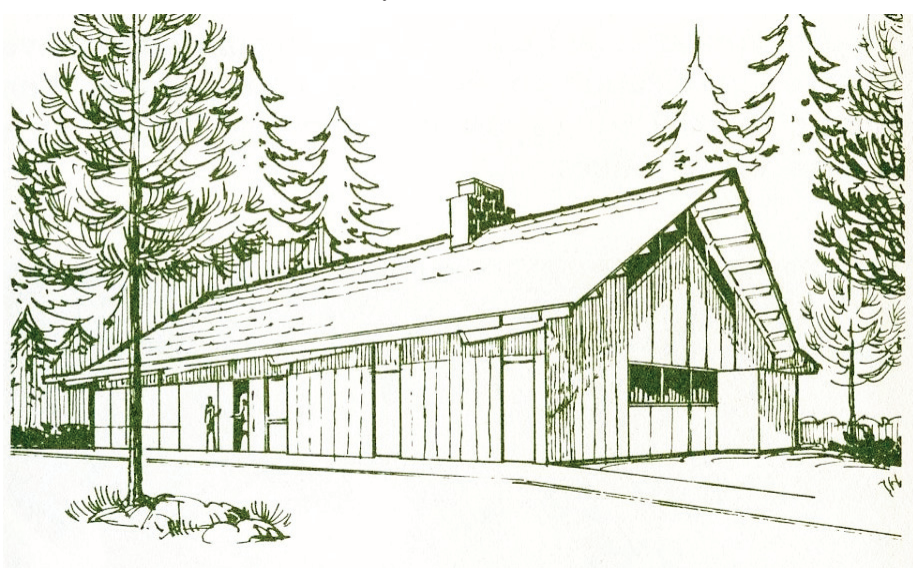


1960's campers frolicking in Jenks Lake

has its problems on the inside. If I remember correctly, it only had a bedroom, bath room and small kitchen.

After the main merger came along, I was asked to continue serving as the district executive, but I declined. I wanted to go back to parish ministry.

In 1963, I stepped down from the district executive position, and Arthur Olsen, who I'd worked with in Toledo, came from Phoenix to



Architect rendering of Homet Lodge

site, and that was one of the main things everyone loved about the camp. There was an excellent water source and well in existence too.

Mrs. Homet Patterson of Throop Church was approached about funding a new lodge to replace the one that had burned down when the Boy Scouts owned the camp. She agreed after hearing our vision and visiting the site. She asked that we name the building after her maiden name, Homet.

The only other original structure on the site was the little cabin which is now used by the Camp Director. It is a cute little house from the outside, but it certainly

replace me. That left a minister position open in the Phoenix Church. I threw my hat in the ring and the Phoenix church hired me! The first year I was in Arizona, I brought my young people to summer camp at de Benneville. So, Phoenix church members were involved from the beginning.

First Church Phoenix was a big church and took most of my time, so I wasn't very active in the district after that. I retired from First Church in 1990. I am pleased to say that both the PSWD and de Benneville Pines have managed well without my ongoing input, and for that I am forever grateful.



UU Women's Retreat

"Celebrate Nurturing - Part 2" Women's Retreat

Friday, May 3 – Sunday, May 5, 2019

Join us for a joyful and restorative weekend in the mountains celebrating the nurturing power of nature, community, music, creativity, and reconnection with ourselves. Nurture your mind, body and spirit in this beautiful, healing space while connecting deeply with an amazing community of women!

Choose from the following categories of rejuvenating workshops:

Breathe / Nourish / Discover / Wander / Be

Remember you can be as relaxed (massage, hot tub, meditation, reading on the deck) or as active (dancing, hiking, yoga, crafting, inspiring workshops) as you want to be while nurturing yourself under the pines. Our musical guests this year are the UUnrecorded Divas and we will have open mic again for all to share their creative expression, powerful stories, and authentic truth!

With all of the continued challenges and uncertainty in the world, it is important to give ourselves permission to pause, nurture ourselves, and, together in community, to cultivate more peace, love and joy the world!

Keynote speaker, Kelley Grimes, will explore "Spreading Our Wings: Nurturing and Empowering Ourselves to Blossom, Grow, and Thrive!"

Kelley Grimes, MSW, is a counselor, speaker, internationally best-selling author, self-nurturing expert, Aspire Magazine expert columnist, 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 supporting them to get to the root of their habit of self-neglect and guiding them in cultivating sustainable practices of self-nurturing. Kelley serves as the President of the Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Executive Board and loves to sing with the small women's singing group, the UUnrecorded Divas. Learn more about Kelley at <https://www.cultivatingpeaceandjoy.com>.

For more information, visit www.uucamp.org and click on "Camps & Retreats".



UU Men's Fellowship

Spring Renewals

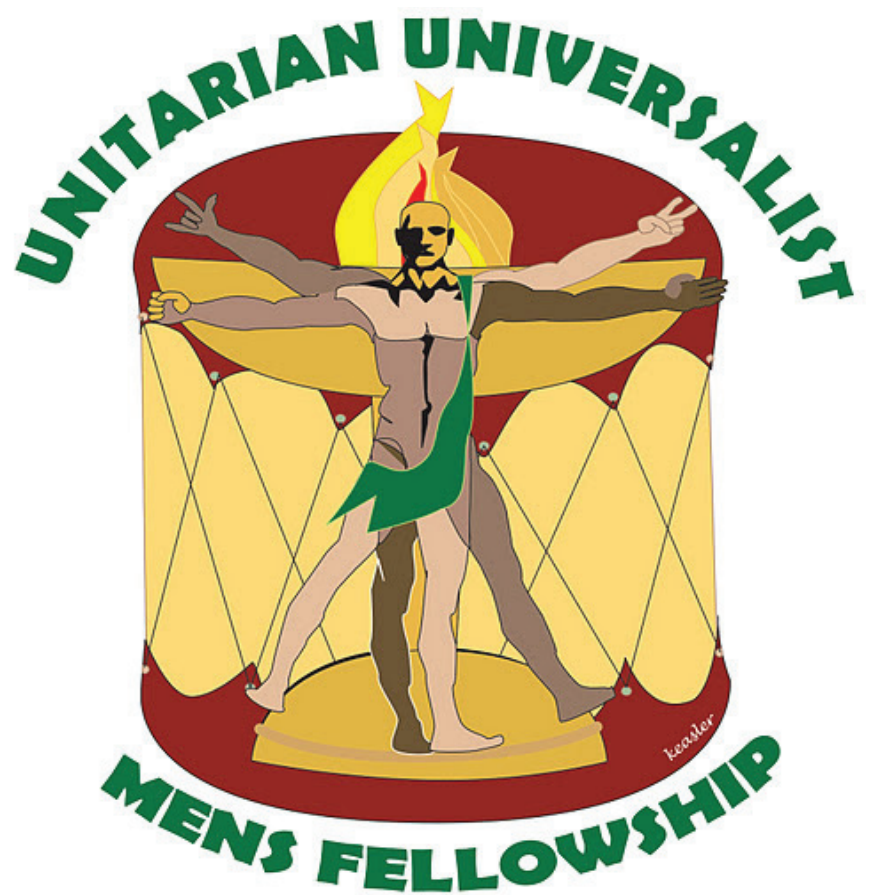
Friday, April 12 – Sunday, April 14, 2019

All UU men are invited to join in fellowship and celebration at Camp de Benneville Pines, April 12-14. The theme, Facing Our Transitions: Past, Present, and Future, offers us time for reflection, contemplation, and action.

The Men's Fellowship Renewals offer a safe place in which we, as brothers, can be open to the issues that challenge us to the core of who we are and help us to begin the process of unpacking them. In a small supportive kinship group setting, we will share confidentially and in a non-judgmental manner. We welcome our sometimes-raw emotions and self-aware laughter at our foibles. In addition, there will be time for music and singing, hot tub and hiking, drumming and ritual, conversation and renewing friendships, and meditation and quiet time.

The \$175 fee includes meals and lodging. It is our policy that no man will be denied for financial reason; scholarships are available. An informal Thursday evening check-in is possible if you want to start the weekend early and to adjust to the altitude and beauty of the area.

Sponsored by the Men's Fellowship, First Church San Diego.



For more information, comments or other questions, please contact Mike Dorfi (mdorfi@cox.net, 619-466-5962) or John Holl (johnholl@cox.net, 619-546-6525), or check the following <http://www.firstuumf.org/UUMF/Renewals.html>.



Where the Wild Things Are

By Mira Mickiewicz, Intern Minister at First Unitarian Church of Portland, OR
Photos by Stephanie Huerta

This summer, I had the honor of planning and leading a week of wonder in the mountains as the Elementary Camp Dean at Camp de Benneville Pines. Our theme,



“Where the Wild Things Are”, took us on an unforgettable journey of community-building, nature connection, and listening to our own hearts and the world around us. As an intergenerational community of adults, teen leaders, and younger campers, we played, explored, worshipped, created, connected, and renewed our spirits together.

Seeing the elementary campers forge friendships, sink into time in nature, and give back to camp



through service projects such as trail building, emergency preparedness, and planning the “Wild Rumpus” reminded me of how lucky I have

been to be involved with camps for most of my life. Seeing the ways that our Counselor-In-Training, Counselors and Adult Staff created nurturing space for kids to be

themselves reminded me of why the relationships formed at camp are so important, and why Unitarian Universalist Camp is essential to our movement.

I grew up going to Berkeley Tulumne Family Camp — nestled along the South Fork of the Tulumne River three miles from Yosemite Park, it was a haven for me. We kids were free to roam in the forest, scramble over rocks, form friendships, drift in and out of the arts and crafts area, and take some time alone under the trees. (Little did I know that family camp was also a dream come true for adults — with so many caring camp staff and other parents around, moms and dads felt free to read a book, take a hike, or pursue their own crafts, without having to entertain the kids all day.)

As a camper in my elementary and middle school years, I was in awe of the camp staff, and was delighted when they affirmed my interest in helping and participating in camp life. Though I only knew them for a week or two out

of the year, the care and love that they beamed into me and the other kids was transformative — I felt able to be myself and shine. Most of the staff were teens or in their early twenties, and in my eyes, the epitome of cool; but Cynthia, the kitchen supervisor, was the matriarch of camp. She welcomed my friends and me to help prepare meals, telling stories with us about camp history, and listening to our questions and aspirations. Though she probably had plenty of “real” work to do, she shared her attention and love with us.

Similarly, when I went with my 5th-grade class on a weeklong overnight outdoor education field trip, my instructor Joie conveyed a deep sense of care and belonging to me. Her gift to us was that she held our wonderings and showed us the truly interwoven web of life — and that we were each a part of it. She helped us feel our own power and responsibility, affirming our participation in the group, awakening a sense of awe while watching crows catch the thermals over the bluffs, and practicing the fastidious trail ethics of “leave no trace”. That week helped me feel alive and connected to the world, and really seen and valued by an adult in a way that I hadn’t really felt before. Tragically, just months later, that summer she became one of the women who was targeted and killed in Yosemite Park. Her death sparked a deep sense of injustice in me — not so much for her own life, but for the lives of all of the other kids who she should have been able to teach and transmit the same fierce love and groundedness that she had to me.

I have spent the better part of the nearly two decades since then engaged in various forms of outdoor education and summer camp, working with a variety of organizations and populations as I have sought to honor Joie’s legacy and “pay it forward” to other campers and staff. I worked my way up from being a Counselor-in-Training at age 14 through directing an overnight summer camp in 2016. I



loved this work. Being a camp director was absolutely the best job I’ve ever had.

Yet, when I felt the call to seminary and ministry, which was born from my commitment to the social justice movements I have also been so passionate about, I thought that I had to leave behind the “childish” or “superfluous” world of camp. I grieved giving up this thing I loved, that I didn’t think could fit into my vision of a justice-grounded, community-building Unitarian Universalist ministry. I don’t think I have ever been so grateful to be wrong!

I have realized that summer camp is a spiritual pursuit. My time at camp as a child was formative for my sense of independence and my connection to nature, but also to my experience of transcendence and awe. Caring adults like Cynthia and Joie showed me not just about the world around me, but about my own internal world and how giving back to the community around me could be deeply fulfilling. Now, I recognize the connection I feel to Joie’s legacy as a central part of my call towards camp ministry.

I had heard of bible camp before, but it wasn’t until my second year of



seminary that I learned there were also Unitarian Universalist summer camps. That year I had the honor of serving as a chaplain at two of them, including Camp de Benneville Pines. Seeing the synergy of these two worlds I love — Unitarian Universalism and summer camp — has only made me love camp more and be more convinced of its value for both youth and adults.

I think particularly of the way that high school youth at Camp de Benneville Pines hold each other in support and confidence through difficult conversations during their



Where the Wild Things Are

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nightly “raps”, and of the way that the UU value of honoring the unique beauty of each person creates a strong sense of welcome



among the elementary campers. I think of all the kids who often feel “different” or pushed to the margins at their schools, who in the loving community of camp find a chance to shine. And, I think of all the more mainstream-appearing kids who find a chance to be vulnerable. I think of the adults who discover, as I have, what a gift it is to be able to really see young people and to be able to model healthy community

with them.

This summer at Elementary Camp, we wove together these strands of faith, nature, community, and self-expression as we explored “Where the Wild Things Are”.

Each day had a theme and a story to ground it, with activities, discussions and opportunity for connection. There were campfires, camper-led daily worship services, games, cabin times, silly and sweet evening activities, quiet time in nature, and art projects galore. But more than anything, there was the feeling of creating something larger than ourselves, and that feeling is what each of us has carried forward.

Maya Angelou said, “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” When overnight camp experiences are enacted with care and attention, they create spaces and communities where campers feel that they

are part of something larger than themselves, seen for who they are, connected with the natural world, and engaged in the beloved community. This feeling of grounding and belonging is what enables us to live out our faith in the larger world throughout our lives.

Unitarian Universalism needs camp. We need it for our own existing communities, as a place to gather ourselves; restore, learn, and grow together; to cross-pollinate ideas and spiritual practices among our neighboring congregations in the region; to give our children a tangible understanding of beloved community. Many young adults who were raised UU are leaving our faith, but often, those who stay cite camps, conferences, and inter-church youth gatherings as central to their love of and commitment to our faith. There, they have felt welcomed even when they don’t fit in elsewhere, encouraged to grow and develop their own voice, and empowered to know and

trust their hearts and minds.

Together, at Camp de Benneville Pines, we are building Unitarian Universalist community beyond the walls of the church. We nurture children in their independence and spiritual connections, and nurture adults by offering healing, renewal, and learning opportunities. Through camp, we are building an ever-growing community of people who can each come alive and care for the world. So, my blessing and



wish for each of you in 2019 is to keep the spirit of camp in your hearts, wherever you are and whatever you do!

Rainbow Family Camps

Twice the Fun!

Two weekends designed with LGBTQ families and their friends in mind

Friday, March 29 – Sunday, March 31, 2019

Friday, May 17 – Sunday, May 19, 2019

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. Delight in your child’s excitement over meeting other children from families “just like ours!” The weekends offer an atmosphere of mutual respect, kindness and support.

Shelly and Lynn Siegel will be our deans for Rainbow Family Camp #1 in March. Emily and Kristin Lummus will return as deans for Rainbow Family Camp #2 in May.

Activities include: crafts, hiking, movies, talent show, dance, parent socials, outdoor activities, indoor games, community meals, and for those attending the March camp, 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 more information, visit www.uucamp.org and click on “Camps & Retreats”.

Volunteer Camps 2019

Spring Volunteer Camp:
(tentative dates)

Mon., May 13– Wed., May 15, 2019

Fall Volunteer Camp:

Watch for dates on camp website

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.

For more information, visit www.uucamp.org and click on “Camps & Retreats”.



Summer Youth Camps



UU Counselor-in-Training Program

Sunday, July 7 – Saturday, July 13, 2019

**Counselor Trainers: 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, CIT's 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, CIT's 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 serve the counseling program for several years after successful completion of the program.

All applicants must be between 14 and 18. A formal CIT application will be sent upon registration and receipt of deposit. All applications, including letters of recommendation, must be in by April 5, 2019. Final acceptance notification will be made by May 1, 2019.

Cost: \$450 (no discounts available for this program)

Elementary School Camp

Camp Come Together

Sunday, July 7 – Saturday, July 13, 2019

Dean: Eirinn Elliott

Elementary camp at Camp de Benneville Pines is always a blast! Kids come together from across the district, each bringing their unique brand of UU spirit and attitude!

At de Benneville Pines, prepare yourself for a home-away-from-home experience with home cooked meals, counselor lead activities, creative programs that reinforce UU values, and meaningful worship services created by the campers themselves.

Come to the forest to play & grow with new friends (& old!). Have fun joining in both traditional and new activities—swimming, archery, hiking, crafting, singing, tie-dyeing and more!

Nestled in the beautiful San Bernardino National Forest, Camp de Benneville Pines has been a summer tradition for generations of UU's. Enjoy music, singing, games, uplifting worship, walking to Jenks Lake, and demonstrating your talent in the famous camp talent show. Roast marshmallows around

the campfire, hunt for hidden treasures, work on an ecology project, build a new trail into the woods, or just sit and relax with friends and watch the clouds roll past in the blue mountain sky.

Our theme "Come together" to make friends is sure to be a hit. Meeting and making friends from other congregations is what makes camp so special. Come together to make friends and leave with lasting & wonderful camp memories.

We are a camp focused on a community of love and acceptance where all are welcome.

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





Middle School Camp

**Camp Interconnections:
A Call for Action on Climate Change!**

Sunday, July 14 – Saturday, July 20, 2019

Deans: Kathleen Moscato and Marianne Swift-Gifford

All life is interconnected. From the forest to the sea to humanity itself, each thread of being is woven into a single fabric of existence. We embrace nature's beauty and are in awe of its power. We care for our environment so that it may sustain life for generations to come. We do this in partnership with those most impacted by environmental destruction, who are often marginalized in the larger culture. Creating a sustainable way of life is central to our view of a just and compassionate world. Our work must be intersectional for which climate action is an integral part.

Explore all that Camp de Benneville Pines has to offer at Middle School Summer Camp: Interconnections, a week-long camp, July 14-20! Come build community by getting out in nature, playing team building games, dancing, relaxing, swimming, unwinding and creating arts and crafts. Campers will explore, challenge themselves, collaborate with others, and discover in a fun and safe environment. We invite campers to come and experience the joys of nature at Camp de Benneville Pines while learning how we can care for our environment and ourselves in a sustainable way!

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

Senior High Camp

Camp UUnderwater!

Sunday, July 21 – Saturday, July 27, 2019

**Youth Deans: Charlie Mara and Chloe Wall
Adult Dean: Rev. Matthew Funke Crary**

Come experience a dynamic summer week with a community of 100 peers at Camp UUnderwater! Spend a week bonding, learning, making friends, and participating in fun and thought-provoking activities at a cozy spot in the woods—de Benneville Pines.

During the week, campers will have the opportunity to participate in creative and varied activities such as a walk to Jenks Lake where they can canoe and kayak. Campers can enjoy arts and crafts, improve skills at the archery range, and learn how to build a strong covenanting community. This summer's line up of workshops will include professionally led talks on developing coping mechanisms and dealing with mental health issues.

At Camp UUnderwater! campers will dive into themes of emotional health and the challenges some face, working on how to stay afloat even when it feels like we're drowning. To be able to support one another through life's ups and downs, and to learn how to recognize the warning signs of depression may help us advert a crisis. Emotions will be explored, and deep connections and friendships will develop.

Navigating rough waters can be scary and isolating and our loving community will help to calm the waves and be the lighthouse to guide you home. Join us for a summer week with all the traditional camp activities and learn how to keep your head above water!

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

Summer Youth Camps 2019

Cost: \$650 per camper

**Early Bird Discount: \$75 off if registered by
May 15, 2019**

- Elementary Camp: Campers completing grades 2 – 5
- Middle School Camp: Campers completing grades 6 – 8
- Senior High Camp: Campers completing grades 9 – 12

**A \$75 per camper non-refundable deposit is
required at registration. Full balance due one
week before the start of camp.**

Registration opens: March 1, 2019 at 7 am

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

For program information: Geoff Anderla, Camping Ministries Director,
cmd@uucamp.org or (623) 252-5619

For registration information: Laura Chamberlin, Registrar,
registrar@uucamp.org or (909) 794-2928

**For more information, visit www.uucamp.org
and click on "Camps & Retreats".**



Camp Teaches that We Are All Accepted

Rev. Greg Ward is a cradle Unitarian Universalist, raised in the Neighborhood Church of Pasadena. He credits camp as being 'one of the places that saved his life' as a youth. And today he's a UU minister currently serving the UU Community Church of Santa Monica.

He recently exchanged correspondence with Jacki Weber, President of the UUCSM board and Development Consultant for

experiencing pain. And experimenting. Adults and parents, some of them for the first time, were focusing on 'getting' love more than 'giving' it. They adopted and modeled a philosophy of 'freedom,' which, to a child, translated as 'an almost complete absence of supervision.'

The 70s came with sit-ins, transcendental meditation, gestalt, and...rap groups. The

JW: *Acceptance continues to be an integral part of our youth and family camps. Today it goes beyond the traditional UU youth camps and into camps like Rainbow Family Camp (for kids with LGBTQ parents) and Camp Transcend (for trans kids and their parents).*

GW: Theologian Paul Tillich wrote:

"Sometimes in our moments of greatest stuckness, a wave of light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying: 'You are accepted. You are accepted, you are accepted...by something which is greater than you. The name of this thing you do not know. Do not bother to ask for the name now; perhaps you will find it later. Do not try to do anything now; perhaps later you will do much. Do not seek for anything; do not presume, or present or perform anything. Simply accept the fact that you are accepted!' If that happens, you will have done a great deal that most people never get to. If that happens, you will experience what theologians call grace. After such an experience we may not be better than before, and we may not believe more than before. But everything will be different. We will be transformed. In that moment, grace reveals a bridge that spans all the brokenness over which our lives already come. In that moment, we begin to imagine a bridge that may be possible to traverse the brokenness of the world. It is the reconciliation that bridges the gulf of estrangement. And nothing is demanded of this experience, no religious or moral or intellectual presupposition. Nothing matters but acceptance."

Camp opens us up to experience this wave of light...this grace.

JW: *That grace provides room for some amazing things to happen at camp.*

GW: One of the things I discovered over my life is de Benneville's ability to create 'liminal spaces' and 'moments that matter.' Liminal spaces are those places where the distance between who we are, who we're becoming and what the world needs are closest in proximity to one another. And Camp connects us with others who are ready for transformation. So, what you get are these magical moments – these moments that matter in transforming the world.

We are all called to help love the world into where it needs to be and bend the moral arc of the universe toward justice. We need places like Camp de Benneville Pines that make magic to call people to find that magic in them. And with Camp we realize we have the company of one another, so no one has to undergo this transformation alone.

JW: *I love the prayer you gave in the closing service at Santa Monica's camp last year. It really speaks to the sentiment that makes camp sacred ground. Can you share that?*

GW: Spirit of life and love, spirit of everything that comes alive in us when we bring ourselves into this space, be alive in us now. Remind us of the mission of these birds who sing, these squirrels who scurry, these children who play...to be exactly what it is we were born to be.

Remind us that we came from love. We are here for love.



Youth in the 70's during closing ceremony

Camp de Benneville Pines, to talk about the mark that camp made on his own life and its continued importance more than 50 years later.

JW: *It's my understanding that you started going to camp when you were still a babe in arms in the '60s.*

GW: I was 6 months old when I first came. We spent most of every summer at Camp. A lot of my coming of age happened there. My first real friends... first mentors – people I looked up to...my first crush...my first kiss...my first heartbreak...all the important milestones of coming of age...the first time I realized I hurt someone...the first time I felt the call of 'personal responsibility'...my first job...the place I came when I left home at 15... the first time I drove a car...the first time I crashed a car (these last two occurred remarkably close together)...and many other experiences I don't often talk about but are core parts of who I am and why I do what I do.

JW: *It's stating the obvious to say that the "vibe" at Camp is a little different today than what it was when you were growing up and becoming a young adult. Can you talk about that?*

GW: During 60s and 70s, camp – like our culture – was

groups at de Benneville tried all of these, but mostly rap groups. Lots of different kinds. And you could usually tell what kind by where the meeting was held.

If a rap group was held at the fire circle or the fireplace in the lodge, it was usually fun. Often there was singing. If a rap group was scheduled in the Coffee House, it was more serious, 'Cerebral.' But if a rap group were held in Cabin 2, you knew: something was going down... and you better bring a talking stick and Kleenex.

Cabin 2 rap groups involved conflict. It was the rending of a relationship that needed repair. Separation that needed re-union. And the process included everyone. Because what camp was beginning to discover was that the pain could never be contained to the 2 or 3 people in conflict, and would always spread to the rest of the community, it required that the whole of the community help heal it.

At their best, rap groups brought the community together to listen, to witness, to help and to heal. They weren't called to analyze, judge, or blame. But to offer acceptance. To love people back into trust and openness.



Greg with his siblings and mother at camp

Our lives are spent serving and shaping love. And the dash in-between our birth and death is spent discovering and celebrating the truth of love: that no one is beyond it and our job is to make it real for those who've lost it.

JW: *Thank you!*



Family Summer Camp

“Circle of Life”

Dean: Kathryn Deal

Sunday, July 28 – Saturday, August 3, 2019

“It’s the circle of life and it moves us all. Through despair and hope, through faith and love, we will find our path unwinding in the circle of life.” --Lion King.

Unitarian Universalist Family Summer Camp is coming to the mountain top summer 2019! Welcome new families to a circle of friendship. Welcome returning families to the circle of love. Family camp is an intergenerational experience, and a tradition so rich in fun and exploration that families can hardly wait for summer camp to be here!

Family camp provides families a place to enjoy one another – to share and care. It also provides an atmosphere of warmth and friendship – to share and care about others outside of one’s immediate family. Together, and in community, we explore Unitarian Universalist values, worship together, play together and commune. This summer, sing and dance and generally just have a blast. Through creative workshops, arts and crafts, groovy tie-dye, capture the flag, games, a walk to the fairy forest, archery and so much more, families will celebrate together the circle of life!



This camp sells out within hours, so be sure to register on March 1, 2019. Looking forward to sharing *“hope, faith and love together as we find our path unwinding in the circle of life.”* --Lion King

For more information, visit www.uucamp.org and click on “Camps & Retreats”.

Camp Transcend

A camp for families with transgender and gender expansive kids and youth

Friday, May 10 – Sunday, May 12, 2019

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.



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

Again, this year we are having 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



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 lets you start the weekend early. 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.

For scholarship information or to apply, email mg@mghennessey.com

For more information, visit www.uucamp.org and click on “Camps & Retreats”.



A Life-changing UU Home in the Mountains—

a special place that gave impetus to a legacy gift

Tom and Anne Thorward are long-term UU's who met, were married and raised three daughters in the Unitarian Universalist faith. Tom grew up in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York and is a lifelong outdoorsman. His wife Anne was born and raised in LA but lived with Tom for many years on the East Coast and shared his enjoyment of nature. As they approached their 60s, Anne turned to Tom and said: "I don't mind getting old, but I don't want to be old and cold."

They began exploring the idea of moving to Southern California. But to Tom, Southern California was a wasteland of freeways, strip malls and congestion. A local UU introduced Tom and Anne to Camp de Benneville, and for Tom, everything changed. They soon became Californians.

Camp has become a special, spiritual home for the Thorwards ever since.

Anne's "ah-ha" moment arose as she "remembered tall pines and snow on the mountains. The air was so clean and the views so beautiful. We went hiking and swimming and just fell in love with Camp. And it was UU owned."

Tom and Anne have attended numerous camps: Women's, Men's, PSWIRL, Social Justice, Work weekend, Art & Music camps, Thanksgiving, and with congregations. They've had family reunions with kids & grandkids creating unforgettable family memories. And they've turned their hearts and souls toward preservation of our shared mountain retreat.

Tom became the president of the board of directors and Anne chaired the stewardship team during a pivotal time in Camp's development. Together they helped raise over \$600,000 to completely overhaul the aging water infrastructure that would have closed Camp de Benneville Pines had it not been replaced.

Tom continues as Janet's IT specialist while Anne recruits new campers and leads Camp History tours. They continue as dedicated campers sharing their love of Camp. They've brought UU friends from all over the US to experience our beloved Camp de Benneville Pines.

Tom's "ah-ha" moment occurred when he heard prior campers share their life-changing experiences. Some of them said, "Camp saved my life" or "I wouldn't be where I am without Camp."

"Camp has always been a beautiful and restorative place for Tom and for me," Anne says. "When young campers shared their own stories of how Camp de Benneville Pines changed their lives for the better, we realized the difference camp has made for so many."

Another deeply touching moment was when a grandchild cried out that he "wanted to stay at Camp de Benneville the rest of his whole life."

"Camp helps to expose children to the natural world and that is important," says Tom. "Even more important, though, is the ability for young people to be immersed in a

The Ponderosa Legacy Society - Preserving our Future

As our lives are made richer by the majestic pines that grace our retreat center, so too, have our lives been made richer by our time at camp. We are deeply grateful to Ponderosa Legacy Society members. Their generosity and vision will secure the vitality of Camp de Benneville Pines for future generations.

Anonymous
Max Ackerman
Frank Amon
Mary Downing*
McLane Downing
Chris and Kathy L. Faller
Andy and Marie French
Betsy Gilpin
Lawrence and Suzanne Hess
Peter B. Landecker
Ed and Betty Law*
Cynthia Littleton
Elle' Long
Glenn Noreen and Sandy Atkins

Kathy Riser and Nancy Perez
Birdie and Charlie* Reed
Terrance and Barbara Robinson
John and Ardath Schaibly
Margaret Stallworthy
Lenore Y. Snodey*
Tom and Anne Thorward
Fred Topik*
Richard Weaver*
David and Edna Weigel
Lee Wright*

* Deceased

If you have included Camp de Benneville Pines in your estate plan, let us know. We would love to be able to celebrate you as a Ponderosa Legacy Society Member. Also, if you wish to become a member but would like to remain anonymous, we will honor your request. Contact Jacki Weber -(310) 849-5835 or development@uucamp.org

We Build on Foundations We Did Not Lay

We build on foundations we did not lay

We warm ourselves by fires we did not light

We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant

We drink from wells we did not dig

We profit from persons we did not know

This is as it should be.

Together we are more than any one person could be.

Together we can build across the generations.

Together we can renew our hope and faith in the life that is yet to unfold.

Together we can heed the call to a ministry of care and justice.

We are ever bound in community.

May it always be so.

Rev. Peter Raible
(1930-2004)

UU Minister, Seattle, WA



Anne and Tom Thorward with daughters Kathleen and Minda

safe communal environment where they have some independence from their parents; where they can decide who they are in the world and know themselves better."

To insure this shared space for future generations, Tom and Anne have included a gift to Camp de Benneville Pines in their trust.

"I see wild, natural places becoming less accessible to people in the future," Tom states. "We need to act now to preserve our UU spiritual home in the woods. That's why

we've made a legacy gift to Camp de Benneville Pines."

It's well worth it to make a planned gift to Camp de Benneville Pines, just ask Tom and Anne who did it so many years ago.

You can make Camp a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement plan, or life insurance policy. For more information, email development@uucamp.org or call (310) 849-5835. Thank you.



Summer Break Camp for Adults

Metaphors be with You

Saturday, August 10 — Wednesday, August 14, 2019

Deans: Barbara Leigh Shields and Cyndy Leigh

Ministers in Residence:

Revs. Tom and Carolyn Owen-Towle

Making your way in the world today takes everything you've got. Taking a break from all your worries sure would help a lot. Wouldn't you like to get away to Camp de Benneville Pines?

Retreat to the beauty of our mountain camp where UU's and like-minded friends share experiences and refresh their souls. Swimming, hiking, crafting, singing, star gazing, socializing, learning, and more—it's all happening during your "Summer Break".

Adult Summer Camp 2019 keynote speaker Carolyn Bohler, PhD, is a writer, theology professor, and minister. She will help us consider the impact of metaphors that have shaped our perceptions and decisions. By redefining certain metaphors, we can find deeper meaning in our hearts, relationships, and understanding of the Divine. Meet with Carolyn Bohler and others to participate in deep dive discussions.

Each morning, camp chaplain Rev. Carolyn Owen-Towle will lead us in creative worship. Later, Rev. Tom Owen-Towle will present "Revisioning the 10

For more information, visit www.uucamp.org and click on "Camps & Retreats".



Commandments for 2019," and guide spiritual discussion in the beautiful outdoor pavilion.

During the afternoons, you will create your own schedule. Join author Chris Epting as he regales campers with stories and leads us in writing workshops. Try your hand at an art project. Learn about forest critters. Discover new approaches to nutrition. In the evenings you will relax under the stars and enjoy storytelling and music in the amphitheater.

UU Choir Camp, Singing in the Pines, will be happening concurrently with Summer Break Camp. Participants are invited to attend Summer Break events when choir practice is not in session.

Early bird registration ends June 30, 2019. *Note that for the past two years, camp had sold out by May.*

Choir Camp

Singing in the Pines

Saturday, August 10 – Wednesday, August 14, 2019

Dean: Scott Roewe

The 2019 UU Choir Camp will be led by director Scott Roewe. Scott, a lifelong UU, has been the music director at the Santa Clarita Unitarian Universalist Church since 2004. This year the choir will sing songs of concerns about the world, songs that inspire connection, and songs of joy. There also will be separate sessions focused on exploring the UU Hymnody of the past, present and future! Singers are needed! Please sign up and come to choir camp. You'll go back to your church and want to share new ideas about music with your music community at home!

So, let's sing together and enjoy all that Camp de Benneville has to offer. Enjoy the morning keynote speaker, go swimming or soak in the hot tub, take a hike to Jenks Lake, de-stress from life down mountain, eat great food and celebrate with friends...and, of course, lots of singing!

Registration is limited to 20 people. Open to all UUs and friends who love to sing!

For additional information on music theme or selections for this year, contact Scott Roewe at scott.roewe@gmail.com.

For more information, visit www.uucamp.org and click on "Camps & Retreats".





From the Camp de Benneville Pines Board of Directors

By Randy McDaniel, president

Every year I look forward to returning to Camp to see old friends, make new friends, play games, hike, do crafts and archery, and just sit and read a book on a sun-washed deck or next to the crackling fire. These activities are not unique to Camp but are always so much more special because they happen in the



midst of the forest with its grand pine trees, crisp air, deep blue sky, snow-capped mountains, and serene landscape. Nature has always been a place for me to clear my mind and recharge my soul.

My first memories at camp are out beyond Cabin 1, near the foundation of the old sewer plant. The other kids and I gathered sticks, moved rocks, and cobbled together anything we could find to create our fortress in the forest. We spent hours out there, only breaking when we heard the sound of the bell calling us in for a meal. While these memories are not from when I was a child, I felt like a kid playing with my son and the other kids who came up for our church

retreat in the fall of 2001. This is just one of many experiences I have had of letting go of the day-to-day and being in the moment: playing, relaxing and communing with good people. I think these experiences are the building blocks which strengthen us, our families and our greater community. This is why I joined the board of directors to serve the Camp and strengthen its foundation and in turn strengthen our community.

In summer 2020, we will salute Executive Director Janet James as she marks 25 years of service with us. The following year, Camp commemorates its own 60th anniversary serving the members of the PSWD. While we will celebrate our journey and our successes over the next two years, we are primarily focused on building the foundation that will guarantee our children and grandchildren will have a beloved shared home in the mountains to connect in nature, nurture creativity, and build lifelong friendships.

I've likened this effort to nourishing a tree where comfortable facilities are the roots and functional operations are the trunk and branches that support a healthy canopy of camp programs and the fruit of rich experience for all who come.

Really, though, camp is a part of a much larger ecosystem.

This welcoming retreat center allows us to alight here, finding sustenance and restoration. We carry a renewed spirit back into the world where we become a force for good, influencing the communities where

we live. Like our beloved planet in the literal sense, we are experiencing climate change metaphorically. Increased costs point to a vastly more expensive camp experience in the near future. The viability of camp depends on affordability, so a greater emphasis on charitable giving will have to become a larger part of camp's income to sustain professional operations, maintenance, and facility improvements.

Families with kids make up the lion's share of campers. If the price of camp is out of reach for them, we risk losing the next generation of men and women who will understand the importance of disengaging from the interweb and truly engaging with the interdependent web of existence.

While camp's board of directors seeks to address systemic changes for future viability, there are concrete ways to act on a personal level.

Here's the good news: you don't need to be rich to make a difference. You just need to fight inertia and take action. Last year more than 150 folks became Camp Conservationists. These sustaining supporters are making automatic monthly contributions, so families don't bear the brunt of rising costs through massive rate hikes. There are people who are giving \$6 a month (about the cost of a Pumpkin Spice Latte at Starbucks) and there are people giving 100 times that. It doesn't matter how much you contribute. It matters that you do it, so camp can remain affordable. I invite you to sign up at uu.camp/sustain and help us reach 250 Camp Conservationists this year.

Beyond a major emphasis on growing camp's supporter base, the board of directors is pursuing capital improvements that will support healthy operations well into the future. Most notably, a new 80,000-gallon water tank promises ample water straight from the mountain for decades to come.

We are also continuing to work with fundraising consultant Jacki Weber to secure the cash investments and planned gifts needed to bring a variety of major projects to fruition – from staff housing to improved camper facilities.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve as the president of the board for the past year and am excited to welcome Dale Botts as the incoming president. He will continue the charge of focusing the board of directors on Camp de Benneville Pines' long-term prosperity. If you are interested in rolling up your sleeves to make progress, there's room for you in leadership on camp's Advisory Council or Board of Directors. Email Dale at president@uucamp.org. He would love to hear from you.

I'm stepping back from board leadership, but you'll find me at the UU Men's Fellowship Retreat and at Fullerton's own congregation retreat this fall. And I'll continue to be a champion and investor in this place I love so much.

Here's to the effort we each bring to a thriving Camp de Benneville Pines.

Love Camp?

Join our staff and be a 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





Nobody Cares Here! Nobody Thinks I'm Weird

What Camp Transcend means to one family

By Jane L, mother and family camper

At our first year of Camp Transcend, our child, Ace, was five years old. (Ace was a name she used for

us as soon as she could talk that she was a boy. So, we said, "Okay, you're a boy." But she was barely two, and



a while.) She had just started kindergarten, and her problems began. Assigned female at birth, Ace told

look at you confused and hurt. We wanted to open space for gender exploration rather than just sim-

ply flip the binary. We wanted to offer time for discovery, for supported exploration of herself, and calling her a boy while keeping her pronouns and name seemed like a good way to do it. She dressed in all boy clothes, and we were all very happy.

After she corrected the pediatrician once at around age three, who said she was a "cute girl," the doctor mentioned to us that she might be transgender. It was hard not to say, "Ya think?" He suggested we wait until around age four and see what she says, because that's usually the time kids permanently align with a gender.

At age four, Ace said she was going to try to be a girl. Hated that. And one day, she announced she was a gender none of us had ever heard of. She made up a word for it, "century," and explained it was when "you are a girl and a boy."

And this is exactly how Ace presented. Short spikey hair shaved on the sides. Flowered skirt. Superman t-shirt. This presentation, though it confused people in public, was not a big deal in preschool. But in kindergarten, everything changed. "What are you?" "Look at IT!" But most awful, perhaps, were the kids who refused to believe Ace when she said, "I'm a girl."

That's how she publicly identified at the time. Privately she was "both." Soon after school started, she said, "I'm going to pretend I'm just a girl. It's too hard to try to explain myself to people." She went stealth.

Suddenly it was head-to-toe pink, though the spikey hair stayed. This is about the time the crying began. The confusion. The tantrums at home. "Something is wrong with me!" "Everyone knows what they are except me!" We had never heard of "nonbinary" identities or gender fluidity, but we heard about Camp Transcend.

When we arrived with Ace and our three other children, unsure and a little lost among all the parents of gender non-conforming kids who

Nobody Cares Here!
Continued on page 24

Music in the Mountains

Friday, November 1 – Sunday, November 3, 2019



"Music in the Mountains", which is held annually during the first weekend of November, is filled with acoustic music of folk, blues, country, gospel, standards, oldies, and classic rock. All types of acoustic musical instruments, singing and levels of proficiency are welcome. Also included in the weekend are a variety of workshops for instrument players as well as singers.

For folks who do not play an instrument, there are plenty of opportunities to sing along or just listen to the many talented people who are playing. There is ample time for relaxing in the lodge by the warm fireplace, meeting other people from all over southern California, and spending time outside in the crisp autumn air.

The planning committee is busy at work to bring a weekend filled with interesting workshops and activities. Some tentative workshops for the 2019 weekend



are harmony singing, songwriting, guitar basics, a 60's sing-along, recorder and slide guitar. There will be an evening concert on Friday night performed by the committee members and workshop leaders and one on Saturday evening performed by attendees who wish to share a toe-tapping song or two.

Each year a headliner of notability is invited to attend the conference to present two workshops and to open for the concerts. This year's headliner is yet to be determined. Six delicious meals, lodging and workshops are included in the weekend. Early arrival day available on Thursday.

For more information, visit www.uucamp.org and click on "Camps & Retreats".



**SAWUURA**

Continued from page 1

SAWUURA, an acronym for Sierra Ancha Wilderness Unitarian Universalist Religious Association, is in 7 Mile Creek south of Young,



Arizona. At 5,500 feet elevation in a valley which runs east to west, it is well loved by the campers who have come there. A rich and diverse ecosystem of Ponderosa and Pinyon Pines, Alligator Juniper, Gambles, Emory and Turbanella Oaks, Arizona Walnut and associated brush, grasses and wildflowers provides the setting. With its small year-round spring a variety of wildlife inhabit the area. Whitetail deer, elk, wild turkey, and the occasional bear or coati mundi have been observed along with over 75 species of birds.

Gatherings at SAWUURA have included family camps, coming of age retreats, women's weekends, music weekends, and retreats sponsored by members. The two most well attended events are the Memorial Day and Labor Day family camps where SAWUURA has hosted up to 30 families. There is one finished cabin that can house a family or two, a bunkhouse and two other cabins that are in the process of renovation. A covered

outdoor kitchen that can serve up to 75 people supports tent campers. The kitchen is a cooperative affair. Coordinator cooks oversee as campers volunteer to help with preparation, serving and clean up. As a result, camp fees are minimal.

Traditionally camp leaders have offered programs such as hiking, birding, and arts and crafts. A different model has been used on some occasions. We live in a busy society and people's lives are heavily scheduled. Why not have a more unscheduled retreat where meals are offered at certain times, but activities are optional? Campers can really decompress from the requirements of our modern lifestyle. A day's schedule might look like this: play your musical instrument (with or without accompaniment), go for a hike (alone or guided), read a book, talk casually around the campfire, lie in a hammock and watch the clouds (if there are any, this is Arizona after all!). So many of us feel there is not enough time to accomplish all we would like to do. We skip yoga and meditation on days when other tasks call us with loud voices. SAWUURA invites you to have a very real break from the crush of too much to do, and to do some nothing. It requires practice in this day and age!

SAWUURA honestly is not for everyone. There are pit toilets, and high clearance vehicles are recommended but not required for the 20 miles of dirt forest road leading to our gate. We advise first time visitors to

come in the daylight and plan for a 4-hour drive time from Phoenix, Tucson, or Flagstaff. Eb Eberlein is currently living on site as caretaker and would be delighted to give you more information or help you plan a visit. The town of Young also has various accommodations including a motel, gas and a very good cafe.

Rev. Dr. Terrance A. Robinson shares some of the history and his experiences at SAWUURA. "My first exposure to SAWUURA was Memorial Day weekend of 1986. I had obtained a new job in Phoenix, but my family was still in Michigan till our new house was completed in August. I attached myself to Dr. Charley Gaunt, who had donated the funds to build an all-weather cabin, and I spent most of the weekend with him finishing the final siding on its peak. They had designed this cabin with green features. It wasn't until 2 years ago that it was finally finished, with running water in the kitchen, wood stove and attic to sleep more when needed.

It's an arduous trip on approximately 20 miles of gravel road to reach the turn off. Then another 1-1/2 mile of two-lane, ROUGH trail to arrive at the 109-acre former homestead in the middle of a National Forest. It brings serenity and calm to all who venture into it. It must be experienced to appreciate its total uniqueness in our modern society. It has a windmill well, running water and great solar heated showers.

The SAWUURA name was given by Rev. Sam Wright, who with his wife, Rev. Billie Wright, built and lived in that cabin overlooking the valley with a view of maybe 40 miles on the property. Rev. David Manker, Rev. Ray's son, also lived in that cabin during a year-long retreat.

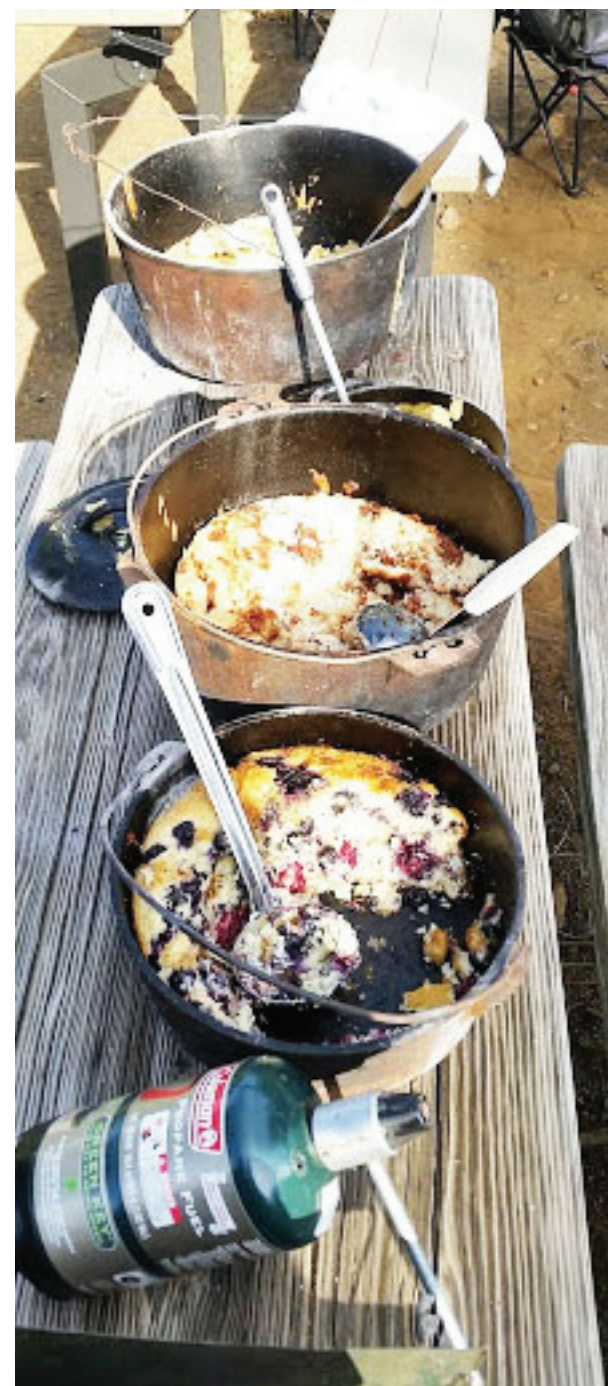
Memorial Day and Labor Day Weekends have become regularly scheduled camps and we now host other special camps like Wom-

en's Weekend and Music Weekend. It is truly a magical place which must be experienced in person because it cannot be summarized in words.

My family has personally had many wonderful experiences at both SAWUURA and de Benneville. They are completely different experiences because of the design and surroundings of each of them. Our experience at both was that, soon after arrival, our fears about the safety of our five kids disappeared, as there was an unspoken atmosphere of total care for their well-being: 'It Takes a Village!' We could then thoroughly enjoy the experience ourselves.

The sound of the wind in the trees, the expanse of the starry night sky and the call of the Great Horned Owl await you, your family, and friends."

For more information visit www.sawuura.org. If you'd like to arrange a visit or event, contact Eb Eberlein at 520-622-6966 or via email at ebaztrails@gmail.com or Curtiss Seale, at 520-982-3984.





Art Camp

Summer Arts Program for Adults

Art Groove

Fri., August 16 – Wed., August 21, 2019

For 12 years artists have been coming up the mountain to spend six days deepening existing skills and exploring new areas of expression. Each day offers a unique combination of creativity, learning, sharing and fun.

Every day is divided into three sections. Five morning disciplines are offered by skilled instructors. The afternoon format includes mini-workshops where one can sample the other disciplines or attend fun, quick workshops. Evening activities include our always fascinating “My Life as an Artist” presentations where instructors speak on their life journey, highlighting the evolution of their work and career.

Attendees are encouraged to combine art instruction with traditional Camp de Benneville Pines summer pleasures such as hiking, swimming, relaxing under the trees or soaking in the hot tub. The registration fee is \$850, which includes room and board, instruction and participation in all the activities. A specific materials list for each discipline will be provided prior to arrival at camp. Non-art participating partners and friends can register for \$750. Additional savings if registered by June 30, 2019.

Registration is open! Register early to ensure your space in your favorite discipline. Class size is limited in order to allow instructors time to give individual attention to each camper.

Visit www.artcamp4grownups.com for complete information.



For more information, visit www.uucamp.org and click on “Camps & Retreats”.

Yoga Camp

Establishing A Practice of Self Care Through Yoga

Deans: Lisa Harris and Kathy Bolte

Fri., September 6 – Sun., September 8, 2019

Self Care may seem obvious at first... of course you take care of yourself! Right?

But we all have periods where “life gets in the way” – stress at work mounts up, you start losing sleep, eating badly, and not taking time to include regular movement activities. That’s when having a few simple self care techniques in your back pocket can come to the rescue.

Taking time out in the day to focus on self care can yield great results in all areas of your life. This year Lisa, Kathy and many wonderful teachers will gather together to share ways to make “YOU” a priority again. Return home with a repertoire of techniques for self care through yoga, meditation, art, music, writing, storytelling, and many other enriching practices.

All skill levels from beginners to advanced yoga practitioners welcome! Sign up early to assure your place in the weekend of Self Care.



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

For more information, visit www.uucamp.org and click on “Camps & Retreats”.



Because of Camp, You Thrive

You Can Return the Favor When You Support Camp

Your **TIME, TALENT AND TREASURES** help keep Camp de Benneville Pines accessible and inviting for all who come throughout the year. When you support Camp, you directly impact the lives of thousands of youth and adults who find acceptance, inspiration and empowerment at our mountain retreat.

Time & Talents: Volunteer

Volunteer opportunities abound to support our mountain retreat and share joy and fellowship of campers. Twice a year we host 25 to 50 energetic souls come with great vitality to give our camp a little TLC at Spring and Fall Volunteer Camps. Preparing camp for a new season might include raking leaves, painting buildings, cleaning out rain gutters, stacking wood, and dusting out the cobwebs. It's great to get out in the fresh air and get a workout. This invitation is open to all who treasure our camp, age 11 (with responsible adult) and up! Watch the camp calendar for the mid-week Volunteer Camps.



Campers helping at recent Volunteer Camp.

Throughout the year, volunteers provide program and other support at retreats for youth, families, and adults. They serve as Camp Ministers, Deans, Youth Advisors, Workshop Leaders and Health Supervisors. And they help raise visibility for camp, sharing the magic of what happens up the hill in congregations, the larger community, and online through social media. No heavy lifting needed... just expertise or inclination to publish photos, share online posts, or put your graphic design, marketing, and communication skills to work.

Contact Janet James at director@uucamp.org or call 909-435-6298 to volunteer.

Treasures:

Where and How to Give

Become a **Camp Conservationist** and make an impact with an automatic monthly gift. Camp thrives because of the generous support that comes from the de Benneville Pines family. Sign up once and make a difference all year long. Any amount is welcome.

Guardians of the Pines are special friends who are committed to giving a minimum of \$83/month or \$1,000 per year to sustain camp.

Support the **Share the Vision Annual Campaign** which provides support where it's needed most. Gifts of all amounts are all welcome. Whether it's energy-efficient equipment upgrades, cabin and trail improvements or scholarships for many of our youth and family camps, Share the Vision donations keep camp welcoming and accessible for all.

Retirement Gifts. If you're 70 ½ or older, you may donate part or all (up to IRS limits) of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from a Retirement account. This type of gift may have tax advantages even if you don't itemized deductions on your tax return. Gifting from a retirement account directly to Camp is an effective tool to support camp. Talk to your tax advisor or your retirement account administrator.

Planned Gifts are generous gifts that have an impact beyond your lifetime.

When you make a planned gift to Camp de Benneville Pines, your generosity affects future campers in big ways. Your legacy will ensure that future generations of campers have a shared home in the mountains to connect with nature, nurture creativity and build lifelong friendships. (read Planned Gift story on page 12)

Donate online:

www.uucamp.org/contribute.

For questions, call Jacki Weber at (310) 849-5835. Or email her: development@uucamp.org

Camp de Benneville Pines is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. TAX ID# 95-2143254. Contributions may be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

What a Difference Your Support Makes!

Thanks to everyone who donated in 2018! Here's a snapshot of giving and the difference it made! Won't you join this amazing group of Camp de Benneville Pines supporters helping to strengthen camp for the next generation of campers?

Share the Vision

- ❖ 378 contributors: average gift \$256
- 1 new accessible trail to the amphitheater



Nancy and Claude Bradford walking on new accessible trail.

- 2 new energy efficient freezers for the kitchen replaced our 30-year-old freezers
- 1 new cab for our old faithful snow plow tractor to keep staff dry while they clear the roads for campers
- Countless other improvements and maintenance projects that make camp more comfortable for all who come to renew, reflect and recreate

Capital Projects

- ❖ 44 contributors: average gift \$4,100
- ❖ 2018 Actual: \$181,000
- ❖ 2019 Goal: \$500,000

- Erosion control above Cabin 3 to keep it from being submerged in mud with help of a grant from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock
- 1 new tractor to add to the snow plowing fleet (and boy have we needed it!)
- Engineering, environmental, and architectural studies for

four new capital projects (read the board report on Page 14 for more information)

■ Initial funding for Director's Cabin and Craig's Cabin expansion projects

Camp Conservationists

People contributing any amount on a monthly basis

- ❖ 2018 Actual: 135 contributors
- ❖ 2019 Goal: 250 contributors
- Smallest gift: \$5/month
- Average gift: \$35/month
- Largest gift: \$1,000/month

Guardians of the Pines

People contributing \$83/mo or \$1,000+ to sustain camp

- ❖ 2018 Actual: 37 contributors
- ❖ 2019 Goal: 60 contributors

What you're funding

- Living wage increases for all staff
- UU Youth and Family Camp Programming
- Support staff to help create a healthier working environment
- Scholarships for those who need them
- Partial funding for 2 critical staff positions - Administration and Camping Ministries

Ponderosa Legacy Society Members

Legacy gifts will fund capital and camp improvements that will keep our shared home in the mountains thriving for decades to come.

- ❖ Current Members: 30
- ❖ 2020 Goal: 300
- ❖ Goal for total Legacy Gifts: \$3 million

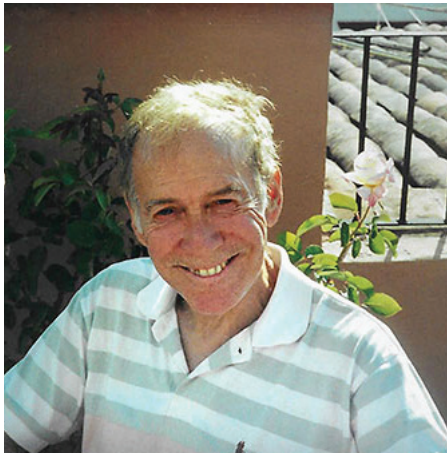
Many levels of giving are helping us to reach our fundraising goals, from modest to mighty, we are climbing this mountain together. We are grateful to everyone for their support.



How Nick Livingston “Saved the Day”

Anne Thorward, camp volunteer, presented this eulogy during the Memorial Service for Nick Livingston held on February 2, 2019. The service was held at Monte Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Montclair, California.

After Tom and I visited Camp de Benneville Pines from DC area where we lived at the time, we decided that if we could spend time at Camp de Benneville Pines, we'd move to California. We knew de Benneville was a unique place and



soon learned of its history and a special person: Nick Livingston.

About 24 years ago Camp de Benneville Pines board had hired an architect to design a new handicapped accessible cabin, but the US Forest service turned down the Swiss chalet design citing it did not

fit in with the other structures in camp. The board, and project manager, Andy French (San Diego UU Church), had lined up volunteers to build the new cabin, and winter was approaching. The expiration of the USFS permit was looming. Having depleted their design budget, they felt certain that the cabin would never get built. But a clever architect, Nick Livingston (Monte Vista UU Church), volunteered to create a new design in record time. He literally “saved the day” with his race against the clock; and the ground-breaking ceremony took place just days before the USFS environmental permit was set to expire.

Next arose the issue of funds to build the cabin. Ms. Lee Wright, a member of Long Beach UU church and camp board president, made a substantial lead gift to create a legacy to her son Craig, who loved Camp and had died too young. (You can see a plaque about her gift on the wall in Craig's). New camp manager, Janet James, along

with board member Tom Loughrey (Orange Coast UU Church), hopped into action to raise the additional funds needed to complete the project.

Gratefully Nick continued his volunteer service – overseeing the design and construction details au grati—a 4-year project from design to completion. He was truly dedicated. Again, Nick “saved the day”.

Craig's Cabin has been a beacon of financial support for de Benneville Pines. Camp Bravo theatre arts camp would never have booked with de Benneville Pines had there not been Craig's Cabin. And, without Camp Bravo leasing 3-4 weeks each summer “we would have lost the camp for sure”, says Janet James, camp's Executive Director. Many remember that back in the 90's the camp was running in the red, and the financial hole was deep. The risk so many took to fund and build the cabin while the camp was in a dire financial situation was a remarkable leap of faith, and one that paid off 10-fold. The

creation of such a practical and useful retreat facility has made it possible for so many of our week-long camps to house their keynote speakers, religious leaders, program staff, and theater professionals.*

Small groups, service clubs, and families continue to lease Craig's Cabin for reunions, celebrations or get-togethers during the off time. Craig's is fully accessible & quite comfortable — one of the only cabins not retrofitted from old military barracks.

Nick Livingston—you will be remembered by those who visit our beloved mountain retreat for many years to come. You “saved the day”. Our deepest gratitude to you and all the volunteers who made Craig's Cabin possible.

*And soon, the camp board will launch its capital campaign to improve Craig's Cabin by adding a meeting room off the back of the cabin, facing out into the woods; and adding a wing of four bedrooms on the east side of the cabin designed with ministers and program leaders in mind.

Nick Livingston was born 1931 in Aurora, Illinois, and died January 1, 2019, in Claremont, CA.

Young Adult Camp

“Radical Resilience”

A Justice & Faith camp for
Unitarian Universalists ages 18-35

Friday, August 30 – Monday, September 2, 2019

Deans: Naia Al Anbar & Han Koehle

This is a Unitarian Universalist young adult camp where we work to dismantle systems of oppression in ourselves and the world, commit to grow in our values through hard work, and foster a spirit of joy in community. This year we're excited about providing deeper opportunities to grow in faith from an open and interfaith framework, continuing our work to make our camp space welcoming for people of color, and developing individual and community resilience in a broken world.

Save the date! Registration opens April 1, 2019.

Join the community now on Facebook at:
<https://uu.camp/2019YACamp>

For questions email yacamp@uucamp.org

For more information, visit www.uucamp.org
and click on “Camps & Retreats”.

Thanksgiving Celebration

A Family Tradition

Thur., November 28 – Sun., December 1, 2019

Imagine sitting around a blazing fireplace in Homet Lodge, surrounded by family and close friends, some you didn't even know you had. The aromas of roasting turkey, fresh-baked apple pie, homemade bread and hot apple cider fill the air, mingled with the faint aromatic fragrance of cedar smoke. This describes the Thanksgiving Celebration at Camp de Benneville Pines.

Bring the whole family to camp and experience a hassle-free Thanksgiving that will be the best you've ever enjoyed. This is a special weekend for families, singles, couples and young adults. It is truly an intergenerational event!

Adults: \$205

Youth, ages 6 to 17: \$170

Children, ages 3-5: \$160

Children, ages 2 and under: Free

Registration opens at 7 am on April 1, 2019



For more information, visit www.uucamp.org
and click on “Camps & Retreats”.



Envisioning Camp 2020 and Beyond

By Dale Botts, incoming board president

As the Camp grows closer to its 60th anniversary year (2021), the board is setting a course for the next 20 years of growth and development. A new strategic plan for de Benneville Pines will be our road map as we move forward, and it will include not only physical plant improvements for campers, but improvements in staff benefits and housing, as well as board development.

The plan is reasonable and includes improved staff living quarters (we have out grown our current staff housing), new master suites in Craig's Cabin for retreat leaders and ministers, and a lodge expansion. Master suites along with a new conference room at Craig's Cabin will help ensure that summer youth camp leadership have the space and comfort needed to live in camp for up to four weeks. A variety of improvements to the lodge will make a more enjoyable experience dur-

ing large events with additional space for games and lectures, as well as handicapped accessible and GN bathrooms.

To help us reach our goals, there are several initiatives: 1) A monthly giving program to increase operating income and help keep camp fees reasonable, 2) A legacy giving program to offer people a way to have camp become a beneficiary in their will, and thus a way to support camp's long-term health, 3) A soon-to-be launched capital campaign to start raising money for staff housing and Craig's Cabin expansion, 4) Continuation of our Share The Vision annual campaign so that we are able to offer youth and family camp scholarships



Architect's drawing of proposed changes to Craig's Cabin including the addition of four bedrooms, a meeting room and a covered outside deck

(Craig Block Memorial Scholarship Fund), and to handle immediate maintenance needs (i.e. snow plow upgrades, kitchen equipment replacement, small improvement projects).

We have successfully completed renovation of the water system, installation of a new water tank, and paving of the camp roads with two

separate capital campaigns. Still left to complete is erosion control and improved drainage from the tank down to Cabin 3 which is planned for fall 2019. Embarking upon a multi-tiered capital improvement campaign will allow us to tackle one project at a time and will enable us to grow and develop at a steady pace over the next few years.

A Peek into Camp's New Magical Fairy Forest

By Janet James, Executive Director

In the fall of 2017, I was wandering the gardens of The Fells estate in Newberry, New Hampshire. While enjoying the day with the granddaughter of one of my employees, who was visiting from



Camper Hazel playing in the Fairy Garden at The Fells in New Hampshire..

Massachusetts, Hazel and I found ourselves on a pathway to a "secret garden". A sign directed us to crawl under a canopy of giant camellia bushes, and there we discovered an enchanted fairy garden, a village of small fairy homes all hand crafted by those who had visited the garden before us. The homes were built of natural materials found about the garden: bark, rocks, seeds, acorns and sticks. Everywhere we looked, a wee house was tucked in the hollow of a log, behind a rock, beneath a hanging fern, on top of an abandoned bird's nest.

The fairies living in this garden had their pick of dozens of homes, some boasting front doors made of bark and stone chimneys. Spending an hour or more in the fairy garden with a 5-year-old was magical, and we had fun imagining who might come to sleep in our fairy house. Hazel and I built a horse corral out of the tiniest of stones, lined a path

to our cottage with seed pods, built a roof using dried leaves and ferns, and made a comfy bed, where fairies could nap, out of a handful of velveteen moss.

Back home at de Benneville Pines, the magic of that day with Hazel called to me. I was moved to find the most perfect place for our own "fairy forest". The location had to be magical—far enough away from camp to be special, and close enough to be accessible. I found such a place in the fern-lined grotto located down a winding path, past the burned trees where the fire breathing dragon once lived, and into the meadow where the wild irises grow in purple and yellow splendor.

It is a secret location, and children are only allowed to wander there with supervision. And it is here, in this whimsical and enchanted location, that the stories of the good deeds of fairies come to life, and the creativity of children is unleashed. In our secret "fairy forest", children wear fairy wings with glitter, dance about waving their fairy wands, and are crowned with fairy wreaths made of ribbons and evergreen.



A visitor to camp's Fairy Forest.

The fairy forest is a vortex of energy, excitement, giggles and free-play as kids wander off to find the most perfect place to build their fairy cottages; and parents join right in to help collect miniature pinecones, acorn caps, rocks that sparkle and jagged ponderosa bark. The rules of the fairy forest are simple: A) Never, ever destroy an existing fairy house, B) Use only items you find in nature to build your cottage, C) Bring your creative mind and sense of wonder... because spending time in the fairy forest is a pretty magical adventure (no matter your age)!



PineCon

Tabletop Gaming in the Mountains

A Family-Friendly Event

Fri., October 18 – Sun., October 20, 2019

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 too much, take a hike, shoot some arrows or just sit back and relax.



Pricing includes food, lodging, and all the games you can pack into one weekend!

Follow our Facebook page for updates and notifications: <https://www.facebook.com/Pineconconvention>

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

For general info email pinecon.reg@gmail.com

31st Annual Camp Recovery

“A Journey Through Life”

Camp Recovery 12-Step Retreat

Friday, April 26 – Sunday, April 28, 2019

Camp Recovery is a weekend of self-care where you and your “inner” child have the opportunity to grow, heal, play, discover, reflect, and work on yourself. This year’s camp program is “A Journey Through Life”. We venture deeper into our recovery and explore the possibilities of living life on life’s terms through workshops, 12-step meetings, crafts, music, drumming, hiking, body movement, dancing, and fellowship. Camp Recovery aims to support campers in applying the principle of action coming from love. We hope to bring the Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families 12 Steps of recovery to those who still suffer by creating a safe environment full of playfulness and discovery. People from all 12-Step programs are welcome to attend. Join us in a celebration of our True Selves!

For general info email info@camprecovery.org

For registration info email registration@camprecovery.org

Intergenerational Justice Summit

Turning the Tides

Intergenerational Justice Camp

Sunday, August 4 – Thursday, August 8, 2019

Justice-seeking UU’s of all ages are invited to register for this multi-day summit on the mountain top. Gather for restoration and imagination with other Unitarian Universalist justice makers join together as we:

- Ground our whole selves in UU theologies and history to transform our world
- Nourish our spirits with collaboratively-led worships and spiritual practices
- Strengthen our resilience in the power and welcome of a UU community
- Learn and share strategies to engage climate, immigrant, healthcare, and economic justice
- Relax and connect by canoeing, hiking, swimming, or a dip in the hot tub!

Families with children are invited to enjoy traditional camp activities as well as participate in special sessions as time allows.

More details about guest speakers and registration coming soon.

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN IN MARCH



Visit <http://uujmca.org/training-education/turning-the-tides> to sign up for updates!



Can Art Groove 2018 be topped by Art Groove 2019?

Come find out!

This art camp for adults is truly special. Instructors and fellow campers are supportive of each other's efforts and the result is a week of growth in skill and confidence. Throughout the 6-day camp, art pieces will be shared in a spirit of learning and skill development.

During the morning classes, campers concentrate on the media selected at the time of registration. This summer's areas of concentration: *Life Drawing* with Jean Krumbein, *Introduction to Encaustic Painting* with Lin Holzinger, *The Art of Photography – Old Becomes New* with Abbey

Chamberlain, *Creating Exciting Collage* with Kathleen Scoggin and *Edition in the Mountains: Color Linoleum Block Printmaking* with Morgan Miller, III. During the week, these skilled instructors work with participants to develop old, and learn new techniques. Class size will be limited to ensure one-on-one time with the instructor.

In the afternoons, campers sample offerings by the morning instructors and additional workshop leaders, adding to their creative repertoire. In addition to morning workshops modules, offerings will include Alcohol Ink with Karen Krugman, Chinese Brush Painting with Lisa Curry, Ink Sketching with Diana Moore, Rock Painting and Mosaic with Susan Pierce and Watercolor Journaling with Marcia Harris. Sign-ups after breakfast each morning ensure that workshops remain intimate.

Social hour, followed by a tasty dinner, are times to discuss the day's events and get ready for the evening activities. Continuing our 12-year tradition, Art Groove invites campers to bring some of

their recent work for a five-minute "Show and Tell" presentation on the first evening. On subsequent evenings, instructors give half-hour talks on "My Life as an Artist." These inspirational talks are a great way for campers to get to know the instructors and learn of their journeys.

The camp concludes with an art show on the final morning. Participants will jury each other's pieces in a spirit of honor and appreciation.

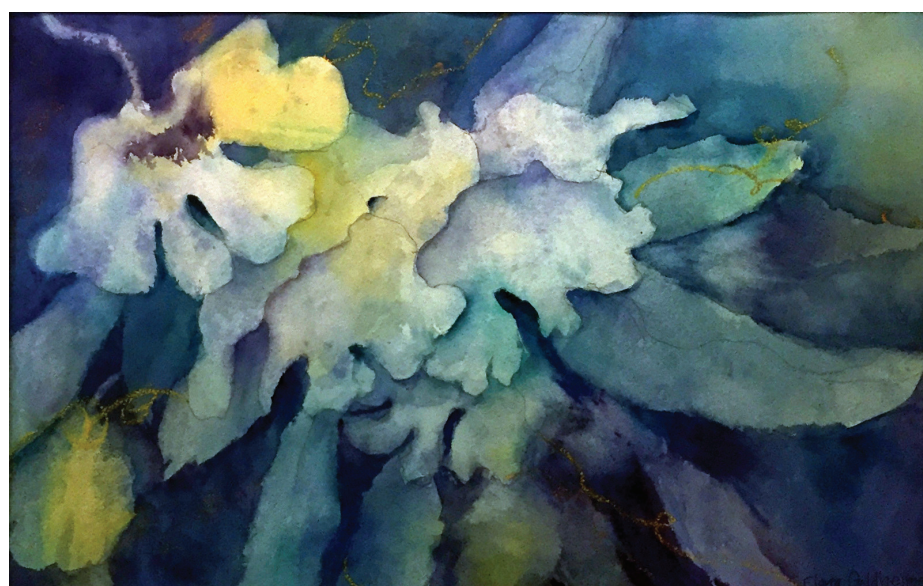
In addition to learning and creating art, campers can enjoy traditional camp activities such as swimming, hot-tubbing, archery, hiking, walking the labyrinth, and canoeing on Jenks Lake, a short walk from camp.

Delicious meals include vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options. Cabins are comfortable, if rustic, with shared bedrooms with bathrooms down the hall. Roommate preferences are indicated at registration. Also, some rooms with double beds are available for couples upon request.

The cost for Art Groove 2019 is \$850. Non-artist partners are welcome to come along for a fee of \$750. A discount of \$50 is applied if registration is received by June 30, 2019.

Come experience all that Art Groove and Camp de Benneville Pines have to offer. You'll leave feeling relaxed yet energized, and ready to take your new skills and friendships with you when you head back down the mountain.

For additional information, visit www.artcamp4grownups.com.





Breathe, Nourish, Discover, Wander, Be...

The 21st Anniversary of Women Retreating Together in the Pines

You're invited to join the Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship planning team for our second year organizing the "Celebrate Nurturing" Women's Retreat! During last year's restorative retreat, our vision was the Chrysalis: honoring, nurturing, and loving ourselves, community, and nature! This year, we will spread our wings, as the butterfly does after transforming, and emerge from the Chrysalis! This year we go DEEPER into nurturing ourselves, connecting with each other and exploring our true natures.

If you missed the women's retreat or didn't get a chance to take part in all of the fantastic workshops last year, you will have that chance during our nurturing weekend this May. Explore new workshops, too!

There will be something for every woman who attends: active sessions (yoga, hiking, dancing); creative workshops (rock painting, collaging, journaling); opportunities for self-expression, time for contemplation, alone time with the trees and more! This invitation is for all women seeking a space to rest and rejuvenate while connecting with old and new friends. As busy people, we need to make time to nurture ourselves, to build

On Friday evening, to help us get to know each other and begin our weekend of connecting, we will have Improv Instructor, Lonna Leghart warm us up with fun "ice breaker" activities! Also, we're excited to have Professional Storyteller, Li-Anne Mufson, who believes stories are part of the healing we all need, share her talents with our group! To end the night, we encourage you to do what nourishes you in a way that helps you blossom in the direction you want to go...join us in dance, relax in the spa under the nighttime sky, visit with friends, sleep...renew yourself however you need: body, mind, heart, and soul.

"I'd love to have Kelley again, as developing a commitment to and practice for self-nurturing is incredibly important!" - Katia H., camper 2018

On Saturday morning, our keynote speaker, Kelley Grimes, back by popular demand, will explore "Spreading our Wings: Nurturing and Empowering Ourselves to Blossom, Grow, and Thrive!". There is no more important time to give ourselves permission to pause, nurture ourselves, and come together in community to cultivate more peace, love, and joy in the world!

"Kelley was absolutely phenomenal, and she really provided the touchstone for the weekend with her keynote!" - Rachel R., camper 2018

Saturday night is sure to be entertaining and creative! Palomar UU Fellowship's very own "UUnrecord-

ed Divas" will perform songs that will inspire and uplift our spirits! This fantastic group of women has been singing together for six years. They'll help us learn some songs for a sing-along, as well! Entertainment on Saturday night won't be complete without an "Open Mic" session! Our Open Mic night last

year broke open the hearts of all who attended. We're hoping more of you will bring your stories and talents (the sky is the limit) to share that evening! This is a great oppor-

tunity for us to stretch and grow as we have a fun time with friends!

This is sure to be a weekend you will not soon forget!

To learn more about Kelley Grimes, visit her website: www.cultivatingpeaceandjoy.com.

To learn more about the 2019 UU Women's Retreat from May 3 to 5, visit www.uucamp.org or see ad on page 5.



12-Step Mountain Retreat

Orange County ACA presents the Annual Fall Mountain Retreat

With CoDA & Other 12-Step Programs Invited!

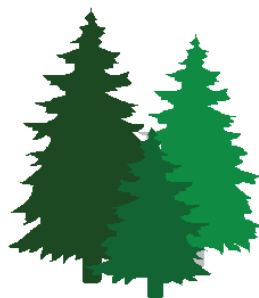
Friday, September 20 –
Sunday, September 22, 2019

Featuring ACA and 12-Step Program Workshops and Activities

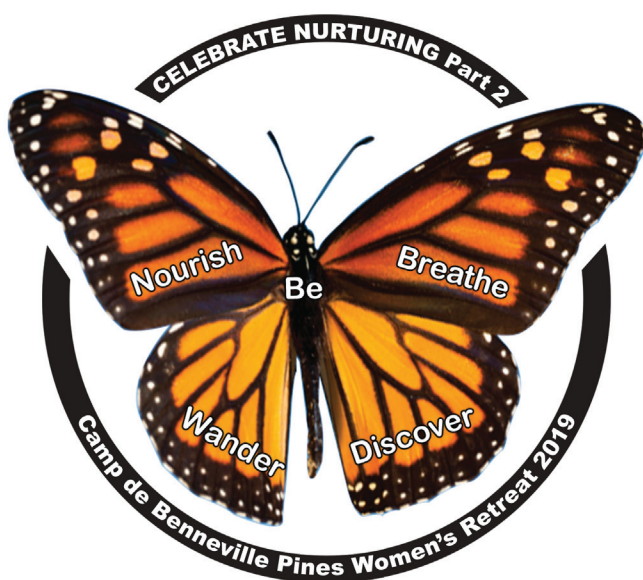
Activities include: 12-Step Meetings at various times thru-out the weekend; Arts and Crafts; "Warm-Fuzzies; Hiking; Pool & Jacuzzi; Massage (for an additional fee); Saturday evening "Talent/No Talent Show," then a Dance afterwards!

FMR Info Line: 562-367-4325

Email: acafallmountainretreat@gmail.com



For information and pricing, visit www.socalaca.org, email ACAFallMountainRetreat@gmail.com or call (562)367-4325.



up our inner reserves, in order to do the important work of our times, in our communities and in the wider world.

Early arrivals can wake up Friday morning and go on a moderately strenuous hike along the gorgeous John's Meadow Trail led by Marianne Swift-Gifford, one of the retreat's deans.



Camp de Benneville Pines Board of Directors 2019-2020

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How to Contact Us

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director@uucamp.org
909-435-6298 cell

Lodge/Kitchen
909-794-8712

Registration
909-794-2928 (message line)
registrar@uucamp.org

Camp website
www.uucamp.org

Our Mission

Camp de Benneville Pines welcome 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.

Nobody Cares Here! Continued from page 15

seemed to be old hands at this, we did a lot of crying. Every session it seemed we could finally talk about all the things that seemed impossible. It felt like somebody had released the floodgates for my husband and me. We had felt very, very alone without fully realizing it.

Suddenly, here were all these parents who understood. Indeed, they had lived what we were living. Our older kids got to talk about what it was like to have a sibling they had to "explain," to have a sibling they worried about at school.

But the most profound and beautiful moment of that first time at camp was watching Ace exhale, seemingly from the depth of her being. We watched her proudly wear her nametag with "she/they" on it, decked out in all "boy" clothes, and nobody bothered

her. That's what she said, right off the bat: "Nobody cares here! Nobody thinks I'm WEIRD!"

We watched the freedom in her step, the joy in her eyes. It was like



nothing we could have imagined.

And that is what camp has become for us. The place where our child can relax, let loose, just be. For these kids, every day is an exercise



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Need Help?

For help with Youth and Family Camp programming: contact Geoff Anderla, Camping Ministries Director
cmd@uucamp.org

For help with registration or general camp information: contact Laura Chamberlin, Registrar
registrar@uucamp.org

To make a donation or find out ways to support camp: contact Jacki Weber, Development Consultant
development@uucamp.org

To communicate directly with the Executive Director on any issue: contact Janet James
director@uucamp.org

in bravery, in facing discomfort, in needing to stand up and show courage just to be yourself. We all work to make them "just another kid," but the challenges are seemingly endless, and there are always new, unexpected ones. But at camp, our kids just get to be, to play, to laugh and be silly and make friends exactly as they are, where "nobody cares."

We have returned every year since, and it remains the highlight of Ace's life. She starts planning her performance for next year's talent show before we've made it out of the driveway on the last day of camp.

Last year, at age 7, we went outside after arriving at camp, and, while hopping around on some big granite rocks, she looked at me and said, "You know what, Mama? You know what camp is for me? It is home. It is my home."

