

Camp de Benneville Pines  
Celebrating 59 years serving UU Campers of all ages

# Connection

Spring/Summer/Fall 2020

Your Unitarian Universalist Mountain Retreat

## Camp's Silver and Diamond Anniversary:

Celebrating 25 and 60 Years!

*Presented by The Board of Directors*

Year 2020 opens a new decade full of hope, opportunities for change and celebration. At Camp we have a lot to be hopeful about, new opportunities evolving, and a strategic plan that will carry us forward for the next 20 years. And, we are excited to announce two

very special reasons to celebrate!

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Janet James serving as camp's fearless operations manager and Executive Director—and we mean fearless. It takes a lot of determination to wear both hats for such a long period of time. It is rare when an organization can sustain its camp for 60 years, and even more rare that a manager would live and work in a remote location for 25 years. The year Janet signed on to lead the charge she did so even though there were a host of challenges. Camp had serious financial problems and a deteriorating infrastructure. Literally, the camp's then 34-year-old infrastructure was crumbling faster than it could be repaired. The State had condemned the sewer plant, the water system required temporary repairs weekly, and the swimming pool heater blew up on Janet's first day on the job! Only someone with fierce determination would have taken this on and put the heart and soul needed into turning it around. On Janet's seventh day on the job, (July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1995), her husband, Bob, suffered a massive heart attack in camp, at midnight. It took over three hours to get help, and then a month in Loma Linda intensive care before he was stable enough for a quadruple bypass. It all seems so surreal now—those constant emergency situations, facility and equipment malfunctions and vendor strikes. With no money in reserves, Janet put up her own credit card to pay for food and propane deliveries. Clearly this was a time in camp's history that she would not like to

revisit.

2021 will mark Camp's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, and this too is a great reason to celebrate. Camp is not only surviving, it is thriving! Janet has recently admitted that had she not grown along with the business of camp, and had she not been integral to developing the camper base, she is not sure how she could just jump in and manage such a busy schedule. Over the last 60 years, tens of thousands of campers have traveled up Highway 38 to share this sacred space with family and friends, both old and new. Many have contributed towards making the steady changes to the camp a reality. Improvements such as building Craig's Cabin, remodeling Homet Lodge, building the Ed Law Pavilion, paving the camp road, replacing the entire water line system and erecting a new water tank. All of these changes are geared toward making de Benneville Pines safer and capable of serving thousands of campers a year.

This Connection marks the kick-off of our 25/60 celebration—and our our Silver and Diamond Jubilee.

This newsletter is filled with love letters, remembrances and snippets of history to help us all feel the joy and specialness of Camp. The lifelong effect that camp has on families, friendships and our world is profound. In this issue you'll read short pieces that will make you smile, laugh out loud, pause to remember some of your own special experiences, and embrace

the UU values nurtured at Camp. And hopefully this issue will remind you just how much you value de Benneville Pines as an integral part in the lives of our youth and families. The institution of camp in the PSWD will thrive for many generations to come with the support and love of the district membership and campers.

Janet's energy and passion for work seem limitless. She was recently asked what improvements to Camp would she love to see happen as part of her 25<sup>th</sup> year



Daisy and Janet at Summer Camp

celebration. As you might imagine, each project addresses a specific need at camp for which we currently lack funding. What better way to honor and acknowledge Janet's 25 years of service then to help make one or all of these projects a reality? Read more about these projects on page 18 and consider donating to de Benneville's legacy.

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
San Bernardino, CA  
Permit No. 2051

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



# Camp de Benneville Pines

## Calendar of Events 2020

### January

- 12/27 - 1/1 Senior High Winter Youth Camp
- 2 - 5 Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
- 10 - 12 Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
- 16 - 20 SCA
- 24 - 26 Cub Scouts Pack 5
- 1/31 - 2/2 Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928

### February

- 7 - 9 Riverside Pioneer Princesses (Craig's Cabin)  
Remainder of Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
- 15 - 17 UU Elementary/Family Winter Camp
- 17 - 19 LREDA (Craig's Cabin)
- 21 - 23 Long House of the Orange Skies/OCLC
- 2/28 - 3/1 Neighborhood / Long Beach UU Family Retreat

### March

- 6 - 8 Folk Music Retreat (Craig's and Cabin 6)  
Remainder of Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
- 13 - 15 Girl Scouts of Marina Service Unit
- 19 - 22 High Altitude Gaming Retreat
- 20 - 22 Chalice UU Women's Retreat
- 27 - 29 Rainbow Family Camp #1  
[See ad on Page 7](#)

### April

- 3 - 5 San Dieguito UU Family Retreat
- 9 - 12 Private Party (Craig's Cabin and Cabin 7)  
Remainder of Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
- 17 - 19 UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal  
[See ad on Page 5](#)
- 20 - 22 Spring Volunteer Work Camp (Mon-Wed)  
[See ad on Page 14](#)
- 24 - 26 Camp Recovery 12-Step Retreat  
[See ad on Page 21](#)
- 30 Pathways Academy

### May

- 1 - 3 UU Women's Spring Retreat  
[See ad on Page 5](#)
- 8 - 10 Camp Transcend Family Retreat  
[See ad on Page 11](#)
- 15 - 17 Rainbow Family Camp #2  
[See ad on Page 7](#)
- 18 - 21 Wildroot Homeschool Group
- 22 - 25 Bravo Camper Reunion
- 29 - 31 San Diego/ Chalice UU Family Retreat

### June

- 5 - 7 Pacific Unitarian Church Family Retreat
- 10 - 14 Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
- 14 - 20 Camp Bravo Theatre Arts Camp Week 1
- 21 - 27 Camp Bravo Theatre Arts Camp Week 2
- 28 - 7/4 Camp Bravo Theatre Arts Camp Week 3  
[See ad on Page 19](#)

### July

- 5 - 11 UU Elementary School Summer Youth Camp  
[See ad on Page 8](#)
- 5 - 11 UU Counselor-in-Training Program  
[See ad on Page 8](#)

### July (continued)

- 12 - 18 UU Junior High Summer Youth Camp  
[See ad on Page 9](#)
- 19 - 25 UU Senior High Summer Youth Camp  
[See ad on Page 9](#)
- 7/26 - 8/1 UU Family Summer Camp  
[See ad on Page 11](#)

### August

- 2 - 6 Turning the Tide, Social Justice Camp  
[See ad on Page 17](#)
- 8 - 12 Summer Break Camp for Adults  
[See ad on Page 13](#)
- 8 - 12 Choir Camp: Singing in the Pines  
[See ad on Page 13](#)
- 14 - 19 Summer Arts Program for Adults: Art Groove!  
[See ad on Page 15](#)
- 21 - 23 Camp TransSpectrum for Adults  
[See ad on Page 17](#)
- 28 - 30 Neighborhood UU Family Retreat

### September

- 4 - 7 Young Adult Camp  
[See ad on Page 17](#)
- 11 - 13 Yoga Retreat  
[See ad on Page 19](#)
- 14 - 17 El Rancho Camp Bravo
- 18 - 20 Santa Monica UU Family Retreat
- 25 - 27 ACA 12-Step Retreat  
[See ad on Page 21](#)

### October

- 2 - 4 Channel Island Cluster/ Monte Vista UU Family Retreat
- 5 - 8 Homeschool Autumn Rendezvous  
[See ad on Page 22](#)
- 9 - 11 Orange Coast/ Tapestry/ Laguna UU Family Retreat
- 16 - 18 LA Valley Cluster UU Family Retreat
- 23 - 25 PineCon Retreat  
[See ad on Page 19](#)
- 29 - 11/1 Daughters of Diana Family Retreat

### November

- 6 - 8 Music in the Mountains Folk Music Retreat  
[See ad on Page 15](#)
- 9 - 11 Fall Volunteer Work Camp (Mon -Wed) Tentative  
[See ad on Page 14](#)
- 13 - 15 Fullerton UU/Alianza Family Retreat
- 20 - 22 Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
- 26 - 29 Thanksgiving Family Celebration  
[See ad on Page 22](#)

### December

- 4 - 6 Winter Art Retreat for Adults (Craig's and Cabin 6)  
Remainder of Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
- 11 - 13 Camp available for lease: (909) 794-2928
- 18 - 20 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](mailto:director@uucamp.org) or (909) 794-2928





# Life with a Great Purpose

By Revs. Carolyn and Tom Owen-Towle, camp supporters

Fifty-one years is a long time to have visited de Benneville Pines, our UU camp in Angelus Oaks. It gives one a 'long' perspective. We came here in late '68 with our infant son, now 52, so we shall not forget that time. The camp was ruggedly wonderful. There was no paved road, or hot tub. There were no frills of any kind; yet this was a friendly, wholesome, sturdy place with unbelievable possibility. Possibility, that someone would have to be far sighted, hard-working and determined, to manage it all, much less, to move the camp forward.

There has not been a Director comparable to what and whom we have in Janet James. She came to the mountain, up the road from her childhood home in Redlands, with the thought of a new, probably not overly long adventure. However, the towering, tree-filled, beautiful place, and the people challenged

and wooed her.

This year, 2020, we celebrate Janet James during her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as the truly outstanding Executive Director of this camp that she is. Janet is the person who, with her sequential boards, both created a vision and did the necessary, difficult work to make it evolve into the star among continent-wide Unitarian Universalist camps.

Janet's ego has never dwarfed the mission of our Camp. She has been a consummate leader-servant, working collaboratively with staff, board members, as well as camp attendees, and yes, camp animals. If Janet James were to receive an honorary doctorate for her years of service as Director, it might well be titled, "Doctorate of Durability," for she has exhibited true staying power and resilience throughout personal and organizational challenges.

Heroic is what she has been

and continues to be. Every camper knows that tall, beautiful, smiling Janet will appear to greet, welcome, warmly direct and bring us together with anticipation. At the same time no one realizes the incredibly long hours she works behind the scenes making sure that every detail runs smoothly. Using her life to great purpose, Janet ministers, organizes, raises funds, hires, guides, serves, manages and creates a place people want to be a part of.

We shall honor Janet, by our thoughtful witness to her history with de Benneville Pines, by our support, both personal and financial for the improvements

sorely needed, and by assuring that we want her to continue as de Benneville's Executive Director for as long as possible.

For all you have done for our Camp, Janet, we thank you. And for all the future holds, we bless you.



Revs. Carolyn and Tom Owen-Towle at 2019 Summer Break Camp for Adults

**SAVE THE DATE: CAMP'S SILVER AND DIAMOND JUBILEE, SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021**

# Open Arms and a Loving Heart

By Ben Troccoli, lifelong camper and counselor



Ben Troccoli

I was excited when I was asked to write a piece for the Connection—I've written for this paper a couple of times over the years, but not for something as special as Janet's 25th anniversary! Over the 11 years I've been attending camps at de Benneville Pines, starting with congregational retreats and then moving on to family and youth camps, they have

often been the highlight of my year. Most of the fondest memories of my childhood take place at de Benneville Pines.

One of the highlights of the long, winding trip up Highway 38 was getting to see Janet James. As a child I looked up to her as one of my greatest role models, and now that I am a camp counselor for youth camps, I always make sure my campers know not only who she is and how important her job is, I tell them that

if there's anything at all that they need, they can turn to her.

Camp has been home for me in many ways for more than a decade now, as I've grown up through the stages of being a camper, and then taking on counselor and staff positions. I'm old enough now where kids I remember as toddlers at my home congregation in Santa Monica are old enough to be

campers in my very own cabin at Elementary Camp.

While life down the mountain is hectic and crazy all too often, watching people who come to camp for the first time realize that up in the forest amongst like-minded individuals they can just unload their worries and stresses and be their true selves, is an incredible moment. Janet is a huge part of that experience, as she welcomes everyone with open arms and a loving heart.

Without Janet camp would not be the magical place that it is, where everyone can feel like they have found a place to call their

own. I've met people at camp and made my own "chosen family". I am so incredibly lucky that she is a member of that chosen family. Janet, congratulations on 25 wonderful years, and thank you so much for the time, effort, and love you put into this incredible place! I hope you feel all that love being given back to you with each and every camp you make possible.



Janet and Ben at Thanksgiving Camp





# Janet and the Redecoration Project

By Betsy Gilpin, board member, dean and artist

Janet has always been one to see the possibilities in anything that might come up. When Laura Janes, an accomplished artist and decorator, came up to camp in August 2002 to clear her head, Janet made her a proposition. How about we redecorate the cabins? Laura went for it and they put their heads together on color schemes, themes and the scope of work required to take the cabins from drab to inviting. Then Laura was off and running. Both Janet and

Laura haunted all the thrift shops in the area for dressers, nightstands, etc., and Laura began to decorate them in the winter when it was too cold to paint walls. Janet sewed all the curtains, by moving her sewing machine deck to deck.

It wasn't too long before Laura realized she had probably bitten off more than she could chew, so she began to look around at some of the campers as potential "Art Slaves." At the adult camps Laura

looked in on any art workshops and found a few potential helpers: John Matsch, Joy Boatman, Jennifer White, Marcia Harris, and Ellé Long. My recruitment to the group took place when I was up at camp volunteering to paint walls. After a full day's work, Laura invited me to go along with her to a figure drawing class she was teaching. I had never done anything like that before but was game to try. I think I was so tired from the wall painting that my brain got out of the way of my eyes and I did some nice drawings. I was hooked. In fact, I took up watercolors when I retired rather than photography as I had planned.

The art assistants came up to camp several times a year when the camp was not rented out and got to work painting the wall decorations, installing them and, in general, spiffing up the place. One week I particularly remember. Laura had invited her usual helpers with the addition of Gwen Small

and Lucy Elahi to paint murals for the outsides of the buildings. I was assigned the one to go on the outside of the PSWIRL building, where Clouds was the theme. So, I got out some white and black paint, mixed them and painted some clouds. When Laura came by to inspect my work she exclaimed, "These look like dog - - -!" After a lesson on painting clouds, I reworked them, fuzzing the edges a bit and trying to make them less defined. (Unfortunately, they still bear some resemblance to the original.)

A few of us still make it up to Camp about once a year to repair any of the decorations and keep things looking fresh in the cabins. Certainly, the lovely decorations are well respected by the campers and very little damage has taken place. Janet's vision made Camp ever so inviting. It is still rewarding to hear how much campers enjoy the artwork.



**SAVE THE DATE: CAMP'S SILVER AND DIAMOND JUBILEE, SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021**

## A Place for Me

### A DRE Finds the Joy of Camp

By Steven LeRoy Lovelace, DRE, Live Oaks UU Church

It had already been a lingering summer for me as I headed into the San Bernardino Mountains that Saturday in August. It was a long drive from Phoenix where my grandkids live. I had been on the road for six hours, the drive was hot and long even with the AC, and I was a little apprehensive as I took the Live Oak exit just past Yucaipa. Ironically, Live Oak is the name of my UU congregation in Goleta.

As I traveled for the first time up this side of the mountain toward Big Bear, I found fewer people, less traffic, more trees, and cooler air. I was grateful when I passed Angelus Oaks and found Jenks Lake Road.

This was my first trip to de Benneville since becoming a DRE two and a half years ago, and UU Adult Summer Camp (and its companion Choir Camp) fit perfectly into my annual trip to see the grandkids. I figured it was time

to find out what all the fuss was about.

I pulled onto the grounds of this UU mountain paradise and parked my car. Even though I come across as extroverted, new surroundings and people sometimes make me a little nervous. How would this weekend go, and what would I find?

Here's what I found: lovely folks looking to accommodate me in comfort and belonging. At check-in, I was warmly welcomed, and for over an hour I sat and conversed while making a name tag using colorful artists' pens generously loaned from a stranger's personal collection. I met another DRE over coffee. I took a little hike to get a sense of the place and ah, the mountains.

I unpacked my car, got situated in my assigned room, and made my way back to the lodge. At 5:00 p.m. something magical happened. Guitars and songbooks came out

as did bottles of wine and about 70 assorted UU adults. We sang, drank wine, snacked on tidbits provided by the kitchen staff, chatted and just hung out on the patio in the beauty of the Mother until dinner was served. The good food was varied to accommodate many, as well as beautiful and tasty from the thought and love put into the preparation. Camp Deans Barbara and Cyndy were a m a z i n g l y sweet, helpful, and every other lovely adjective I can come up with. They made Camp a home for everyone.

The next five days were expansive as I found out just what the fuss is about. The morning reflections in the outdoor sanctuary, the merging of the Adult and Choir camps, the food, Mother Nature, the daily

late afternoon singing and wine, games and talks with like-minded people, yoga every morning, daily workshops, and a magnificent choir concert in Sanctuary space—this



Fellow Summer Break participants

is a life I could lead every day. It was such a remarkable time I will undoubtedly make this a regular event each August. I love traditions in my life, and de Benneville Pines Adult Summer Camp is my new summer tradition!





## UU Women's Retreat

### Sacred Friendship

Friday, May 1 – Sunday, May 3, 2020



This year's UU Women's Retreat is hosted by the Women's Fellowship of the Santa Monica Unitarian Universalist Church. The theme will be "Sacred Friendship." We are delighted to offer Dr. Marie Cartier as our keynote speaker, who will address the sacred role that friendship plays in women's lives.

Dr. Marie Cartier is a scholar, visual / performance artist, queer activist, poet and theologian who has been active in many movements for social change. She teaches at UC Irvine in Film and Media Studies and at

CSU Northridge in Gender and Women's Studies. Dr. Cartier is the author of "Baby, You Are My Religion".

Come and connect! We will have workshops on music, making art, writing, yoga, massage and more. You can be as relaxed (massage, hot tub, meditation, reading on the deck) or as active (dancing, hiking, yoga, crafting, attending inspiring workshops) as you want to be while pondering the sacred friendships in your life.

This retreat sells out fast! Register before 4/15/20 to take advantage of the early bird discount.



For more information, visit [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org) and click on "Camps & Retreats".

## UU Men's Fellowship

### Spring Renewals

Friday, April 17 – Sunday, April 19, 2020

**Carpe Diem—Meaning/Purpose/Joy** What is most important for you today? Finding Meaning, acting on Purpose, experiencing Joy? In open discussions and activities and in small supportive kinship group setting, we can be open to the issues that challenge us to the core and help us to discover who we are as men, sons and brothers.

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.

An optional early start on Thursday evening is available for those who desire to help set up.



For more questions or information, please view <http://www.firstuusandiego.org/mens-fellowship> or contact Mike Dorfi (619) 466-5952 or email [mdorfi@cox.net](mailto:mdorfi@cox.net). Camp tuition is \$200; no brother will be denied for financial reasons. Scholarships are available.





# What's Your Camp Story?

by Janet James, Executive Director

Someone recently asked me, "Hey Janet, what is your camp story?" I stopped in my tracks and



Janet having fun in the kitchen

smiled and said, "I have so many, what type of story are you wanting to hear?" We both laughed at the fact that after 25 years of living and breathing camp life, I have more than enough "stories" to write a book!

Twenty-five years is a long time to live and work in a remote location, but my enjoyment of people

coupled with the beauty of the mountains, makes the job of camp manager less about work and more about living my passion. And the experiences I have had out in nature—with campers, staff and volunteers—have been remarkable. I get a lot of "thanks" for my long history at camp. Parents thank me for taking care

of their children, board members thank me for being a good steward and caretaker of their sacred place, and campers thank me for the years of memories they have made at Camp; but in truth, I don't work alone, and it takes a team of people to take care of and nurture the growth of camp. From the camp staff to the volunteers, from the

donors to the board members, it is one fantastical operation—one where the vision for the camp converges with the realities of camp. Each retreat is an amazing production with many moving parts. And these days, the camp calendar is very busy year 'round.

All that aside, I wish to point out a not-so-obvious truth, and that is that none of my time at camp would be possible if not for my husband Bob. For Bob's the one who has given up the most in his life, and in our marriage, in order for me to be entirely present and at camp for 25 years. Without his support "to go off into the woods to work", I would never have come to camp in the first place. I've been married to Bob 33 years, and for 25 of those years, he knows he can find me at de Benneville!

I was young and full of energetic ideas when

I'm instantly carried back to my days of singing, storytelling and marshmallow roasting around a crackling campfire; my heart feels happy knowing that others are enjoying one of my favorite camp activities. I know their hearts are full of love for one another and for



Janet and Dakota



Husband Bob, Janet and Daisy Doodle on Lodge deck summer 2019

I first landed on "planet de Benneville", and I had a lot to learn about the UU's, their history with the camp, and their devotion to maintaining a retreat center for the youth and families in the district. The word "community" was central to every conversation back then. "Together we build community on the mountain". "Our youth find their community up at de Benneville." "Our camp is a collective effort, and building community is core to our mission."

From the time I was little, I opted for outdoor experiences which involved others: camping across the country with my family, backpacking with my dad and brother in the Sierras, hiking and river rafting with my Girl Scout troop. I spent my summers off at camp as a child, and to this day, when I hear the singing around the campfire,

their time at camp when they sing the traditional closing song, Circle Game.

There is no argument in my mind that the best gift we can give our children is the gift of a week at camp. I have been witness to thousands of young people discovering their true potential while spending a week at de Benneville Pines. Camp is a safe place for them. A place where they can be heard—their secrets, hopes and dreams shared with a group of friends who hold one another in trust. The camp experience helps our youth to develop resilience and strength of character. They come together only twice a year up on our mountain top, but the journey can be profound—and most often, life changing.

When I think of it, the magic of de Benneville Pines is not just reserved for our young people. Folks of all ages find peace and calm within these woods. "Home" is often a word that is used to describe how many feel about Camp de Benneville Pines—campers and camp staff alike. And I would be remiss if I did

**What's Your Camp Story**  
Continued on page 12





# The Power of Youth Leadership Development

By Liz Bear, Tapestry UU church member and camper parent

The call came the week before Thanksgiving that students protesting Reed College's financial ties to the private prison industry were being unfairly threatened with suspension and/or dismissal.

Our son Grayson explained that he'd needed to explicitly align himself with the movement and its consequences in order to materially support the efforts of black and indigenous student organizers who had much more to lose from retaliation at the hands of this predominantly white institution.

He understood the importance of standing up to those who silence people of color, and despite the fear of reprisal felt by everyone involved he needed to do what was right for the community at stake. Importantly, this was an ongoing, decentralized protest movement that allowed for a plurality of voices, opportunities for listening and growth, and for shifts in tactics in response to the wider community's needs.

Through conversation and action regarding curriculum reform, student staff positions, and economic justice, Grayson was better able to understand the power of the covenant and live out his UU values.

We were so proud—but understood that this was about more than him alone.

As an introvert, Grayson does not fit the "typical" profile of an activist. But he attended Camp de Benneville Pines for congregational and youth camps, later serving on youth staff at camps and as a counselor.

The leadership training, he received through the Counselor-In-Training program, helped him to develop communication skills, work with children of all ages, learn how to actively listen, and how to navigate conflict.

Camp is an ever-evolving program, considering the needs of a growing community and providing youth with incredibly important



resources including chaplain services and Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression workshops, as well as making space for the exploration of gender, sexuality, and other identities.

With the help of the camp's compassionate adult advisors, Grayson's many years of learning to step a little outside his comfort zone led to the cultivation of interpersonal skills and long-lasting friendships, a curiosity for knowledge, and an appreciation for people who are not like him.

He is the person he is today because of the years he spent at

Camp—and Our Whole Lives classes at his congregation—learning to explore his beliefs, question assumptions, and build community; to breathe in peace, and breathe out love.

Camp is a place of laughter, fun, and both happy and sad tears. Camp is a place we can explore our UU values, better ourselves as individuals, and support the broader community.

It is an amazing, sacred place of spiritual growth and relationship building.

Camp provides an opportunity to learn how to be an ally for people on the margins of society.

Our future, as people and UUs, is brighter because of the youth that get to spend time at camp.

My shy son has grown into a compassionate, caring, social justice advocate with a passion to make our world a better place. Now that college is over, he's just trying to figure out exactly how to describe all that on a résumé.

## Rainbow Family Camps

### Twice the Fun!

Two weekends designed with LGBTQ families and their friends in mind

**Friday, March 27 – Sunday, March 29, 2020**

**Friday, May 15 – Sunday, May 17, 2020**

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 are deans for Rainbow Family Camp #1 in March. Join Crystal Czberant and Kristin Lummus, 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](http://www.uucamp.org) and click on "Camps & Retreats".**





## UU Summer Youth Camps



### Counselor-in-Training Program

**Sunday, July 5 – Saturday, July 11, 2020**

**Counselor Trainers: Mary Carter-Vail  
and Melinda Merkel Iyer**

Do you want to give an amazing 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 UU Elementary School Summer Camp community. Training takes place in the first half of the day; in the afternoon, CIT's will assist camp 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 years of age. 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, 2020. Final acceptance notification will be made by May 1, 2020.

Cost: \$475 (no discounts are available for this program)

### Elementary School Camp

**Camp Sacred Ground**

**Sunday, July 5 – Saturday, July 11, 2020**

**Dean: Kathleen Moscato**

*Sacred Ground: a special place set aside for a particular purpose we hold dear and cherish that which we spend time with, and which nourishes us.*

*We cannot love what we do not know.*

Camp de Benneville Pines is such a place. It is sacred to UU's for its fresh air, clear skies, towering trees, sweet soil, wildlife, and quiet spaces to think and dream. Young UU's discover new friends and reconnect with old in a place where they sing joyfully, explore ambitiously, and try new things enthusiastically. At camp, kids connect with nature and community in ways their busy lives don't allow for down the mountain.

Children who spend time at Camp de Benneville Pines experience the sacred in fun and kid-friendly ways. They swim, sing, create, run, play, hike, listen to a story, build a fort, roast marshmallows on the campfire, or just take the time to be a friend. There is so much to unite them at camp, so many ways to find that which is special.

All campers are well cared for by trained counselors who are guided by Unitarian Universalist principles and work to build a loving and inclusive camp community. The new and rich experiences that children encounter at Elementary School Summer Camp can be genuinely life changing. All of this, plus lovingly prepared home cooked meals and the famous camp talent show. Don't let your child miss this opportunity to connect with the sacredness of the mountain and the experience of summer camp.

This camp is designed for campers completing 2nd through 5th grade.

*"The Mountains are Calling-And I Must Go!" - John Muir*







## Junior High Camp

**Camp CommUUnity 2020!**

**Sunday, July 12 – Saturday, July 18, 2020**

**Dean: Kathleen Moscato**

Unitarian Universalists are people of all ages, many backgrounds and beliefs. We are brave, curious and compassionate thinkers and doers. We create spirituality and community beyond boundaries, working for more justice and more love in our own lives and in the wider community while living our values.

What brings us together? What keeps us together? Community! Communities provide relationships and connections with others, support, a sense of belonging, a place for gathering together, hope, motivation to keep pushing forward, and opportunities to give back to others in need.

Camp CommUUnity will focus on why we come to our beloved Camp de Benneville Pines...to be in a place we can commune with nature, find solitude, and be welcomed into a community where we can make new friends and reconnect with old ones. We foster a community of hope and resilience and cultivating those characteristics in ourselves! We strive to help campers make connections at our Junior High Summer Camp! It is our goal to create a safe, fun, creative, and inclusive space for all campers to unwind from their daily lives and to remember the connections that surround them.

Campers have the opportunity to participate in swimming, canoeing, hiking, archery, team building activities, playing games, music, arts and crafts, a variety show, dancing, a service project and making friends for a lifetime! Campers are invited to share their talents, hobbies, favorite board games and activities at camp.

If you have completed grades 6th – 8th, get away this summer with us and continue your UU journey at Junior High Summer Camp CommUUnity 2020!

## Senior High Camp

**Camp UUnite**

**Sunday, July 19 – Saturday, July 25, 2020**

**Youth Deans:**

**Alex Bates Lamparella & Charlotte Ulrich**

**Adult Dean: Rev. Matthew Funke Crary**

Come to UUnite this summer under the sun and pines to discover what truly brings UU youth together. The week will be spent diving deeper each day into what UU principles mean, and more specifically, why they matter, and how they are acted upon. UU teens have learned that principles aren't simple proclamations a minister can make, as often the experience is the tail end of congregations falling short on commitments to these principles. Camp UUnite will offer more spiritual expression than ever with singing, laughing, and UUniting for the greatest good with the best group of folks imaginable.

Through these seven days, Camp will look completely different than in the past! Your deans have experienced life as campers, staff, counselors, and just about everything in between. In those positions, they've seen and experienced the hurt that is held when tradition is prioritized over the greatest good of the community. This means shaking up the schedule and staffing positions. The favorite activities of Jenks Lake canoeing, powerful worship, and life-changing workshops and trainings will continue with a shift of their foundation. Programming will be justice and social activism heavy, with the goal of shifting the all too common white-supremacist and white savior mindsets that accompany UU history. With these difficult conversations, the support system will consist of the UU seven principles and learning how to extend the kindness within these principles to one another, to cope, and to grow. There is work to be done. Will you answer the call?

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

## Summer Youth Camps 2020

**Cost: \$675 per camper**

**Early Bird Discount: \$75 off if registered by May 31, 2020**

- Elementary Camp: Campers completing grades 2 – 5
- Junior High 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, 2020 at 7 am**

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

For program information: Marianne Swift-Gifford, Camping Ministries Director, [cm@uucamp.org](mailto:cm@uucamp.org) or (909) 287-1270 and Geoff Anderla, Camping Ministries Director, [cmd@uucamp.org](mailto:cmd@uucamp.org) or (623) 252-5619

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

**For more information, visit [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org) and click on "Camps & Retreats".**





# Powered by Love

By Barbara Leigh Shields, dean of Summer Break Camp for Adults

For many years, Janet James and I have been friends in our hometown, Redlands. Her parents, Jim and Ardith, were very active in our town. They passed this spirit of community service onto Janet, who was a highly successful realtor and a prominent leader in the Girl Scouts.

In the late 1990s, Janet invited me to de Benneville to teach songs at various Girl Scout camps and occasionally provide entertainment for UU church camps. For about a decade, I also led songs for PSWIRL (Pacific South West Institute of Religious Liberals) and taught some writing workshops. For over half of a century, these faithful UUs annually migrated to the mountains to reunite with kith and kin. In 2015, on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, PSWIRL celebrated its final camp.

Since that camp had completed its life cycle, Janet needed to replace it with something different, and she asked my partner, Cyndy, and me if we had ideas.

Collaborating with Janet is



inspiring, and together we came up with a long list of ideas. She invited us to be deans and we enthusiastically said "yes." To ensure that we could build the momentum to keep the new Summer Break Camp for Adults rolling for another 50 years, we committed to serving as deans for five years. Janet has been delightful to work with. She exemplifies the spirit of a life committed to service that is powered by love. Along with thousands of others, I assuredly say that Janet James has changed my life for the better.

# Introducing Camp TransSpectrum

August 21 - 23, 2020

Hello, my name is Rudy Gordon and I look forward to serving as your Dean along with my spouse, Pat Gordon, at our newest adult camp, Camp TransSpectrum. This amazing camp came about because there is a need for adults who identify along the transgender spectrum, and for those who love us, to connect, share time, enjoy one another and rejoice together. Camp will be a relaxing and supportive weekend. We will have fun activities, such as art, photography, archery, swimming, hiking, and hot tubbing. Breakout groups for non-binary, Trans Masculine, Trans Feminine,

Significant Others, and allies will be available for those who wish to exchange ideas and concerns. Come make meaningful peace connections and find your center. I hope to welcome you to camp.



**SAVE THE DATE: CAMP'S SILVER AND DIAMOND JUBILEE, SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021**

# The Circle of Life

By Laura Fahr, lifelong camper



I've been going to de Benneville Pines since 1969 when I attended my first Family Camp. I remember the feeling of freedom and independence, running free with the other kids at camp.

After that first Family Camp, I didn't attend camp again until Elementary Camp 1975 where I met my best friend Michelle. We attended many camps together throughout our middle and high school years, became Junior Counselors, Counselors, attended Thanksgiving Camps yearly and most influentially, attended Senior High Camps where we bonded with other liberal teens in a way we couldn't in our high schools in Orange County.

It was with Michelle, her sister and a couple of other camp friends sitting in a jacuzzi in 2003 when we decided to plan a de Benneville Pines reunion. With the use of the internet, we were able to find and reconnect with hundreds of people who attended youth camps in the 70s and 80s, and two years later we reunited at camp with 130 people, some coming back for the first time in 20-25 years. It was during the reunion that some of us decided to start attending Family Camps with our children who were then elementary school aged.

The summer after the reunion was the first summer Family Camp I attended since my first camp in 1969. I came back with my children, Sarah and Stefan, and 16 friends I'd met at youth camps with their families. Thirteen summers later my camp friends and I have had the opportunity to get to know each other's kids and watch them grow into young adults.

Family Camp and all of the

other camps my children and I have attended over the years have offered us so many things: freedom with responsibility, learning and playing in nature, being with a liberal like-minded community, worshipping amongst the trees, learning communication and leadership skills, falling in love, being with family and most important, making lifelong friendships.

Last summer's camp theme, The Circle of Life, touched me deeply having been a part of a four generation camp family, yes my grandmother even attended camps with us in the 70s! I can feel my children moving into another phase of their lives, my father getting older and less likely to join me at camp in the future and, hopefully, my children's children participating in this

camp. De Benneville Pines has been a second home to me and my family. I know it has helped shape me into the person I am, and I'm certain it has shaped my kids into the compassionate, kind and loving people they are. It's been one of the greatest joys in my life to see my children fall in love with camp and to experience my sacred place with them.



Laura and Stefan Fahr at Jenks Lake





## Family Summer Camp

### Journeys

**Sunday, July 26 – Saturday, August 1, 2020**

**Dean: Kathryn Deal**

This summer pack up the family and journey on up to the land of towering pines, fresh air, clean water, outdoor activities, and a camp dog waiting to greet you. Venture to de Benneville Pines for Summer Family Camp and expand your horizons through personal and shared adventures, soul searching, and the quest of learning something new. First-time families and those who have made Camp their home for many years travel together through fun, fellowship, and family in the wondrous setting on the mountain top.

The workshops at Family Summer Camp come from the heart as campers build a safe and welcoming space for each person to contribute to the community. The varied and creative workshops offered each summer make Camp a unique and distinctive experience — truly a new journey. Voyage to a place of beauty, exploration, community, and joy while participating in art workshops, games, improvisation, talent night, archery, swimming, campfire activities, and a wonderful banquet dinner. Be sure your destination this



summer is Family Summer Camp 2020. Registration fills quickly for this much-anticipated camp. Don't miss the boat; register early!

**For more information, visit [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org) and click on "Camps & Retreats".**

## Camp Transcend

**A camp for families with  
gender diverse children**

**Friday, May 8 – Sunday, May 10, 2020**

**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. Our retreat provides a unique opportunity for parents and children to share their stories with peers while developing a support network. Moderated discussion groups take place in between traditional camp activities such as archery, hiking, and s'mores by the campfire. We also offer a sibling discussion group to help strengthen their understanding of changing family dynamics. On Saturday night, we host a celebration of the wide range of talent among our campers, from stand-up comedy to singing to acrobatics, and conclude with an all-ages dance party.

Since this year's camp occurs over Mother's Day weekend, there will be a special Sunday brunch celebrating moms! Our amazing volunteer counselors are primarily transgender and nonbinary adults who serve as resources and role models for our campers.

Come join us as we forge new connections and deepen old ones in a gorgeous mountain setting. Each family will be assigned their own room in a cabin with bunk beds. Some double beds are available. Thursday early



arrival is available for an additional \$20 per person. There is no food service until camp starts, so if you do come early, please bring picnic foods to hold you over. If you need to stay over on Sunday night, please let the camp know so that they may accommodate you.

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

For scholarship information or to apply, email [mg@mghennessey.com](mailto:mg@mghennessey.com)

For general camp questions: email [registrar@uucamp.org](mailto:registrar@uucamp.org)

**For more information, visit [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org) and click on "Camps & Retreats".**





# Born to Camp -- Despite the Monsters

By Jody James, Janet's older sister

This article was originally published in the 1995 issue of Connection. We thought it was appropriate to reprise it in this issue. Enjoy!

*The night is black and melodic with the chirping of crickets in the sparse, dry grass. Occasional whistles arise from the oak branches nearby, while a cool breeze sweeps through the open-walled wooden platform "tent" whose floor supports 12 cots a step up off the dusty ground; its roof will keep off the morning dew.*

*The giggly gossip-hour among tentmates has come and gone, and young Janet lies snuggled in her sleeping bag on the brink of unconsciousness. Does she care that her pillow might get a bit damp with her cot on the edge of the platform? No, looking up at the stars is more important. Anyway, the heat of the day will dry it out. The heat of the day...yawn...thank goodness for that wonderful big pool...yawn...and the ice-cold Eskimo Pies...*

*Oh no, what's that thudding sound approaching the tent? The sound*

*of thunderous footsteps! Big, loud footsteps with heavy breathing. What enormous monster was about to eat her entire Brownie troop alive in one big gulp?*

*Janet peers out into the darkness to see the humped silhouette of a giant coming towards her. Steam puffed from its nostrils as it bellowed a ghastly snort.*

*She withdraws into her sleeping bag, only her long, thick braid betraying humanly presence. She trembles, imagining her fate will follow that of the girl whose bones she now hears grinding in the monster's jaws!*

*Her tentmates scream and spring off their cots to huddle in panic with their leader on the far side of the platform.*

*Now Janet is alone, the hot breath of the beast is upon her.*

Being stalked by a marauding heifer at midnight might make some nine-year-old's think twice about ever camping again. But not Janet James.

Janet is one of those people who likes camp better than almost anything. She was a child who, ten out of ten, would choose going to camp over going to the beach, or Disneyland, or you name it. She even passed up summer fun with other teenagers to lead backpacking trips into the local mountains. She credits her parents with this enthusiasm, for they made family camping a regular activity throughout her life.

It's no surprise then, that we find her happily playing the role of camp operations manager at de Benneville Pines. To commune with the pines, explore dusty mountain trails, kibitz until the wee hours of the morning, and incite near-strangers into frolics of fun and adventure: these are the moments that make the other parts of her job tolerable. You know, the parts like snaking out toilets, fixing leaky plumbing in the crawl



Janet James and sister Jody ready for camping!

space beneath a cabin, and waking at dawn each morning to the incessant tapping of a woodpecker on the cabin wall.

## BORN TO CAMP

Continued on page 18

## What's Your Camp Story

Continued from page 6

not acknowledge that the magic of camp would not be possible if it were not for a team of people cooking, cleaning, maintaining, planning, administering and facilitating programs. Both paid and volunteer staff members come together each and every week to support the magical experience of camp. Nothing would be possible without their devotion to their jobs, to their volunteer positions, and to the campers. These people make up my camp family, and I take my job of being head of the camp-household very seriously. And yes, I often feel like everyone's mom, pulled in so many directions with no time for myself.

And of almost equal importance to my enjoyment as a camp manager has been my relationship with the camp dogs over the years. Oh how I've loved doting on them, referring to them as "my babies". They have each given me the opportunity to be a dog-mom, fussing over them to excess. My heart is full just thinking of each dog with whom I have fallen in love over my tenure here: **Mica**, a fearless protector

of the campers--chasing bears, coyotes, and bad guys from camp. I think of him as the last-great-camp-dog. He never wanted to be inside because he had a job to do outside!

**Bravo**, the most beautiful dog you ever did see. Part Rott and part Chow, he was rescued wandering in the desert while a pup. He once followed a group of Boy Scouts to the top of San Gorgonio peak. He was gone three days and was fed only Tang and oatmeal. When he returned to camp five pounds lighter, he vowed never to go backpacking again without the proper provisions and his mom!

**Dakota** was nicknamed "baby", and I don't think he ever understood that he was supposed to be guarding the camp. He lived for belly rubs, head pats and for his favorite cookies. He was a silly, wiggly Boxer dog who spent his days chasing lizards and sticking his head in gopher holes. He became an instant hit with campers when we produced the WaterWorks fundraising video. He was never short on attention after he attained super stardom on U-Tube!

**Daisy Doodle**, a gift from a UU

family at Tapestry, has been by my side for over six years now. She has spoiled me. Part Poodle and part Retriever, she doesn't shed, she doesn't chew on my shoes and she doesn't stray far from my side. What a delight to have her as my camp companion. I love following her down the trail to the office and watching that big feather duster tail wagging happily!

From its beautiful location, to its sacred space; from the team of hard-working employees to the team of dedicated volunteers and board members; from a busy and chaotic lodge to a peaceful walk across camp, de Benneville Pines has been my home for 25 years. It is hard to imagine my life in any other circumstance. And with any good measure, we shall have a few

more camping seasons together, and plenty of time to enjoy one another's friendship.

From my heart to yours, I thank you for the love you bestow upon this special place; and I thank you for the trust you have shown in my leadership. Camper, volunteer and staff family, you are the reason I am here.



Janet and Mica





## Summer Break Camp for Adults

### That Lovin' Feeling

Saturday, August 8 — Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Deans: Barbara Leigh Shields and Cyndy Leigh

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

Come feel the love. Attend *Summer Break*—a summer camp for adults—where UUs and like-minded friends commune with nature and each other. Two keynote speakers, Fran Grace, Ph.D. and Chris Epting, will strengthen your connections to the power of love and the inspiration of nature.

Fran Grace, in her quest to find spiritual healing and enlightenment, traveled the world to learn from renowned spiritual teachers, scientists, activists, and artists. She will share insights from her pilgrimage, which are included in her latest book *The Power of Love: A Transformed Heart Changes the World*. She serves as Professor of Religious Studies and founding Steward of the Meditation Program at the University of Redlands in California.

Chris Epting, a five-year Summer Break veteran, is a prolific author of 30 travel/history books. Years ago, he decided to write books only about things he loves, and book lovers feel that passion in every word they read. Among the best of storytellers, Chris will lift our heart each evening with tales about nature that promise to excite the naturalist in you.

For more information, visit [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org) and click on "Camps & Retreats".



UU Reverends Tom and Carolyn Owen-Towle, once again, bring the spiritual ministry to camp leading workshops, worship, and singing.

Early bird registration ends June 30, 2020. Note that for the past three years, this camp has sold out by May.

## Choir Camp

### Singing in the Pines *Love out Loud*

Saturday, August 8 – Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Music Director and Dean: Scott Roewe

Choir Director: Donald Milton III

Along with towering trees and refreshing breezes, love will be in the air at Choir Camp this year. Sharing the weekend with *Camp Summer Break* it will abound with beauty, new and long-standing friends, workshops, swimming, hot-tubbing, great food, and songs about love in many forms.

Choir Camp Dean, Scott Rowe, is a multifaceted musician, performing and recording artist, composer, choir director, and teacher. Scott is currently the Jazz Band Director at New Roads High School in Santa Monica California and taught during the Crossroads High School 2008, 2009 and 2010 Summer Jazz Camps. Since 2004 Scott has served as the music director at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Clarita. His musical virtuosity has been known to bring both smiles and tears to those who experience his music.

Joining Scott as featured Choir Director is Donald Milton III. Last year Don wowed choir participants and audience members alike with his energy



and dynamic and insightful manner of musical arrangement and directing. Don is the full-time Director of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta (UUCA), the largest UU congregation in the Southeast. At UUCA Don runs one of the most eclectic and exceptional music programs in the city and in the denomination. Don is active in the Atlanta music scene, and in January 2018, he was appointed Artistic Director of the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus. Don's energy and inspiration are infectious, and he can encourage a confident voice from the most reluctant of singers.

Join Scott, Don, and other lovers of song at **Singing in the Pines 2020: Love Out Loud**, for a not-to-be-missed week of joyful singing, love, laughter, and fellowship. Registration is limited to 20 people. Be sure you are a part of it.

For additional information on music theme or selections for this camp, contact Scott Roewe at [scott.roewe@gmail.com](mailto:scott.roewe@gmail.com).

For more information, visit [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org) and click on "Camps & Retreats".





# Creating a “Beloved Community”

By Rebecca Swenson, NP and Youth Camp nurse



Rebecca and Janet

When I was asked to write about my friendship with our camp Executive Director Janet James, I sat down and began by looking back at the original emails that led me to Janet and Camp de Benneville Pines for the first time on July 5, 2005.

The year prior had been a bad one for me. Knowing my 13-year old son would be busy the following

of the UU WORLD magazine and came across an advertisement with a map showing all the UU camps across the United States. It occurred to me that working as a camp nurse at a UU camp might just be the summer experience I was looking for.

On February 21, 2005 at 2:54 in the afternoon I sent an email to four UU camps. Less than five

summer with band, I started searching for something to fill my own soul and occupy my summer hours. I was a school nurse, with summers off, and wanted to be of service in some capacity. In February 2005, I was perusing a copy

hours later I received an invitation from Janet to investigate camp nurse opportunities at Camp dBP. I opted for the UU summer youth camps. They needed a nurse for three weeks (perfect), and I was eager to connect with west coast UUs for a sort of regional UU experience. Janet and I corresponded via email for the next five months. I'm sure we never even spoke on the phone, but a connection was forged, and I sensed that a friendship was in the making!

I had been told that Janet was a former realtor. Really? She looked more like a Minister – CEO – Financial Advisor – Fundraiser – Therapist – Handywoman – Gluten-Free – Gourmet Cook to me. The first week at camp was a whirlwind. Beyond Janet's abilities to multi-task, do any job that needed doing, work past midnight with a smile, and fix just about anything (I literally observed her doing all of those things within my

first 12 hours on the mountain), I found her to be a compassionate host whose love of the mountain and the campers wandering its paths was truly creating what we as UUs call the “Beloved Community”. Janet has a unique capacity for welcoming all, and in doing so has created a place for transformation. Children of all faiths and backgrounds, those who struggle with abuse, mental illness, or who are marginalized due to gender or sexual identity, ability, race or ethnicity have experienced acceptance and have celebrated transformational growth at Camp dBP, all because that is the community Janet has created there.

As we celebrate Janet's 25<sup>th</sup> year at Camp, I remain inspired by from where Camp dBP has come and by where it is headed in this new decade. Janet has created so many opportunities for folks to be involved with. Please volunteer, attend a camp, bring your child to camp, or support our beloved community with a financial donation. This beautiful mountain village can sustain us and future generations, while bearing witness to our UU values and principles.

## A Home for Camp Transcend

By M.G. Hennessey, dean

When we first discovered that Camp AranuTiq was no longer going to be holding a California family camp, we were devastated. Janet came to our rescue—she held the weekend for us and helped with everything from registration, promotion, and all the myriad details involved in organizing a retreat for over a hundred people.

Largely thanks to her, the camp has been tremendously successful for the past two years and is gaining such popularity that now we sell out! I can't thank Janet enough for all her hard work and support for our community, it has meant so much to us all to have a safe space to gather. If it weren't for de Benneville, that wouldn't be possible.



## Volunteer Work Camps

(tentative dates)

**Spring Volunteer Work Camp:**

**Mon., April 20 – Wed., April 22, 2020**

**Fall Volunteer Work Camp:**

**Mon., Nov. 9 – Wed., Nov. 11, 2020**

**Watch for confirmed 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](http://www.uucamp.org) and click on “Camps & Retreats”.**





## Art Camp

# Summer Arts Program for Adults

**Art Groove**

**Fri., August 14 – Wed., August 19, 2020**

For 13 years artists have been coming up the mountain to spend six days deepening existing skills and exploring new areas of expression. The days offer 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, 2020.

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](http://www.artcamp4grownups.com) for complete information.



For more information, visit [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org) and click on “Camps & Retreats”.

## Music in the Mountains

**Friday, November 6 – Sunday, November 8, 2020**

**Dean: Janice Gelencser**  
**Headliner: Larry Wilder**

**Music in the Mountains**, held annually during the first weekend of November, is filled with acoustic music of folk, blues, country, gospel, 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 also 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.

Our headliner this year is Larry Wilder, champion of Americana music. Larry is a well-known yodeler and musicologist and has opened for Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, Lily Tomlin and Pete Seeger, to name a few.

The planning committee is busy at work to bring a weekend filled with interesting workshops and activities. Some tentative workshops for the 2020 weekend are harmony singing, songwriting, guitar basics, and sing along sessions. 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 song or two. Six delicious meals, lodging and workshops are included in the weekend. Early arrival day is available on Thursday for an extra fee with no activities scheduled.



For more information, visit [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org) and click on “Camps & Retreats”.





# The Legendary Pioneer of Forsee Creek: Peter Atticus Forsee

By Shannon Wray, local mountain historian and writer



Man believed to be Forsee, courtesy San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society

Over the years, people have often interpreted the name of Forsee Creek as “foresee,” the ability to predict. But its true origin is Peter Atticus Forsee, the extraordinary pioneer for whom it was named. Those who spend a pleasurable day hiking the Forsee Creek Trail, are walking the path of a man whose adventurous spirit was robust and whose love for the mountains was pure and spiritual.

Born in Powhatan County Virginia in 1814, Peter Forsee went west as a boy with his parents settling in the wild territory of Indiana where his father, James, practiced frontier law. There, young Peter also obtained his law degree. However, the practicalities of earning a living taught him the printer’s trade and he worked for the Indianapolis Journal in his early years. In 1839, at the age of 25, he married Ann Burk a beautiful and accomplished young lady. By all reports, it was a happy love match and over the next several years Ann gave birth to four children, two girls and two boys. Sadly, however, their happiness was stolen when Ann died followed by their second daughter and youngest son in 1848. Heartbroken, Peter

went with his parents and five siblings to the gold fields of California in 1849.

The loss of his great love made Peter a wandering soul. He worked the gold fields in Northern California then became a famed market hunter for San Francisco. Later, he became a printer in Carson City during the years when Mark Twain was a newspaperman there. Finally, he took to law enforcement becoming a sheriff in Trinity and Mendocino

Counties. Throughout those rambling years, Peter found his solace in wild places, particularly the mountains.

By 1867, the Forsee’s came to settle in San Bernardino. Soon after arriving, Forsee and Nicholas Earp, the father of the famous Tombstone Earps, held off an angry mob intent on lynching a prisoner at the Colton jail. But Peter wearied of crime and cities at the age of 53. The mountains called to him and he and friend William Petty became the first homesteaders in Mill

Creek Canyon. It was a paradise of grasslands in old sycamore groves with willow trees along the banks of rushing Mill and Mountain Home Creeks. Forsee and Petty built a homestead cabin and barns for their animals then set out orchards with 300 trees and 30 varieties of apples. The two mountain men also acted as guides, taking visitors up along old Indian trails into the higher ranges and to Mount San Bernardino. Peter claimed fishing rights in a favorite place on a creek

his brothers in the San Bernardino Society of California Pioneers remembered his great love for his mountain home and imagined that he might have exclaimed, “Here stands magnitude, giving the instant impression of a power above man: grandeur that belies decay; antiquity that tells of ages unnumbered; beauty that the age old tune makes more beautiful; strength impervious as the globe; the monument of eternity; the truest emblem of that ever-living,



Old Mill Creek Road, courtesy archives, A.K. Smiley Public Library

and gave it his name and he took fishermen there to catch their fill of trout.

Peter Forsee lived to the age of 74, passing away on November 24, 1888. He left the legacy of his name on the land and travelers on Highway 38, on their way to camp, drive right through Peter Forsee’s homestead in Mountain Home Village, California. Upon his death,

unchangeable, irresistible Being, by whom and for whom all things were made and created.”



Levering Wagon, courtesy Janice Gillmore, private collection

## The Pioneers of Mill Creek Canyon

By Shannon Wray

Published by The History Press

June 29, 2020

Available at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble and other fine retailers.

### Bio

Shannon Wray’s story in Mill Creek Canyon began when her great-great-grandfather came there in 1847 with a U.S. Army detachment to cut trees for a flagpole at Fort Moore in Los Angeles. Hailing from a Hollywood family, her aunt was classic film star Fay Wray of King Kong fame. As a young child, she spent every summer in Mill Creek Canyon then moved there year-round in 1968 and attended school at the old two-room stone Fallsview Schoolhouse. Shannon enjoyed a career as a television producer traveling the world for national networks over 30 years. She lives in a historic home in Mill Creek Canyon with her family.





## Young Adult Summer Camp

### Camp Re-centering

For Young Adults ages 18-35

Friday, September 4 – Monday, September 7, 2020

Deans: Athena Brown & Matt Mazzero

Come spend Labor Day weekend as a time of self-care and self-reflection at the Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Camp at de Benneville Pines!

Re-center your life and build community through camp activities such as swimming, archery, hiking, and tie dying. Connect on a more spiritual level through a multi-faith framework.



Camp Re-centering is offered for campers ages 18 – 35, UU and friends, who wish to spend time together at a mountain retreat exploring ways to make better the world.

There is much to be done, and together changes can happen.

For more information, visit [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org) and click on “Camps & Retreats”.

## Camp TransSpectrum

Friday, August 21 – Sunday, August 23, 2020

Deans: Rudy & Pat Gordon

Trans men and trans women come together in a weekend of fun and outreach as they retreat in a mountain hideaway to explore, exchange, relax and recharge. In a safe setting, transcampers will enjoy family and friends as well as get to know one another. Workshops, activities and all-camp events will make this weekend an adventure to remember.



Enjoy hot tubbing, archery, swimming, hiking, photography and art. Join friends at the campfire for smore's and more! Break-out sessions for significant others, friends and allies, and trans men and trans women will be offered during the weekend.

Camp TransSpectrum is sponsored by Camp de Benneville Pines, a Unitarian Universalist Camp, where all campers are treated with respect and dignity. Join us for the weekend with SOFFA (Significant Others, Family, Friends, Allies). For adults 18+.

For more information, visit [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org) and click on “Camps & Retreats”.

## Intergenerational Justice Summit

### Turning the Tides 2020

Intergenerational Justice Camp

Sunday, August 2 – Thursday, August 6, 2020

Justice-seeking UUs of all ages are invited to register for this multi-day justice leadership summit at Camp de Benneville Pines this summer. Hosted by the UU Justice Ministry of California and the UU Justice Arizona Network, this spirit-filled gathering offers space for restoration, imagination, and creation among your fellow Unitarian Universalist justice makers – including justice-making families!

Programming at **Turning the Tides** (formerly known as Walking the Walk) includes collaboratively-led worship, relationship building opportunities, powerful workshops with guest facilitators on economic, immigrant, and climate justice; and this year, a featured #UUtheVote programming track to harness the power of our UU love on the ballot this November 2020!

Come create and find community as we share in activities and programming crafted to build our resilience and remind all of us of the values at the root of our work for justice. Programing details and registration will be available in March – go to [uujmca.org/TurningTheTides](http://uujmca.org/TurningTheTides) to sign up for a notification when updates are posted!



Contact [info@uujmca.org](mailto:info@uujmca.org) or send us a message at [uujmca.org/turning-the-tides](http://uujmca.org/turning-the-tides) with any questions or requests.





# Janet's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year:

## Three Anniversary Projects

By Pat Gordon, board member



To know Janet James is to know that she is much like the unsinkable Molly Brown. She is goal driven, hard working, enthusiastic, and just never seems to slow down. When down for the count, she rallies with renewed energies and charges forward with gusto. For 25 years she has worked with her staff on making our camp just a little better each day. When folks told her the camp was going under, and would go bankrupt within months, she buckled down and got to work to help save our camp 25 years ago. She even carried the camp on her

personal credit card for several years while she was out fundraising to save the camp! A brave step to take, indeed; for you see, Janet did not grow up at Camp de Benneville Pines, and she did not grow up UU, so she really didn't have the kind of stake in de Benneville Pines that many of us have. Janet just happened to be the gal with the "let's get it done" attitude when we needed a Molly Brown to save camp in 1995!

We asked what projects Janet would like to accomplish during her 25<sup>th</sup> season at camp, and she was quick with her list. All three projects will improve camp's functionality, safety and camper enjoyment. To quote Janet, "De Benneville Pines is a collaboration of love. It has been my pleasure to take care of the camp for 25 years, and it would be an honor to see people invest in their camp on my 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year! We are a mighty force when we work together, and we can get so much done!"

### Anniversary Projects:

- **Create an ADA accessible trail from Craig's Cabin to Cabin 7**, so the hot tub and swimming pool can be accessed by people with mobility challenges. Install safety steps with handrail in the pool for use by those who can no longer use the pool ladders to enter and exit the water.

- **Replace the aging ovens and stoves in the camp's kitchen.** With a hundred-plus hungry mouths to feed at each camp meal, the risk of these aging appliances failing completely increases daily. To have reliable, modern and energy-efficient appliances in our kitchen would be a dream come true for the cooking staff.

- **Build gender neutral bathrooms at the Coffee House.** Who hasn't wished for bathrooms while attending a workshop in the Coffee House? And think about Janet and our administrative staff. The camp office, located on the east end of the Coffee House, does not have restroom access either. This

project will take installing water, a septic tank, and leech field; and while we are at it, we will build a deck on the south side of the Coffee House so that campers can access the bathrooms from outside of the building as well as from the meeting room. Seed money for this project has been sitting in an account since Janet arrived 25 years ago.

So, let's get started! If you would like to honor the love, dedication and devotion that Janet has showered on our sacred place; and if you would like to help Janet realize any of her dreams for her 25<sup>th</sup> year, then please donate to the anniversary project fund listed above. Your donation will help us create a giant gift of love to Janet. If you are having trouble picking a favorite project, then don't, let Janet decide!

Enclosed in this publication is a donor envelope that you can use to send your contribution to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project Fund. You can also make an online donation by visiting our website, [uucamp.org](http://uucamp.org) and clicking on the "Contribute" button.

And by the way, we are planning a Party! Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 24, 2021, and come help us celebrate

## Steve Johnston Celebrates 25 Years at Camp

Steve Johnston arrived to Camp in November of 1995. Steve's sister had been a good friend of Janet's



and a Girl Scout leader in Redlands. Janet remembers the day Debra Johnston called her to ask if there

were any positions in the kitchen for which her "little brother" could apply. Janet didn't even know Debbie had a little brother 16 years her junior!

Steve joined the kitchen team in fall 1995 and has worked all positions in the kitchen, including lead cook and kitchen manager. These days he prefers less responsibility

so he can enjoy his hobbies--biking, hiking, pod casting, reading and studying music to name a few of the things that keep him busy.

Thank you, Steve, for your 25 years of service to Camp! And thanks for all the years of snow shoveling. Janet says you have been her life saver, and you are her family!

### BORN TO CAMP

Continued from page 12

But Janet is no stranger to challenge. Together with her husband of nine years (Bob Gampp), she has molded one of the Inland Empire's most sought-after Girl Scout troops. Ten years ago, when the couple volunteered to take on the flailing, non-member troop of high school girls, they had no idea how successful their experiment in positive role-modeling and esteem development would be. Within a short time, the troop had expanded to 30 members, with some girls coming from as far away as 40 miles. Eventually both the troop and Janet became recurrent recipients of regional and community awards. Janet's Scout work received the recognition of the JC Penny Corporation in 1990 when she was honored as one of the

nation's top volunteers; and the Girl Scout Council named her "Leader of the Year" on two occasions.

An intrinsic part of her Girl Scouting experience has been traveling to places like Expo-Vancouver, New England, Lake Tahoe and the Grand Canyon. Canoeing and whitewater trips have taken the troop as far north as the Columbia River. These trips weren't freebies at their parent's expense: participants had to earn their own way. That's a lot of Girl Scout cookies!

Janet expects the extra ordinary of people, and they rarely disappoint. In fact, so dedicated is her troop, that two of its members volunteered to work all summer as her full-time assistants in camp (a sacrifice for which she is deeply grateful).

After graduating from Cal Poly

Pomona's Commercial Recreation and Marketing programs, Janet worked as the guest services manager for a four-star hotel, and eventually coordinated the sales and marketing efforts for the Inland Empire Hilton. More recently she has had a successful career as a Realtor for Coldwell Banker Realty Center in Redlands. She is a member of the Redlands Chamber of Commerce and recently completed its community leadership program. She sits on the board of directors for the Redlands YWCA and serves as an older girl program consultant for the Redlands Girl Scouts.

Her volunteer work with teenagers has been the most satisfying. Being able to work with young people was one of the factors that drew her to de Benneville Pines.

With its great location, summer and winter activities, pool and excellent food, she has no doubt that de Benneville Pines can become one of the busiest retreat centers in Southern California.

And Janet looks forward to using her talents and vision to make it so. As long as the "monsters" stay away.



Janet and her nephew, Kyle, after a sleepover in the Director's Cabin in 1995





## Theatre with an altitude!



Set in the mountains about two hours outside L.A. and taught by industry professionals, **Camp Bravo** offers an intensive course of study in theatre arts designed to provide insight, education and fun.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Entering  
7th through 9th grade  
Ages 11-14

**JUNE 14 – JUNE 20, 2020**  
**JUNE 28 – JULY 4, 2020**

### HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Entering  
9th grade through College  
Ages 14-18

**JUNE 14 – JUNE 20, 2020**  
**JUNE 21– JUNE 27, 2020**  
**JUNE 28 – JULY 4, 2020**

For more information call 1-888-44-BRAVO  
or visit on line at [www.campbravo.org](http://www.campbravo.org)

## PineCon

# Tabletop Gaming in the Mountains

A Family-Friendly Event

**Fri., October 23 – Sun., October 25, 2020**

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 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](mailto:pinecon.reg@gmail.com)



## Yoga Camp

# Soaring Beyond Your Limits

**Fri., September 11 – Sun., September 13, 2020**

**Deans: Lisa Harris and Kathy Bolte**

**with keynote teacher Pam Hale Trachta**

Pam Hale Trachta asks us: “When have you felt as if you were soaring? And what would it look like for you to take off now in your life? Maybe it would mean writing that book or taking that trip or starting that business. Or maybe it would mean finding a safe place inside to which you could always journey, no matter what was going on. It might mean finding a way to refuel, to put yourself first in the best sense, thus liberating you from struggling with your burdens. Maybe it would mean knowing, remembering your own magnificence, so that you could pilot your way through life with grace and ease.”

Come to Yoga Camp 2020 where we will practice piloting our own journey with the inspiration of yoga, mindfulness meditation, essential oils, sound meditation, art, self-massage, music, and being in nature. We are so excited to have as our keynote teacher, Pam Hale Trachta, author of *Flying Lessons*, and creator of the *Sand Spirit Insight Cards*.

Educated at Stanford and Columbia Universities, Pam has created a unique body of work woven from her varied experiences as a teacher, life coach, spiritual counselor, photographer, and shamanic practitioner. She is dedicated to helping people thrive physically, professionally, and spiritually so they can contribute to higher consciousness on the planet.



To take advantage of the Early Bird Discount, register before July 31, 2020. Additional fees apply for massage, acupuncture and individual instruction.

For more information, visit [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org)  
and click on “Camps & Retreats”.





# Loving Camp from Many Angles

By Marianne Shuster, "Best Friends" retreat coordinator



Planning a camp or retreat entails advanced preparation, organization, and attention to detail, even for a small personal event. Maybe especially for a small personal event, where a facilitator is also responsible for room/ bed assignments, food prep assignments, being sure there is a fire in the fireplace, and

"ambiance", not to mention, what probably seemed like thousands of emails to the retreat-goers in the preceding weeks. Maybe it was hundreds. Oh, but the rewards-how they erased the memory of answering the same questions multiple times, coaxing answers out of friends as to who was making which dish, for what

meal, and what, really does each person want out of this retreat? Then again, maybe it was the complete exhaustion at the end of it that erased all of that.

No, all of the beautiful memories are

clear and the tiredness was from being so thrilled at the results that I barely slept, spending hours on end with people I love, eating their amazing food-enough, as it turned out, for two retreats, sharing creativity, taking walks together in the winter forest, laughing until our eyes flowed with tears, and loving until our hearts became one.

This is what happens at de Benneville Pines whether you are a facilitator or participant. Come to Camp. You won't regret it, nor will you forget it.



**SAVE THE DATE: CAMP'S SILVER AND DIAMOND JUBILEE, SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021**

## Everything expected... and More

By Jan Harvey, retreat guest

On a retreat where I had expected to eat a little (with wine of course), take a walk or two, read my new Toni Morrison book, maybe sneak in a nap and have a few meaningful conversations - there was all that cubed. I

didn't predict that we would play Thanksgiving Family Feud, while laughing hysterically, pose for shadow pictures while walking through the forest, eat one continuous delicious meal all day long, get Buddy to make friends

with those of us he didn't really know yet, experience an official wine tasting using professional anatomical terms like legs and body, discover our Salon Sister's creative artistic sides in Pictionary with more 'falling on the floor' laughter, produce a cable TV quality cooking show called "How to Use The Instant Pot Which You've Owned for a Year and Been Afraid to Try for Fear of Blowing Up Your Kitchen", learned to make a house blessing by weaving South Dakota wheat stalks and "Put a Bow On It" if you weren't impressed with



your workwomanship.

All that washed down with wine and the quickest many-hands-thorough-house-cleaning-on-our-way-out-the-door I've ever seen.







# Just for Kids - *Daisy's Doodles*

Camp de Benneville Pines has a big, fuzzy, happy greeter. Her name is Daisy Doodle and she is the Camp Dog. She loves living at Camp and sharing it with everyone who visits, especially kids. If you have not come to see her at Camp (or even if you have) she has a special treat for you. Daisy loves treats.

Daisy has her own newsletter that you can get at your UU congregation. It's called, Daisy's Doodles, and it is full of Camp information, nature facts, cute pictures, fun activities, and lots of love from Daisy. You can see a little picture of it here, but you need to get the real one to enjoy all the fun. Remember to help Daisy find the campfire in the first issue, look for the next issue of Daisy's Doodles this summer, and be sure to visit Daisy Doodle at Camp de Benneville Pines soon!



# Help Celebrate Camp's Diamond Anniversary

Camp de Benneville Pines has been serving the UU community and others for almost 60 years. And you were there!

In 2021 Camp de Benneville Pines will be celebrating its 60th anniversary, and we want to shout it from the treetops. We need your help, though. Start looking through boxes, files, photo albums, your cell phone, and the recesses of your brain for stories, pictures, articles, poems, and all manners of memories to share with us so we can share with others. Talk to families and friends who have attended Camp and encourage them to get in on the fun.

You may send digital and scanned items to [history@uucamp.org](mailto:history@uucamp.org) or mail ephemera to Camp de Benneville Pines, 41750 Jenks Lake Road West, Angelus Oaks, CA 92305 Attention Marianne/ Outreach Coordinator. If you have a large number of photos to share, please combine them on a disk or memory stick and mail it to camp. Also, PLEASE NOTE: Do not send anything that you absolutely

must have returned to you.

When sending photos please include when it was taken (circa okay) and identify the camp i.e. Summer Family Camp, Women's Retreat, etc. and people where applicable. Anything previously published should include the date, name of publication, and author.

Most of all, we would like to have short accountings (prose or poetry) of everyone's experience at Camp. Share with us funny or touching moments, friends made and memories of those lost, when and what was your first camp, how long have you attended, what keeps/ kept you coming back, and everything else you want to share about how Camp de Benneville Pines is a part of your life.

Please include your name, address/ email, and phone number in all correspondence.

If you have any questions, send them to [history@uucamp.org](mailto:history@uucamp.org) and include the word "question" in the subject line.

## 32nd Annual Camp Recovery

### "All You Need is Love"

#### Camp Recovery 12-Step Retreat

Friday, April 24 – Sunday, April 26, 2020

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 yourselves. 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 in the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains.



For general info email [info@camprecovery.org](mailto:info@camprecovery.org)  
For registration info email [registration@camprecovery.org](mailto:registration@camprecovery.org)

## 12-Step Mountain Retreat

Orange County ACA presents the Annual

### Fall Mountain Retreat

With CoDA & Other 12-Step Programs Invited!

Friday, September 25 –

Sunday, September 27, 2020

#### 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; Saturday evening "Talent/No Talent Show," then a Dance afterwards! Enjoy a massage for a separate fee.

FMR Info Line: 562-367-4325  
Email: [acafallmountainretreat@gmail.com](mailto:acafallmountainretreat@gmail.com)

For information and pricing, visit [www.socalaca.org](http://www.socalaca.org), email [ACAFallMountainRetreat@gmail.com](mailto:ACAFallMountainRetreat@gmail.com) or call (562)367-4325.





# Camp Bravo Celebrates 25 Years!

By David and Artur, Camp Bravo co-founders and co-directors



It was 26 years ago, on a road trip returning from a youth theatre conference in Northern California, when the idea of Camp Bravo was born. Based around the simple concept of establishing trust, collaboration and creativity, there would be no auditions, no show, only great training and creating an artistic community. One year later, 35 students and two dogs took a leap of faith. A leap that has brought us to today.

We can't possibly begin to quantify how many lives have been influenced by that one conversation on that long drive

down Hwy 1 along the California coast. The unforgettable amounts of laughter, love, honesty, tears, pure joy, creativity, collaboration and humanity that have been given and received by so many is immeasurable. The thousands of lives that have been touched is vast and the true friendships and community that have been built has surpassed our greatest expectations.

Someone once said that everyone needs at least one blade of grass to hold on to. Well, we have an entire meadow waiting up the mountain. Thank you once again to our wonderful home at Camp de

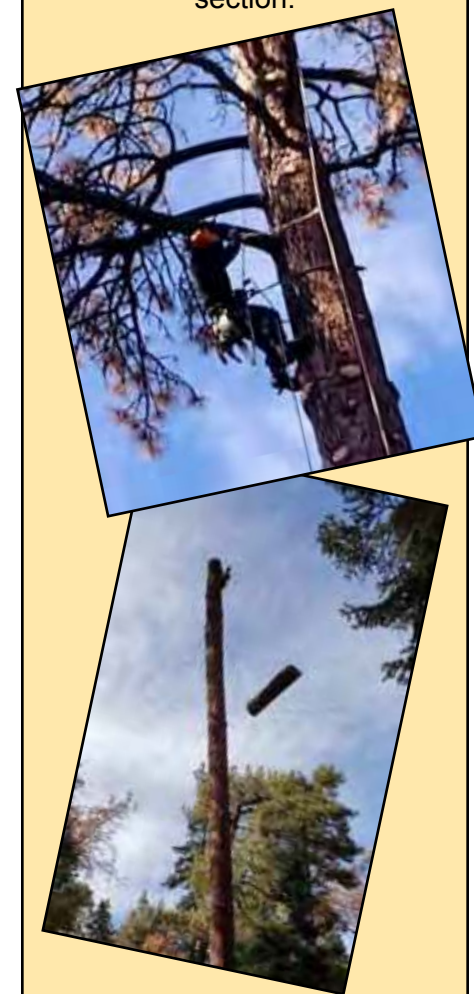
Benneville Pines and to Janet and her staff for always welcoming us back "up the mountain".

We celebrate this milestone with every camper who took a risk, with every counselor who brought the magic they had experienced back to their campers and with every staff member who brought their passion for theatre "up the mountain" and shared it with tomorrow's young artists. CAMP BRAVO continues to inspire us all every summer. Here's to another 25 years!

For more information, visit [www.campbravo.org](http://www.campbravo.org).

## Share The Vision Funds at Work

\$2800 to hire a tree service to climb a tree, limb it and take it down section by section.



## Family Camp

### Autumn Rendezvous for Homeschool Families

Monday, October 5 – Thursday, October 8, 2020

Dean: Jorie Denny

Come join other like-minded families for an exciting time exploring nature, relaxing and having fun! Frolic in the woods, whittle a walking stick, or hike to the peak!

Each fall, homeschooling families with kids (and grandparents!) of all ages come together at Camp de Benneville Pines to share experiences and enjoy a hassle-free outing.

Every family is encouraged to lead an activity based on their interest: hiking and scavenger hunting, games and sports,

educational and environmental programs, and arts and crafts!

Enjoy "family time" while the camp staff handles kitchen duty! Autumn is a great time to come to camp. Enjoy the smell and taste of homemade pie, hot apple cider, and fresh baked bread.

For more information, visit [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org) and click on "Camps & Retreats".

## Thanksgiving Celebration

### A Family Tradition

Thur., November 26 – Sun., November 29, 2020

Imagine sitting around a blazing fireplace in Homet Lodge, surrounded by family and close friends—some new and some old. 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!



For more information, visit [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org) and click on "Camps & Retreats".





# From the Desk of Board President Dale Botts

## Moving Forward

Camp de Benneville Pines is perched on the precipice of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the 2021 calendar year, as it enters its new fiscal year in April, 2020. Just as the astronauts in the 1960s viewed the earth as a blue ball splotted with white, green, and brown, a president views his or her organization from this high-level perspective. The key to success for the next sixty years is for me to nurture the moving parts in the organization that are in harmony with our strategic plan. Additionally, I will push to modernize the camp where needed and to interface with the USFS on important issues.

Our Executive Director/Operations Manager, Janet James, oversees operational details and drives the business forward. Her knowledge base is irreplaceable, and she is pushing the board to plan far into the future. Our new office assistant/Outreach Coordinator will allow Janet to delegate many of the day to day administration details to Marianne Shuster. Our Maintenance Supervisor, Frank Haahr, is very resourceful. He handles routine maintenance, emergencies, and camp improvements with ease. Our Registrar, Laura Chamberlin, is handling website updates for

events, publication of materials like the Connection newspaper, as well as registration. Our Camping Ministries Director, Geoff Anderla handles the all-encompassing programing and staffing for the camp sponsored youth and family camps. Also included in the list of invaluable employees is our team of kitchen staff and housekeepers. Janet is paving the way for sustainable staffing with a focus on modern on-site staff facilities as well as a concept for key staff positions needed to operate a busy camp.

Our Board of Directors now has experts in Stewardship, Financial oversight, Personnel, and Capital Projects oversights. The three-year contract for our Development Consultant, Jacki Weber, is winding down. Four years ago, the Board set in motion a plan to hire a consultant to help us develop a strategic plan and strengthen the organizational structure, with the key focus on the development of



fundraising skills. We now have a robust monthly donation program and the framework for a capital project donation program. Our deepest gratitude goes out to those UU families who personally funded the three-year consultancy contract so that we could become experts in implementing and funding our growth.

Keep an eye on our website. Jacki Weber designed a fundraising website when she first came aboard to help articulate the needs of the camp. This modern website will become our primary website once we work out the transfer of data off our old site and implementation of a new registration system. This process should be completed within the year.

I have come to understand the good intentioned but obstinate permit process of the USFS can be lengthy. Plans to update and expand the Director's Cabin have been in the queue with the USFS historian for over a year. Optimistically, we will obtain all permits required to build in the summer of 2020. The

money is in hand, and the project can launch as soon as the USFS gives us their blessing. We will submit plans to enhance and expand Craig's Cabin soon, and the Capital Projects committee is planning for staff housing improvements. Fund raising continues behind the scenes as we search for supporters who will contribute \$5000+ to our building projects. We will launch a broader capital campaign to include all constituents once we reach a pre-determined goal with large donations.

Monthly donations cover increased operational costs beyond registration fees (funding support staff, meeting minimum wage increases, and ever increasing USFS lease fees and insurance premiums); and our annual campaign, *Share The Vision*, supports small projects, equipment purchases, green projects, and the camper scholarship fund. Legacy and endowment fundraising are in the infant stage.

There is no denying that a robust Stewardship Committee is the only way to sustain de Benneville Pines into the future; and membership on the Stewardship Committee has become the launching vehicle to board participation. Should you have an interest in being on any board committee, please reach out to me, Dale Botts, at [president@uucamp.org](mailto:president@uucamp.org).

**SEND YOUR CAMP MEMORIES TO: [HISTORY@UUCAMP.ORG](mailto:HISTORY@UUCAMP.ORG)**

## Blending Camps and Cultures

A recent story about a UU congregation brought forth the thought process that it is tricky to help marginalized people. Understanding the skepticism marginalized people have toward the dominant white Anglo, paternal culture is a start.

Over the last three years I have been coordinating the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Fullerton (UUCF) weekend at Camp. UUCF was having trouble consistently filling all the beds for our weekend. Janet James suggested that UUCF coordinate sharing our weekend with 20 to 30 members of a Native American association. Now called the Alianza Group, it is an association of about half a dozen

tribes. She also warned me this had been tried before, but the Alianza Group did not come back because they did not feel welcome.

I coordinated with the Alianza Group to share activities, space and expectations with UUCF during our de Benneville weekend. We purposefully designed several activities intended to blend our two groups together. The first year our children spontaneously joined the Alianza children to do arts and crafts activities that the Alianza Group coordinated. The Alianza children spontaneously joined our UUCF member(s) in early morning yoga. The second year, they offered to share workshops centered on their cultural activities including

presentation of Sages used as medicine and baking Indian Fry Bread. The Bread activity was a big hit with everyone.

During the routine coordination to make synchronize events at de Benneville, I have found that our partner group is collectively financially challenged, determined to preserve their culture, and quite welcoming. They want to feel accepted and comfortable around us and they want to understand and articulate the story about how our two groups came to share this time and space.

Lupe Lopez is the leader of the Alianza Group that I work with. She includes her son, Bok Lopez, in our planning sessions. Lupe and Bok surprised me the last Sunday of June 2019 by publicly honoring me with a Native American ceremony at our UUCF worship service. They wanted to express the gratitude

they feel for making our shared experience at de Benneville Pines so comfortable and cohesive. It is a pleasure to know that UUCF can make a difference by creating this harmonious union of people from different life experiences.



Lupe Lopez and Dale Botts





## Camp de Benneville Pines Board of Directors 2020-2021

**President**  
Dale Botts

**Vice President**  
Chris Faller

**Secretary**  
Louise Klatt

**Treasurer**  
Donna Herman

**Members at Large**  
Betsy Gilpin  
(outgoing April 2020)  
Pat Gordon  
Martha Kazlo  
Paul Wallace

**Executive Director**  
Janet James

**Camp Staff**  
Geoff Anderla  
Ed Bagdon  
Kimberly Britton  
Daniel Caple  
Laura Chamberlin  
Niki Giberson  
Frank Haahr  
Lori Haahr  
Karen Irgang  
Steve Johnston  
Jill Lumus  
Trudy Mann  
Rhonda Reeves  
Eli Saurez  
Marianne Shuster  
Marianne Swift-Gifford  
Ruth Wortham

**Camp Dog**  
Daisy Doodle

## 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 build beloved community

We 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.

## Editors

Laura Chamberlin  
Marianne Shuster

**Graphic Designer**  
Vic Eisenhut

Our sincere thanks to all contributors of stories and photos



This facility is operated under a Special Use permit on land under the jurisdiction of the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.

## Need Help?

Youth and Family Camp programming:  
Marianne Swift-Gifford,  
Camping Ministries Director  
cm@uucamp.org

Registration or general camp information:  
Laura Chamberlin, Registrar  
registrar@uucamp.org

Camp Support and Volunteer Involvement:  
Marianne Shuster,  
Outreach Coordinator  
office@uucamp.org

Any and all issues: Janet James,  
Executive Director  
director@uucamp.org

# Farewell and Welcome

Geoff Anderla, who has served as our Camping Ministries Director for over 5 years, will be moving on in August to focus on his other equally demanding yet fulfilling, fulltime job. Geoff has been involved with camp since his teens. He has provided leadership and program development for Youth and Family Camps, helping

to make them the best UU camps nationwide.

We are pleased to announce that Marianne Swift-Gifford will be jumping into this position immediately and will be in-training with Geoff through the conclusion of the 2020 Summer Camp season. Marianne is a member of Palomar UU Fellowship, and has served multiple times as a dean for youth camps and Women's Retreat. She knows our camping ministries mission and philosophy well.

We want to honor and thank Geoff for his amazing and loving stewardship of the UU Youth and Family camp programs. We wish him all the best and hope to continue seeing him at camp. And we welcome Marianne



as she takes on this vital role for camp. We are confident in her abilities to continue to make youth camps fun, meaningful and true to UU values.



## How to Contact Us

Camp de Benneville Pines  
41750 Jenks Lake Road West  
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305

**Office & Group Reservations**  
909-794-2928 (phone)  
909-794-2418 (fax)  
office@uucamp.org  
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