

A View from the Ridge



FROM THE DIRECTOR: Lawrence Jay

Spring has sprung at the Ridge. Buds are blooming on the trees. New grass is growing in the fields. The lake is lapping at the shore after a wet winter. The birds are welcoming warmer weather with spring time tunes. Even our resident wood chuck family is expanding, as mama has been out with her new babies, giving them a lay of the land (much to the chagrin of our gardeners, of course!) With new life springing all around, a new season has begun.



From the gloom of winter, spring offers new beginnings and new hope. Although national news might continue its gloom, this new season at Rolling Ridge brings the promise of hope and peace.

This summer, our 7th annual Peace Conference looks to shine light into the darkness and fear surrounding the politics in our headlines. Through our Saturday plenary speaker and Sunday workshops, we seek to provide the spiritual grounding needed for political action. Through conversations around meals, we believe that a community of encouragement will bring new life.

If you are feeling winter blues, if the political climate has you climbing up the walls, if you feel discouraged by national headlines, I encourage you to join us for a season of hope and a weekend of inspiration at our Rolling Ridge Peace Conference, July 22-23. There is new life ahead. Good things are ready to break forth. Get ready to live into the promises of a new season. See you this summer.

Peace,

P.S. More details on the Peace Conference inside this newsletter.

The GIVING GARDEN at Rolling Ridge



When turning off Great Pond Road to get to the Ridge, you may have noticed a fenced in area to the left when driving down the road. This area is loving known as "The Giving Garden." Since 2015, Rolling Ridge has been home for the Giving Garden, which brings together volunteers of all ages and faith to grow fresh, healthy vegetables for underserved communities around Lawrence.

Created by a group South Church in Andover, the garden now attracts weekly volunteers from nine different local faith communities and the Boys and Girls Club in Lawrence, which comes every Friday.

Organic principles of gardening are practiced, with no pesticides used. 90% of the harvest from the garden is delivered to Neighbors In Need, which operates food pantries in Lawrence and Methuen. 10% of the harvest goes to the kitchen at Rolling Ridge to feed our guests.

Volunteers to work the garden are welcomed at weekly work sessions: Sunday afternoons, Tuesday evenings, and Thursday mornings. Sign-up at www.southchurch.com/giving-garden. If you or your group is interested in volunteer at the Giving Garden while staying at Rolling Ridge, email givinggardengrows@gmail.com.

Summer, 2017

Of Interest

- STILL WATERS
- SUMMER PEACE CONFERENCE 2017
- UPCOMING EVENTS
- TAIZE RETREAT
- MEET THE STAFF



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SEVENTH ANNUAL PEACE CONFERENCE EXPANDED TO A FULL WEEKEND!

Since its inception in 2011, the Peace Conference at Rolling Ridge has become an important platform for healthy dialogue and inspirational hope. Diverse speakers over the years have addressed issues of peace-making, Earth tending, and inter-faith reverence. In a confusing political and social climate, now more than ever, people need a safe space as we seek understanding, harmony, and change.

SPEAKING OUT, LISTENING DEEP:
**SPIRITUAL GROUNDING
FOR POLITICAL ACTION**



The 7th Annual Peace Conference Saturday & Sunday, July 22 & 23

Featuring Saturday Afternoon Plenary Speaker
DR. ROBERT A. JONAS
Director of The Empty Bell, a contemplative sanctuary in Northampton, Massachusetts with a special emphasis on Buddhist-Christian dialogue

Sunday Afternoon Workshops led by local community leaders with a closing prayer service for peace

Rolling Ridge
Retreat and Conference Center
660 Great Pond Road, North Andover, MA. 01845 978-682-8815
Register at www.rollingridge.org

RETREAT COSTS:

- \$197** full-time private room (1:00 pm Saturday through 5:00 pm Sunday - 1 night, 3 meals with all sessions)
- \$157** full-time shared twin room (1:00 pm Saturday through 5:00 pm Sunday - 1 night, 3 meals with all sessions)
- \$ 97** commuter (1:00-9:00 pm Saturday and 12:00-5:00 pm Sunday - 2 meals and all sessions)
- \$ 57** one-day (Either 1:00-9:00 pm Saturday OR 12:00-5:00 pm Sunday - 1 meal and session)

**REGISTER ON LINE AT
WWW.ROLLINGRIDGE.ORG**

This year, Rolling Ridge will address the topic of peace in the political process at our 7th annual Peace Conference, entitled "**Speaking Out, Listening Deep: Spiritual Grounding for Political Action.**" During the Saturday afternoon plenary, Dr. Robert Jonas, Director of *The Empty Bell*, will focus on the inner work that needs to be done so that we may be faithful to our call to speak out against political, social, and racial injustices. Sunday afternoon workshops will feature training in mobilization and spiritual practices, with experienced faith leaders offering their insights. A closing interfaith prayer for peace will round out the conference and send people home inspired and equipped to work for peace.

For the past 6 years, the Rolling Ridge Peace Conference was held on Monday evening with dinner and a plenary. Because of the national energy generated by the current presidential administration, we felt it was imperative to expand this year's event to a full weekend with a larger selection of inspirational and practical resources to equip people for political action.

SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 22, 2017

- 1:00 pm Registration Opens
- 2:00 pm Plenary Session **with Dr. Robert A. Jonas**
- 5:30 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm Evening conversations

Sunday, July 23, 2017

- For full-time registrants: breakfast, spiritual direction and wellness options in the morning
- 12:00 pm Lunch
 - 1:00 pm Workshop Session 1
 - 2:15 pm Workshop Session 2
 - 3:30 pm Closing Prayer for Peace

SUNDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS at 1pm & 2:15

Read a full description on the back page

- Spiritual resistance in a time of crisis**
With Margaret Jonas
- Non-violent communication**
With Jean Shula
- Personal beliefs & political reshaping**
With Henry Shoenfield
- Church 3.0: Building safe space**
With Wendy Miller Olapade
- Community Organizing**
With Alice Mann and Team

**Rolling Ridge is a
Not for Profit
Charitable Organization.**

**Changing the World
...One Retreat at a Time**



**About our
Saturday speaker:**

Robert A. Jonas

is Founder and Director of The Empty Bell, a contemplative sanctuary in Northampton, MA, which is a resource for contemplative Christians and for Buddhist-Christian dialogue. Trained as a psychotherapist, Dr. Jonas is the author of *The Essential Henri Nouwen*, (Shambhala Publications), as well as *Henri Nouwen* (Orbis) and *Rebecca* (Crossroad). A retreat leader, author, video artist, musician and environmental steward, he is a student of Sui-Zen, the Japanese bamboo flute (shakuhachi). He has played at three Buddhist-Christian retreats to open meditations led by the Dalai Lama, with his CD, *"Blowing Bamboo,"* available on iTunes. A past Board member of the Henri Nouwen Society and a current member of the Society for Buddhist-Christian Studies and the Eckhart Society, Dr. Jonas is guiding teacher at the Guild for Spiritual Guidance and on the advisory board of the Rowe Conference Center program to train interfaith spiritual counselors.



**Personal Beliefs and
Political Reshaping
With Henry Schoenfeld**

Description: Our thoughts and beliefs shape everything in life. From the way we experience the world to the large and small actions that we take on a daily basis, our personal beliefs shape everything. In this workshop, we'll look at the different perspectives from which our political action can be grounded in our spiritual beliefs. Starting with two scriptural images, we'll explore different attitudes, intentions, and motivations that can animate how we shape and reshape our common life.



**Spiritual Resistance in a
Time of Crisis
With Margaret Bullitt-Jonas**

Description: In our effort to build a better future, how do we avoid getting burned out or overwhelmed? How do we address our anger, fear, and grief? What spiritual practices can sustain our efforts to renew the web of life and to create a more just society? This workshop will explore a framework for the heart to help us become healers filled with compassion, energy, and hope.



**Community Organizing
with Alice Mann and Team**

Description: Beyond its practical results, faith-based community organizing can have deep soul-significance for those who

- participate. This workshop will address:
- Distinctive features of the "faith-based community organizing" approach.
 - How participants may find in this work a spiritual practice, a wisdom tradition, and an antidote to civic despair.
 - Steps for connecting with a faith-based community organizing effort in your own area.



**Church 3.0:
Building safe space
with Wendy Miller Olapade**

Description: Given the current social and political landscape, what is the next version of "church"? This workshop will explore how the church needs to evolve and become a "sanctuary" for the community, in more ways than one. By highlighting the transition of Congregation Church of West Medford into Sanctuary UCC, we will provide insights on how to build the church of tomorrow today.



**Non-Violent Communication and
Compassionate Listening
with Jean Shula**

Description: One of our biggest peace challenges in these rapidly changing times is to learn how to defuse conversations that are more about "being right" than about connecting to one another when we disagree. This workshop focuses on how to listen, how to speak, and how to engage in ways that open the door to deeper understanding and connections, especially in the moments of frustration and escalating anger.

SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS:

For full-time registrants, Sunday includes breakfast, complimentary yoga class, optional worship service, and enjoyment of the Rolling Ridge grounds.

Spiritual Direction (with fee) is available with advance appointment. Appointments for wellness services may also be made and include Reiki, Massage, Reflexology, and other modalities. Rates are \$45 for 30 minutes, \$90 for 60 minutes, and \$120 for 90 minutes.

WISH LIST

Our Wish List of things we sure could use if you don't need them anymore:

- Gift Cards to Lowes/ Home Depot/BJ's/Sams Club/Market Basket
- Kayaks/Canoes
- Outdoor Rocking Chairs
- Serving Dishes
- New Patio Furniture
- High Efficiency Washer and Dryer

NEW GROUPS AT THE RIDGE

- As we continue to thrive in a world that desperately needs more quiet beauty and gracious hospitality, we are grateful that so many groups and organizations find us to be exactly what they're looking for. We welcome to the Ridge:
- Recovery Coach Program— Adcare Educational program
 - Come Before Winter/North East International Women in Ministry Renewal Retreat
 - Intervalley Project
 - The Modern Mystery School of Boston

Meet the Staff



Ext. 2

Lawrence Jay, Executive Director



Ext. 3

Lee O'Brien, Director of Guest Services



Ext. 1

Danny Smith, Director of Operations



Virginia Ferriman, Housekeeping Mgr.



Ext. 7

Martha Sanders/Culinary Specialist



Ext. 5

Ellen Lewis, Bookkeeper



Ext. 4

Laurie Brown, Sales & Hospitality Specialist



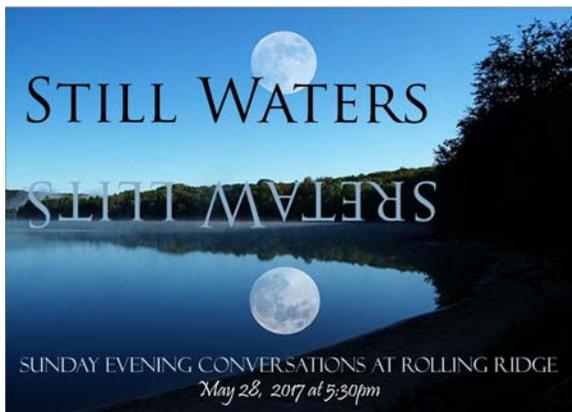
Ext. 6

Greg Clarke, Maintenance and Facilities mgr.

ARTIST RECEPTION

Join us on Tuesday, May 30 from 5:30-7:30pm for the summer show of the **Andovers Artists Guild** in the Lakeside Gallery Dining Room at Rolling Ridge.

Additional works by the artists will also be available for purchase. Complimentary refreshments served. Call 978-682-8815 for further information.



Join us on Sunday, May 28 at 5:30pm for the monthly **STILL WATERS: Weaving conversations and food, prayers and silence into a peaceful and renewing Sunday evening.** Please make reservations for dinner (\$20 per person) at www.rollingridge.org. No reservations needed for the evening worship at 6:30pm Free will offering.

MEET GREGORY THEREAULT



Greg has worked at Rolling Ridge since January of 2015 as a dedicated Kitchen assistant, washing dishes, assisting the culinary staff in multiple capacities.

Greg "loves working at Rolling Ridge and loves working with all his co-workers, and hopes Rolling Ridge continues to prosper".

TAIZÉ

A RETREAT OF UNITY & PEACE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Experience the rhythms of a Taizé pilgrimage during this 3 night, 4 day retreat on the shore of Lake Cochichewick in the beauty of North Andover, MA. Facilitated by Rick McKinley, this retreat will introduce the history and practices of the Taizé community and provide times of worship, learning, and community sharing. No prior background in Taizé music is required. We will learn songs and share in new prayer practices together. Workshops on justice and solidarity will also be provided, along with times of relaxation, renewal, and informal fellowship.

To register, go to www.rollingridge.org/REGISTER

ASIAN COMMISSION RETREAT



In partnership with Rolling Ridge, the Asian Commission of the New England Conference invites United Methodist Asian Clergy to join us at our 2017 annual retreat: **UNITED WE STAND - in faith, in hope, in love - Facing the challenges of Asian ministry** With Guest Speaker, Rev. Florence Li. October 30-November 1, 2017 REGISTER at www.rollingridge.org

Upcoming Events at the Ridge

Still Waters, on Sunday, **May 28 and June 25** at 5:30pm
The Way of the Labyrinth, with retreat leader, Todd Glacy on Wednesday, **June 21** at 9:30am
Seventh Annual Peace Conference on Saturday & Sunday, **July 22 and 23**
Taize Retreat on Labor Day Weekend, Thursday, **August 31 – Sunday, September 3**
Asian Commission Annual Retreat on from **October 30 to November 1**

"Changing the World... One Retreat at a Time"

www.rollingridge.org