

# A View from the Ridge



## ROLLING RIDGE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Volume 12, issue 1

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

Yesterday I traveled to the Registry in Haverhill and surrendered my California Drivers License. Although it was a bit disconcerting as the clerk haphazardly threw my old license in a drawer and slammed it shut, the finality made the message clear: I am NOT in California anymore!

Other than my 9 hour delay flying to Boston last month, my transition as the new Executive Director at Rolling Ridge has been smooth. The staff, board, and Conference have all been very supportive and gracious. My biggest challenge right now is remembering how to pronounce "Haverhill" correctly and, of course, finding some good drinking chocolate!

With 10 years of conference center management and 15 years in pastoral ministry, I literally jumped in with both feet to work with the staff of the Ridge, to strengthen our organization, and to develop new programs while familiarizing myself with this wonderful community.

In the short three weeks I've been in Massachusetts, I have also been blessed to meet long-time supporters of the Ridge, to reaffirm ongoing partnerships, and to forge new ecumenical and interfaith connections to expand our reach.

Change is never an easy thing. But there is something about the start of something new that is exciting.

Although I miss my California chocolate haunts, I am excited about this opportunity to serve Rolling Ridge, to strengthen its ministry potential, and to share the beauty and people of this place with others. There is much we can do together. I look forward to meeting you and learning of your chocolate recommendations.

### COME AND MEET EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LAWRENCE JAY



A new day is dawning at Rolling Ridge as 2017 begins with the leadership of a new Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Lawrence Jay. A very special afternoon reception/open house is planned for **Thursday, March 16th from 3-7pm** for a meet and greet. Come and meet Lawrence. Get to see for yourself why the search committee chose this wonderful man, who has come across the country from California, to lead and strengthen the ministry of Rolling Ridge. In addition, come and see the many improvements at the Ridge. The staff is proud of the most recent accomplishments

and wants to show off the changes. Enjoy tasty treats from the culinary staff throughout the day, and from 5:30 to 7pm, view the new spring art show by the Andovers Artists Guild in the Lakeside Gallery Dining Room, **in addition** to the artists displaying and selling many of their additional works in Tyson Hall. The event is complimentary, and open to all. Call 978-682-8815 for further information.

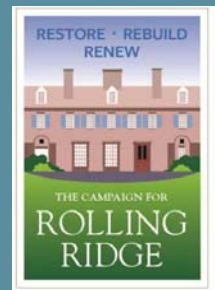
### The Year in Review— WHAT A YEAR!

The accomplishments for 2016 at Rolling Ridge are astounding. Amidst the turmoil of construction and leadership changes, the Ridge momentum surged forward having the most successful year to date. In addition to saying goodbye to Larry Peacock after 11 years of ministry, renovation began in May on the Larry J. Peacock Carriage House and was completed in September. Ten guestrooms, eight bathrooms, and a meeting space makeover, with the addition of entirely new HVAC, plumbing, electric, sprinkler system, and comfortable but lovely décor was all the focus for many months. Not stopping there, the sitting room got new wood flooring, the bedrooms in the 7A/B location got carpeting, new lavish carpeting for the dining room, two brand new bathrooms on the lower level, shutters on the exterior were brought back to their original splendor with a new shade of blue, the courtyard received a major restoration project thanks to the North Andover Garden Club, the administration offices were relocated to the previous directors office, and the reception and executive director offices were refurbished and enhanced. Rolling Ridge said farewell to its interim Director, Melinda Trotti, as well as longtime employee/champion of housekeeping, Aisline Cormey. The search committee found the perfect candidate for the Executive Director position and hired Rev. Dr. Lawrence Jay from California who was greeted with joy and anticipation by the staff and Board as he brings Rolling Ridge forward into 2017. And with all of this happening, we really have just begun. Thank you to all our supportive donors helping us to succeed beyond our greatest hopes and expectations.

Winter, 2017

### Of Interest

- THE YEAR IN REVIEW
- SUMMER PEACE CONFERENCE 2017
- WELCOME RECEPTION FOR LAWRENCE JAY
- MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
- CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION: STILL WATERS



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## Meet the Staff



Ext. 2

Lawrence Jay, Executive Director



Ext. 3

Lee O'Brien, Director of Guest Services



Ext. 1

Danny Smith, Director of Administration



Virginia Ferriman, Housekeeping Mgr.



Ext. 7

Martha Sanders/Culinary Specialist



Ext. 5

Ellen Lewis, Bookkeeper



Ext. 4

Laurie Brown, Sales Specialist



Ext. 6

Greg Clarke, Maintenance and Facilities mgr.

## A View from the Ridge

### CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

The new year has brought a new need for people to come together, to hear and to be heard in a safe place. At Rolling Ridge, we offer such a space at *Still Waters*, our monthly Sunday evening gathering as we share together food, spirituality, and compassion.

To follow-up on January's gathering with Rabbi Howard Mandell and Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes, we want to continue the interfaith dialogue around peace and justice, grief and fear, understanding and compassion. Trained facilitators will guide small group interactions in a safe space so that stories and personal experiences may be shared in an affirming environment. There is no agenda outside of listening, caring, and tearing down walls which divide us because of differences.

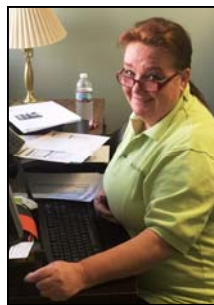
We invite you to join us for an evening of good food, inviting conversation, and hope-filled peace.



Register for *Still Waters...Continuing the Conversation* on line at [www.rollingridge.org](http://www.rollingridge.org). The \$20 registration includes dinner and the program. Those interested in coming to the program ONLY are welcome to do so at 6:30pm for no charge. A free will offering will be taken. For further information, contact Danny Smith at 978-682-8815, ext. 1

### MEET VIRGINIA FERRIMAN

Rolling Ridge is thrilled to announce the hiring of its new Housekeeping Manager, Virginia Ferriman. Virginia comes to Rolling Ridge after many years of managerial experience in the hospitality and retail industry. It is no small task to tend to the housekeeping needs of Rolling Ridge. Next time you're here and sleep in a clean bedroom with freshly washed linens, and relax in a pristine environment, you can thank Virginia and her housekeeping staff who work diligently to make your stay with us exceptional from start to finish. Welcome Virginia!



The Seventh Annual Conference  
on Peace-Making, Earth Tending, and Interfaith Reverence

## SPEAKING OUT, LISTENING DEEP:

SAVE THE DATES!

THE SPIRITUAL GROUNDING  
OF POLITICAL ACTION

SATURDAY, JULY 22,  
& SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017

Rolling Ridge  
Retreat and Conference Center

The seventh Annual Summer Peace Conference will take place on July 22 and 23rd. Watch our web-site for continued information on this exciting weekend long event.

### 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:

- Andover Public Schools
- Ledvance Corporate Retreat
- Cell Signaling Technology
- UCC Boxborough Women's retreat
- Welcome back Martha & Mary retreat
- Come before Winter International women's retreat
- Church of the Apostle
- Seven Mile Road Church women's retreat
- Tri Yoga Boston



**WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU, OUR CAPITAL**

**CAMPAIGN DONORS** Please let us know if you would like to receive information re: our annual appeals.

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONATIONS PLEDGES RECEIVED**

Aldersgate UMC Chelmsford  
Susan Allen  
Heidi Amundson & Richard Pearson  
Allan & Susan Anderson  
Marilyn Ayer  
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Lee Bluemel  
Christina Boyd  
Pam Breniser  
Anne Broyles & Larry Peacock  
Glendy Cabrera  
Patrick & Linda Cady  
Joan Cameron  
Maeleah Carlisle  
Don Chimera & Don Moody  
William & Roslyn Coleman  
Donavee Copenhaver  
Melina & Thomas Coppa  
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Crawford Memorial UMC  
Cindy Crownshield  
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Sudarshana & Premalatha Devadhar  
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Barbara Kszystyniak  
Phoebe Kwass  
P. Stewart Lanier  
Christine Lojko  
Barb Lucas  
Wendell & Reba Luke  
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Bonnie Marden  
Bruce & Phyllis Maxwell  
Sammie Maxwell & W. Russell Pregeant  
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John & JoAnn McCullough  
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Steve & Sandy Melius  
James Mentzer  
Robert Meredith  
Wendy Miller  
Monique Morimoto  
Stephen & Sandra Mott  
Patricia Murphy  
Mary Ann & Dick Nawrocki  
Deborah O'Driscoll  
Robin Olson

Doreen Osborne  
David & Corliss Paolino  
Rich & Janis Peacock  
Justus Peacock-Broyles  
Trinity Peacock-Broyles  
Ed Pedi  
Greg Piper  
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Preacher's Aid Society  
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Sylvia Robinson  
Willard & Joyce Robinson  
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Marilyn Underhill  
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Douglas & Carol Wingeier  
Kevin Witt  
Connie Yee

**WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU, OUR ANNUAL DONORS.**

Please let us know if you would like to be contacted regarding our ongoing Capital Campaign.

**RIDGE SOCIETY (\$1000 OR MORE)**

Phil & Jane Bellomy

**LAKE COCHICHEWICK SOCIETY (\$500-OR MORE)**

Richard Banks  
Lynne Osborn

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Susan Allen  
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Adrienne Berry-Burton  
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David & Denise Farnsworth  
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Herbert Hayes  
Calvin & Maude Jayne  
Mary Jane Leone  
Cathy MacGovern  
Maira & Jim McCarthy  
Merrimack Valley People for Peace  
Stephen & Sandra Mott  
Mary Ann & Dick Nawrocki  
Lawrence Neal  
Ruth & Ralph Oduor  
Nancy Pearl  
John Post  
Jared & Susan Rardin  
Willard & Joyce Robinson  
Tom & Harriett Rogers  
Daniel & Janet Rosemergy  
Larry & Judy Smith  
Wanda Stahl  
Laurence & Nicolette Wellington  
Flora Wuellner

**IN KIND GIFTS**

Kim Adami  
Lee Carpenter  
Cynthia Good  
Trudi Ruchman  
Ellen Lewis  
Danny Smith  
Bonnie Stevens  
Jean Marfoli

**The Search is Over**

It is with gratitude to God that I reflect on the past 13 months since Larry Peacock announced his retirement, and the work of the Search Committee began! The faithfulness and love of our Creator for the work of Rolling Ridge has been evident to me throughout the process, and in its eventual result: the hire of Rev. Lawrence Jay as Executive Director.

The Rolling Ridge Board nominated a diverse group to serve on the Search Committee, representing the various

constituencies of the Ridge. Members of the community were invited, including Kathy Stevens (North Andover resident), Rev. Judy Proctor (UCC clergy), and Rev. Nizzi Santos-Digan (UMC clergy). Lee O'Brien served to bring perspective from the Rolling Ridge Staff. These members were joined by four of the Board, Rev. Sam Johnson, Charles McCrea, Rev. Erica Robinson-Johnson (Director of Connectional Ministries in the UMC), and myself.

The work of the committee began by receiving an updated job profile and position description from the Rolling Ridge Board. The position was

posted at the end of June, with applications received through the end of September. The field of candidates was narrowed down by a process of application reading, phone interviews, and video interviews, ending with bringing two for in-person visits to the Ridge in November.

The 36-hour in-person visits incorporated a tour of the facility, the surrounding area, and meetings with the Board, Bishop, and Search Committee. At the end of this process, the Search Committee shared a time of discernment, and was able to

recommend Lawrence Jay. We were delighted when Lawrence accepted our offer and agreed to begin in January of this year.

The Search Committee has ensured that an On Boarding team is in place to help Lawrence's transition during the first year. We are already impressed at the energy and passion he brings, and are very much looking forward to see him grow into his position as he leads Rolling Ridge into a bright future.

**-Rachel Fisher,**  
Search Committee Chair

# Rolling Ridge

Retreat and Conference Center

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

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

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## WISH LIST

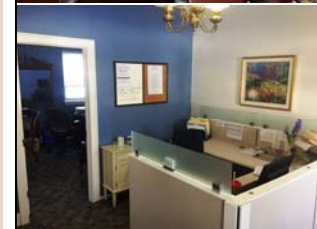
Our Wish List of things we sure could use if you don't need them anymore:

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



Carpeting in the Lakeside Gallery Dining Room and in the Moses meeting space getting installed by Arrow Carpet. Thanks Fred! It is beautiful!

## The Larry J. Peacock Carriage House



The Administration and Sales Offices are in full operation now. Look for the arches by the Peacock Carriage House to enter the exterior main door of the offices, located in the previous Director's office. Lee O'Brien, Director of Guest Services remains in the same location as before, with a bit of an upgrade to the space.

## Upcoming Events at the Ridge

- Still Waters—Continuing the Conversation**, on Sunday, **February 26th**
- Experiencing God's Healing Touch** with leader, Jana Marie Whitten, on Thursday, **March 16**
- Forgiveness** with retreat leader, Elisa Pearmain on Thursday, **March 23**
- Hello, my name is: Thomas**, with retreat leader, Mike Clark, on Tuesday, **April 4**
- Sacramental Living**, with retreat leader, Mary Jane O'Connor-Ropp on Tuesday, **April 18**
- The Time is Now.**, with retreat leader, Pam Kristan, on Monday, **May 1**
- Nature's Peace**, with retreat leader, Gale Lyman, on Thursday, **May 4**
- Peacemaking: Then and Now** with retreat leader, Mike Clark, on Wednesday, **May 24**
- The Way of the Labyrinth**, with retreat leader, Todd Glacy on Wednesday, **June 21**
- Seventh Annual Peace Conference** on Saturday & Sunday, **July 22 and 23**

Visit [WWW.ROLLINGRIDGE.ORG](http://WWW.ROLLINGRIDGE.ORG) for a complete description of our programs and registration. Click on "Register for our programs/Events"

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

[www.rollingridge.org](http://www.rollingridge.org)