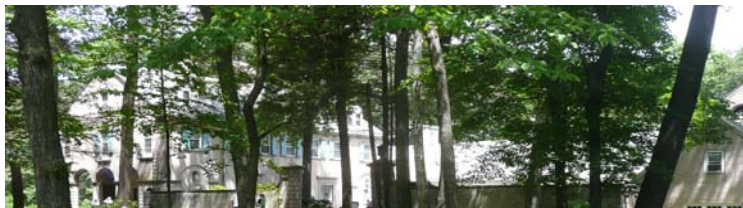


A View from the Ridge



ROLLING RIDGE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Volume 7, issue 1

Winter, 2012

Director's Reflections

"We have had a better year! Why?" That is the question I asked our core staff at our weekly meeting last month. What did they think? I closed my mouth and listened.

New website. A new Sales and Marketing staff. Responding to inquiries in a timely and productive way. Constant improvements in the building, especially the lighting in the Dining Room Lakeside Art Gallery and the new carpet in the lower meeting rooms. Making better use of our new reservation software. Being hospitable and seeing groups tell others about Rolling Ridge.

Quite a list. Quite a perceptive staff. Yet, one of our Board members raised an interesting question. Did I think, could it be, that our more successful,

wonderful year happened because Board members were challenged by the chairperson to pray for Rolling Ridge every Tuesday morning at 7 am and to share their thoughts via email? Indeed, Tuesday mornings many of us prayed and shared thoughts and nudges.

Prayer or new websites and staff? Maybe it is not a choice, rather both generated creativity, openness, responsiveness for something good to happen. It takes people skills and prayer, technology and kind human interaction, good food, comfortable beds and pleasant rooms. This year, intentional, silent prayers and new paint and carpet wove a tapestry of hope.

So we say thank you for remembering us in prayer.

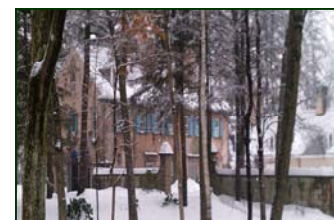
Thank you for telling others about this peaceful and gracious place. Thank You for your gifts. Thank you for coming to our programs and open house events. Thank you for supporting our mission of being the premier retreat and conference center in New England. Thank you for walking the labyrinth, or sitting at one of the benches and watching, listening for the song of birds and the whispers of heaven.

And, if you like what you see and experience at Rolling Ridge, wait until you read more about our plans for expansion and renovation in Vision 2013. Come and see the changes. Come and be changed and renewed.

Larry

Of Interest

- NEW VOICES
- VISION 2013
- DIANA— MISSING
- OUR WISH LIST
- THE YEAR IN REVIEW
- NEW GROUPS AT THE RIDGE



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The Year in Review

Five Great Building Improvements in 2011

1. New lights and new paint in dining room for the Lakeside Gallery – the original art from the Andovers Art Guild now shines brightly!
2. New carpet in the lower level meeting rooms of the main house!
3. Arch repaired and stucco redone over the main entrance

4. Wood floors refinished in library, east wing bedrooms, and stairs to lower level.

5. Repainted bedrooms and the lower level meeting rooms.

Three Beautiful Landscape Improvements in 2011

1. White paper birch tree planted in Courtyard as first step toward the Courtyard refurbishing.

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A View from the Ridge



Joanna Ouellette, The New Director of Sales and Operations has begun full time at Rolling Ridge.

NEW GROUPS AT THE RIDGE:

- Asian Classics Institute, Cape Ann
- Zimbabwean Fellowship
- Chinese Bible Church of Greater Boston
- Tracelink
- Philips Design
- Seven Hills Foundation
- Deshpande Foundation
- Oxfam America
- YWCA Boston
- School Year Abroad
- Greater Four Corners Action Coalition
- Merrimack Valley Sandbox Initiative
- Ananda
- Zentangle
- New England Homeopathic Association
- Sisters of Solace
- New England Library Association
- Landscape Design Council



Come and stay awhile, rest in the Merton Suite— call Lee, our Guest Services Coordinator to arrange your next private Retreat.
978-682-8815 Ext. 10

The Voices on the Phone

For nearly four years you have been greeted by **Danny Smith**, our Office manager and program coordinator. You will continue to hear him usually in the mornings but more often now you will also hear a wonderful British accent belonging to **Joanna Ouellette**, our Sales and Marketing Director since last January. Joanna will be starting full-time this January so you will hear and see Joanna when you are at the Ridge. After you book a meeting or retreat, **Lee O'Brien** will be your contact person and give great attention to the details of your stay

at Rolling Ridge as our Guest Service Coordinator. Lee started in her new position last fall after being one of our top hosts.

Rolling Ridge now has two full time staff— **Chef Rebecca** and Joanna- besides the director, **Larry Peacock** and fourteen part-time staff who are here most weeks.

All of us are dedicated to providing a special experience at this “true oasis of quiet beauty and gracious hospitality.”

VISION 2013

In our 65th year, Vision 2013 marks the beginning of the campaign to renovate and expand Rolling Ridge.

There will be Physical Elements. We are working with Architect Iric Rex of Davis Square Architects to design Rolling Ridge with more bedrooms (from 22 to 35), more bathrooms – one for every room and an elevator to increase our accessibility for our guests. We will be looking at all our meeting rooms and breakout rooms, creating some new cozy nooks, exploring a dining deck or patio overlooking the Lake, and addressing all the heating complaints with a new heating

system. We will be working with the Town of North Andover on restoring the fountains and landscape and opening a new entrance road, which is really the original entrance road along the Lake. We will do new signs and better exterior lighting to make it clear and safe to walk from the parking lot to the estate. Stay connected for designs and plans.

There will be some new Programmatic Elements. We are looking at more community oriented events, perhaps modeled on our successful summer dinner, speech and book signing with Archbishop Chacour. We are beginning conversations with theater groups about drama

in our Lakeside Gallery and on the grounds, part of our Summer at the Lake programming. We are exploring new training series like the newly started Gateways program for spiritual direction.

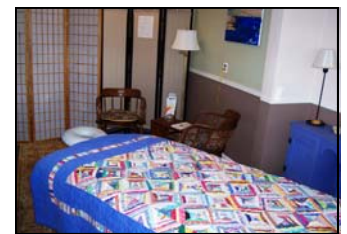
If you would like to be part of the creation of Vision 2013 by working on:

- Fundraising and the capital campaign,
- Events like Summer Programming and Speakers Series
- Board of Directors

Please contact Executive Director, Larry Peacock at 978-682-8815

Wish List— what you might not need, we sure could use!

- Night stands
- Rocking chairs
- Ceiling fans
- Dressers/bureaus
- Area rugs
- Artwork
- Plants/planters
- Outdoor furniture
- Wall mirrors
- Alarm clocks
- Table Lamps
- Floor lamps
- Floor Fountain
- CD player
- Chandeliers
- Meat slicer



The Massage Room at the Ridge. Our Wellness Center has recently relocated back to the Main House. For Body Work, contact Kim Adami, at 978-687-9405 or call our Guest Services at 978-682-8815 x10.

Do YOU know where Diana is???

Once upon a time at Rolling Ridge stood an eighteenth century lead statue of “Diana of Versailles” on a rectangular pedestal (see photo) Diana was positioned as if she was moving toward the bowling green while taking a glance over her shoulder at the loggia. It was reported that Diana was sunk on her initial journey from Europe during the war, recovered, and brought to Rolling Ridge. Diana was flanked by clipped shrubs and served as a transitional focal point uniting the curved bench with the bowling green. While on his 1913 trip, Fletcher Steele revealed that he had conservative views about the use of ornaments in garden settings. However he commented favorably on statuary that was silhouetted against the sky or

evergreens. Here Diana was all alone, silhouetted by foliage, serving the purpose of enticing the visitor toward the bowling green.

Diana has not been on the grounds since 1987. She was taken right from her pedestal. It is reported she may still be in the greater Lawrence vicinity. If you know where she is, or have any information regarding the disappearance of Diana, please contact the Rolling Ridge Diana Recovery team at 978-682-8815 or email thestaff@rollingridge.org. Rolling Ridge is offering a REWARD to any information leading to the recovery of Diana.



The once glamorous Diana on a pedestal flanked by sheared shrubs. View of the bowling green on the right with tall arborvitae hedge and rhododendron in front, c. 1930. Photography by Paul Weber, courtesy of SUNY ESF Archives.

The Year in Review (cont.)

2. Repaired the stone wall and moved decaying logs from the entrance path.

3. Finalized the Conservation Easement with the Town of North Andover, preserving open space and trail access for the community.

Four Important Programs and Outreach Events in 2011

1. Two year training program in Spiritual Direction and Congregational Formation begins. Gateways to God.

2. Archbishop Elias Chacour from Palestine speaks to a large crowd that overflows to the outside on a July evening.

3. “Buy a Plate, Give a Plate”, a new Christmas outreach program, brings seniors from Haverhill for a sponsored holiday lunch.

4. National Healing Story Conference draws participants from all over the United States

Four Giant Steps toward the Future

1. Architect Iric Rex, selected by the Board of Directors and begins work on plans for the renovation and expansion of Rolling Ridge with more bedrooms, bathrooms, an elevator and dining deck.

2. Landscape architect, Kyle Zick, presents drawings and plans for renovation of the historic fountains. At long last we can answer the question, “how much will it cost to fix the fountain?” Answer - \$440,000.

3. Lynda Fairbanks Atkins works four months as a part-time development associate and does Board training and fundraising advising. Grants from United Methodist Foundation enable purchase of Donor Management Software and Donor Cultivation.

4. Funding from North Andover for the Conservation Easement is finalized and new accounts are set up at Essex County Community Foundation and the United Methodist Foundation of New England.

Winter/Spring Programs at Rolling Ridge

- Awakening in Time, A Practical Spiritual way to manage time: January 12, 2012 with retreat leader, Pam Kristan
- Aging with Spirit: February 7, 2012 with Retreat Leader, Karen Lewis Foley
- Lenten Quiet Day: March 13, 2012 with Retreat Leader, Larry J. Peacock
- A Power much greater than ourselves: March 19 and 20, 2012 led by Mike Clark
- Reiki, Level One: April 13, 2012 led by Gale Lyman, a partnership with the Lyman Center and Rolling Ridge
- Being Like a Tree: The path to Wholeness: May 7, 2012 with Retreat Leader, Jana Marie Whitten
- A Day Apart TBA with Margaret Benefiel and Susie Allen, May 10, 2012
- Journaling from Nature...in writing, drawing, and movement: May 22, 2012 with Retreat Leader, Maren Tirabassi
- Creating Calm for Yourself and Others in a stress filled world: June 5, 2012, with Retreat Leader, Jeanne Martin
- Drumming for Joy! Our evening program with leader Jane Gossard on 1/30, 2/28, 3/20, 4/23, 5/22, and 6/18

Our popular Day Apart programs bring gifted leaders to Rolling Ridge to guide a day of reflection, sharing and learning. Delicious lunch in the Lakeside Gallery is included. Visit WWW.ROLLINGRIDGE.ORG for a complete description of our programs and registration. Click on “Programs” and “Day Apart Retreats”.

A True Oasis of Quiet Beauty and Gracious Hospitality

ROLLING RIDGE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

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E-mail:

thestaff@rollingridge.org

Rolling Ridge is a Not for
Profit Charitable
Organization.

Visit our website
at
www.rollingridge.org



The arch attaching Moses and the East Wing has recently had a face lift—new stucco and replaced bricks, with a fresh coat of paint.

We make a
living by what
we get. We
make a life by
what we give.

-Winston
Churchill

Please remember us
in your will

Many of the good things we have been able to do are the result of legacies, for which we are very grateful. You may call the office for further information.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU, OUR 2011 DONORS

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