Big Steps

Fall! The start of a new school year. New TV programs. Patriots football. Cooler weather. The energy of the new season impacts Rolling Ridge as groups schedule retreats and conferences before winter makes and sends some challenges.

This year, we feel additional excitement as Rolling Ridge inaugurates Vision 2013 and takes big steps toward the long planned renovation and expansion.

2013 is Rolling Ridge’s 65th year—the year designated by the Board of Directors to unveil the new Rolling Ridge.

This Fall we take the first steps:

1. **Hire part-time Development Director Lynda Fairbanks Atkins.** Lynda brings experience and passion to Rolling Ridge and will work with the Board and donors in shaping the steps to a capital campaign.

2. **Set architect Iric Rex to work to detail designs for 35 bedrooms and baths, with beds for 60 people.** Key to the plan is increased accessibility for guests, an efficient and green heating and cooling system and additional features like a dining deck and indoor chapel. Iric Rex, of Davis Square Architects, understands historic structures and green initiatives.

3. **Following the excellent work of landscape architects Kyle Zick and Maureen O’Brien, we will begin to partner with others to fund and renovate the fountain and begin the replanting and rehabilitation of the courtyard and entrance.**

Please hold us in your thoughts and prayers as we move toward renovating the existing historic buildings and adding bedrooms, bathrooms and accessibility. And, if you would like to be involved in the new vision or know of persons with interest and experience in finances and development who would be good to add to the Rolling Ridge Board, speak with our Executive Director, Larry Peacock.

**What an Exciting Fall!**

A Rolling Ridge Christmas

Join us for a festive lunch or dinner in the Lakeside Dining Room

Lunch
Three course buffet $16.99

Dinner
Four Course Buffet $19.99
(min. 12 people)

Call Joanna Ouellette at 978-682-8815 x12 for reservations and menus

Of Interest

- DEVELOPMENT PLANS
- NEW NATIONAL PROGRAM IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION
- FALL PROGRAMS
- OUR WISH LIST
- RIDGEFEST 2011
- ALUMNI GATHERING

Inside this issue:

- LAKESIDE GALLERY
- DINING ROOM
- ALUMNI GATHERING
- GIVING THANKS
- RIDGEFEST 2011
- THE FLOOR PROJECT
- STORIES
- PROGRAM OFFERINGS
A View from the Ridge

Lakeside Gallery— a dining room with FLAIR!

Recently the dining room at Rolling Ridge had a face lift and was graced with a new lighting system, a new art-hanging system, new window treatments, and new paint. Guests can now sit and dine as they take in the artwork of the recent Andovers Artist Guild show: “JOY”.

Rolling Ridge is the new showplace for the Artist Guild. All paintings are for sale.

Come visit the Gallery and see the new Fall show entitled, “Turn Turn Turn”. The show opens on September 25, 2011.

We are grateful to our sponsoring donors for funding this renovation:
- Fred C. Church Insurance
- Juba Electric
- Andovers Artist Guild
- Kay Adair
- Anne Brayles
- Larry Peacock and others

National Spiritual Direction Program at the Ridge

The Spiritual Formation Initiative of the New England Conference and Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center are beginning a two-year Spiritual Direction Training program in November. “Gateways to God” - Training in Spiritual Direction and Congregation Formation welcomes lay and clergy to the six retreats that will be held here at Rolling Ridge. Rev. Wendy Miller, who taught this program in New York and Vermont, is our excellent instructor and we have four gifted spiritual directors who will lead small groups. Besides being a fine spiritual formation experience, the program will train individuals in the art of one on one direction and also provide training in working with congregations in spiritual formation. The program is sold out, and we are excited at the great interest making this program a huge success.

Alumni Gathering

Over 60 alumni and family members enjoyed our first alumni barbecue and swim. Stories were swapped, pictures were shared, memories exchanged. The glorious summer day was capped with a thanksgiving service at Point of Pines led by director Larry Peacock.

Thanks to the planning committee of Patti Coffill, Jenny Blatchford and Dee Spinelli. Watch for dates for next summer. Follow alumni news on facebook: Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center and Rolling Ridge United Methodist camp Alumni.
Ridge Fest Wellness Festival 2011

Join us on Sunday, September 25, 2011 from noon to 4pm for the 3rd annual “Ridge Fest” Wellness Festival on the grounds of Rolling Ridge.

Join us as we celebrate the “healing of persons and healing of the world” with music, storytelling, yoga, drumming, tai chi, labyrinth walks, food from the Courtyard Café, Wellness Vendors, Arts and Craft Vendors, 15 min. Massage therapy and Reflexology sessions for only $20, live Music, and MORE! Admission is Free. The event is Rain or shine. Ridgefest is sponsored in part by Pentucket Medical.

Giving Thanks

I give thanks for Teresa Beveridge! I didn’t know her, but twice a year we receive a check from her estate. We are grateful because we know that we all live and thrive because of ones who have gone before us. Their thoughtfulness and planning led to gifts that continue to make a difference in the lives of people who come to Rolling Ridge.

We invite you to add Rolling Ridge to your wills and estate planning, to let your love for this place continue to bless others for years to come. We welcome unrestricted gifts or you may designate funds for specific projects, like the fountain restoration or underwriting Rolling Ridge programs. Working with the United Methodist Foundation of New England, we are glad to help you explore your giving options.

Matching Grant— the floor project

A donor has said if we can raise $1000, she will match it and we will be able to replace carpet in the main hallway and redo the floor in the library. Please help us continue to improve our facilities and double your gifts for the “floor project”. You may send checks or use your credit card when you call. Thank You!

Stories

We are collecting stories of experiences at Rolling Ridge that we want to use in our Capital Campaign to tell the great things that happen at Rolling Ridge. How has your life been changed or blessed by coming to Rolling Ridge? We would love to hear. Email thestaff@rollingridge.org and let us know your story.

Wish List

- New Twin Size Mattresses
- Twin-sized and full sized headboards
- New Dressers for bedrooms
- Chandeliers for Tyson Hall
- Chapel chairs
- Area Rugs
- New table lamps
- Wall Mirrors
- Patio furniture
- Outdoor Rocking chairs

Programs at Rolling Ridge

Rolling Ridge offers a variety of programming designed to nurture personal and spiritual growth, increase wellness, and foster commitment to care for creation and work for peace and justice. (see back cover for program schedule)

“A Day Apart” Retreat for Busy People: Monthly programs offered to encourage personal enrichment and spiritual growth

“Drumming for Joy”: our Monthly drumming circle— come and enjoy the uplifting power of drumming.

One of the rooms of the Ridge Wellness Center. Make sure to arrange for a massage or body work the next time you’re at the Ridge. Call Kim Adami at 978-687-9405 to make an appointment

Holiday Parties at the Ridge! Don’t forget to plan in advance for your holiday gathering, company luncheon, or group holiday retreat. Call our office to inquire about available dates.

“BLESSED IS THE SEASON WHICH ENGAGES THE WHOLE WORLD IN A CONSPIRACY OF LOVE.

-HAMILTON WRIGHT MABIE
Fall Program Offerings

sponsors a monthly “Day Apart” retreat series. These programs offer opportunities for spiritual formation based on a variety of topics.

- September 14: Making the Transition from Summer to Fall with retreat Leader Pam Kristan
- September 19: “Drumming for Joy” at 7pm, with retreat Leader, Jane Gossard
- September 27: Journal writing for health and wellness, with retreat Leader Ray McGinnis
- October 5: Body Story/Body Work: towards a joyfully embodied life, with Ricia Fleming
- October 17: “Drumming for Joy” at 7pm, with Jane Gossard
- October 19: “Healing the Leader’s Soul” with Margaret Benefiel and Susie Allen
- October 24: How shall I pray? With retreat Leader Karen Lewis Foley
- November 2: Productivity, Focus, and Depth in everyday Life, with Erin Wells
- November 9: Acting justly, loving tenderly and walking humbly with God, with Nancy Small
- November 15: Autumn-Thanksgiving Quiet Day with Larry Peacock
- November 17: Fostering the Seeds of Lovingkindness with retreat Leader Carol Legro
- November 21: “Drumming for Joy” at 7pm with Jane Gossard
- November 29: Return to Joy, with retreat Leader Paula Richards
- December 5: Advent Quiet Day, with retreat Leader Larry Peacock
- December 5: “Drumming for Joy” at 7pm, with Jane Gossard

For a Complete Description of all our Day Apart Retreats, visit www.rollingridge.org and click on “Programs”. Register for all programs on line, or call our office at 978-682-8815
2010 Accomplishments and Highlights

Despite the challenging economy and the loss of several groups who had funding cuts, Rolling Ridge embraced new groups and made significant guest and building improvements. Here is a snapshot of the year.

Increased guest satisfaction: New mattresses and new chairs for Niantic and Moses were appreciated. The dining room shimmered with new bowls, mugs, glasses and cut flowers that regularly grace the tables. Four art shows were displayed in the new Lakeside Gallery. WiFi was installed throughout the retreat and conference center and a new business center was created in the library.

On the exterior, we replaced the roof and windows of the pool house—now Wellness Center, replaced gutters and downspouts on the main retreat center and put in a new sewer line.

In the program area, we welcomed over 200 groups to Rolling Ridge, an increase of 15%. Several new adult groups held weeklong conferences. The first summer mission week at Rolling Ridge extended care to needy seniors in the area. Over 40 programs nourished the spirit, mind and body. A blessed year. Thank you! We are grateful and we have amazing hopes for 2011.

"A Thin Place”– Views from the Director

In Celtic lore, certain places on the earth had a special quality, peaceful places where the veil that separates earth from heaven seemed tissue-thin. People gravitated to these thin places because experiences of clarity and insight, peace and serenity were more common. Thin places were marked by a mound of stones, a Celtic cross and eventually by structures, like monasteries or chapels.

Experiences of peace and insight can happen anywhere, yet the testimony remains that certain places encourage and foster an openness and spaciousness where the “more” of life is felt.

Rolling Ridge is one of the thin places. The stately trees, the gentle shoreline, the curve of the landscape usher one into a quieter space. Renowned landscape designer, (cont. on page 2)
The town of North Andover approved paying Rolling Ridge for preservation of open space in the vital Lake Cochichewick watershed district. The funds from the Town come from the Community Preservation Act adopted by North Andover, one of the first towns in Massachusetts to do so.

Details of the agreement are still being worked out. Rolling Ridge looks to use the funds for the renovation and expansion of the rooms and new accessibility in the grand estate. The town will receive access to the walking trails, an area for parking and preservation of open space.

Conservation Restriction

Our Wish List

- Quotable Art Pieces
- Area Rugs, Bureaus, Nightstands, end tables, lamps
- Picture hanging system for the Lakeside Gallery
- Lighting system for the Lakeside Gallery
- Chafing Dishes, regular or roll top
- Twin Sized Head boards
- Ceiling Fans & Chandeliers for Tyson Hall
- ATV for grounds
- Induction Burner
- Two Rollaway Beds
- Rocking Chairs
- Board Games

Sightlines– Views from the Director (cont.)

(continued from page 1) Fletcher Steele, wove fountains and open spaces into a pleasing dance with Lake Cochichewick, a fresh water pond that is home to great blue herons and shiny black cormorants. New visitors to Rolling Ridge say, “wow”. Old friends keep coming back, to walk the labyrinth, to sit on the benches by the shore, to enjoy hot chocolate by the fire.

This “hidden gem” of Merrimack Valley is here for you. Non-profits, religious groups, businesses, universities and more find their way here. Our meeting spaces, 22 bedrooms and Lakeside Gallery dining room provide the peaceful ambience for meetings.

I look forward to greeting you at this thin place, a true oasis of quiet beauty and gracious hospitality.

What is Rolling Ridge?

Core Statement:
Rolling Ridge is a true oasis of quiet beauty and gracious hospitality.

Mission in one Sentence:
The mission of Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center is to offer hospitality and programs for the renewal of spirit and the transformation of the world.

Trinitarian Statement:
Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center, a ministry of the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church and a premier retreat and meeting place in New England: provides gracious hospitality to groups and individuals; provides programs for spiritual enrichment and well being that lead to action to create a better world; and provides a sacred environment for rejuvenation.

Specific objectives:
To restore, modernize and expand the facilities of Rolling Ridge to become a premier retreat center with a primary, but not exclusive, orientation to adults. To re-establish the historic landscape, fountains and grounds as a place of refreshment and inspiration.
New National Program in Spiritual Direction

Rolling Ridge and the Spiritual Formation Initiative (NE Conference) will offer a three year course in spiritual direction beginning in November. “Gateways to God” will provide one-on-one training in spiritual direction and in congregational spiritual formation. Wendy Miller, author and Professor Emeritus of Spiritual Formation at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, in Virginia, will be the instructor. Larry Peacock, Executive Director of Rolling Ridge will serve as director. Four others will serve as small group leaders.

Rev. Miller has led training programs in Mississippi, Louisiana, and New York. Program applications are ready now. November 7-10, 2011 is the opening meeting of the six 4 day retreats.

Program Calendar– Spring/Summer 2011

March 22  Immunity to Change w/ Margaret Benefiel/Jim Silva  9:30am-3:30pm
March 23  Enneagram Retreat w/ Herb Pearce  9:30am-3:30pm
March 30  A Power Greater than ourselves w/ Mike Clark  9:30am-3:30pm
April 5  Life Story as Healing Journey w/ Lani Peterson  9:30am-3:30pm
April 9  Caring for the Caregiver w/ Jeannie Martin  9:30am-3:30pm
April 25  Drumming for Joy w/ Jane Gossard  7pm-8:30pm
May 4  Meditation as Pure Prayer w/ Jaegil Lee  9:30am-3:30pm
May 12  Spirit Dancing, Body Speaking w/ Marsha Therese Danzig  9:30-3:30pm
May 17  A walk with Jesus and Scripture w/ Paul Millin  9:30am-3:30pm
May 24  Drumming for Joy w/ Jane Gossard  9:30 am-3:30pm
May 25  Rhythm and Embodying the Word w/ Nisha Purushotham  9:30am-3:30pm
June 2  Make your own labyrinth w/ Jeanne Martin  9:30am-3:30pm
June 20  Drumming for Joy w/ Jane Gossard  7pm-8:30pm

New Groups to the Ridge

- The Emergence Project
- Frank Niu Summer Art Class
- Austin Preparatory School
- Martha and Mary Productions
- Malidoma Some
- Evergreen Covenant
- Friends meeting at Cambridge
- Gordon College
- Philips Design
- New England Homeopathic Association
- New Light, Portland
- FCD Educational Services
- Association for Clinical Pastoral Education

“Serenity” Art Show

“What I dream of is an art of balance, of purity and serenity devoid of troubling or depressing subject matter - a soothing, calming influence on the mind, rather like a good armchair which provides relaxation from physical fatigue. “

-Henri Matisse
Summer Mission Week for Youth

Join us for the second annual High School Mission Week on July 10-16, 2011.

United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth (U.M. ARMY) is proud to return to Rolling Ridge for another great week of mission work. The program is open to church groups and individual students who have completed 9th-12th grade. The program combines daily mission work on small teams with worship, leadership development and fun. It is expected that we will serve people in need throughout the Greater Lawrence community. Projects may include yard work, painting, home repairs and small construction projects such as handicap access ramps. Per person fee for the week is $335 and includes all building materials, meals (except for one dinner out), fun activities, a t-shirt and water bottle.

Churches registering as a group are required to bring 2 adults for every 5 youth. You will also be asked to bring tools; a list will be provided by the Mission Week Director based on the jobs to be completed.

To learn more about U.M. ARMY visit our web site at http://www.umarmy.org/conference/northeast/ Contact Lorraine Macpherson 978-692-5786 or Lorraine@umarmy.org

Ridgefest Wellness Festival 2011

The Third annual “Ridgefest” Wellness Festival will take place again this year on Sunday, September 25, 2011. Falling on the heels of a very successful festival in 2010, the day will include a wide variety of wellness vendors, a potpourri of activities including yoga, tai chi, storytelling, labyrinth walks, drumming, expressive arts, poetry, nature walks, and live music. Guests can enjoy a meal at the Ridge Café while enjoying the peace and tranquility of the grounds of the Ridge. Mark your calendars now before other dates get in the way!

Café while enjoying the peace and tranquility of the grounds of the Ridge. Mark your calendars now before other dates get in the way!

The Ridge Wellness Center

The Ridge Wellness Center was dedicated and celebrated a ribbon cutting on September 19, 2010 as part of the “Ridgefest” Wellness Festival.

Having moved from one small room in the main Mansion to the “upper room” of the pool house building, the Ridge Wellness Center now hosts two treatment rooms, a relaxing waiting area/living room and private rest room. Guests can enjoy a relaxing retreat with add-on amenities such as Massage, Reflexology, Reiki, Polarity, Hot Stone Massage, Cranio Sacral therapy, and many more healing therapies. For further information, contact therapist, Kim Adami at 978-687-9405

New Ridge faces

The next time you stop by the Ridge, stop in the office and say hello to Joanna Ouellette, our new Marketing and Event Sales specialist, and Tom Parker, our new Facilities Manager. Joanna comes to us with an extensive background in hospitality, and Tom is a retired school principal. Welcome aboard to them both!

New Web Site

The Ridge website has had a face-lift. The many changes to www.rollingridge.org are largely due to the gracious efforts of John Zhuang, of Winning Interactive– Boston Web Design and SEO, and Steve Dale for hosting our site and volunteering his time in giving us technical assistance.

A View from the Ridge
Renovation Plans—Restoring the Genius of the Fletcher Steele Landscape

Kyle Zick of Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture (KZLA) has volunteered to create a plan for the restoration and operation of the historic fountains at Rolling Ridge. The preliminary sketches are astounding and full of potential.

Maureen O’Brien, student at Boston Architectural College, is doing a plan for renovation of the courtyard as her final project. Not only flowers and bushes, Maureen is looking at lighting, the central bell which used to be a fountain, and other needed enhancements. She has already spent time at Rolling Ridge as part of the Harvard class that prepared the cultural landscape report. We are grateful for these two gifted landscape architects and the work they are doing for restoring the outside beauty and glory of the Fletcher Steele award-winning landscape. (Rolling Ridge won the Hunnewell Medal in 1935 from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society).

New England Healing Story Conference June 24-26, 2011

Come join leaders in the field as we explore healing story and how it is currently being used. Professionals who use healing story in their work will present on the following tracks:

- Mental Health/Psychology/Meditation: “Shifting Perspectives: Re-Storying our Lives”.
- Physical Health/Medicine: “Body Eloquence: In Search of the Inside Story”.
- Spiritual Health/Ministry: “Accessing the Sacred: Stories as a Means of Connection”.
- Healing through Grief: “Honoring Questions, Searching for Meaning; Exploring and Supporting Grief through Storytelling”.
- Healing Story in Action: “Journeys to Transformation”.
- Transition and Crisis”.

Join the discussion and help envision ways to expand, deepen and bring our knowledge forward into more arenas. This conference is geared towards medical and mental health personnel, spiritual caregivers, hospice workers, community leaders, storytellers and all others with an interest in the healing power of story.

Register for this program at www.rollingridge.org.
As one donor said, “Rolling Ridge is such a bright spot in our landscape of uncertainty during these uncertain times. We hope you will be able to make adjustments and still serve all who come.” We are thankful that you have helped us be a bright and peaceful spot in our often dim and chaotic world.

Our 2010 Donors

POINT OF PINES SOCIETY
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Anne Broyles/Larry Peacock
Kerry & John Hamilton
Cynthia Good/Alan Pratt
Katherine Robinson

REJUVINATION SOCIETY
($500-$999)
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IN KIND DONATION
Rebecca Markey
Ron Del Bene

The Gates of Rolling Ridge. “Come Away and Rest Awhile.” Call us today to arrange your group or personal retreat.