

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



Inside this issue:

DIRECTORS REFLECTIONS	1
THE YEAR IN REVIEW	1
VISION 2013	2
DO YOU KNOW WHERE DIANA IS?	3
DAY APART SCHEDULE	3
WISH LIST	2
2011 DONORS	4

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.

Continued on page 3

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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North Andover, MA 01845

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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

RIDGE SOCIETY (\$1000 OR MORE)

Kay Adair
Phil & Jane Bellomy
Alma Lee Carpenter
Claire Childress
Ron Delbene
Anne Broyles/Larry Peacock
Landscape Design Council
Preacher's Aid Society
Katherine Robinson

LAKE COCHICHEWICK SOCIETY (\$500-OR MORE)

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Charles McCrea
David & Corliss Paolino
Judy & Kenneth Proctor
Gwen & Samuel Purushotham
Barbara Troxell & Eugene
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FRIEND OF ROLLING RIDGE (\$100-OR MORE)

Andover Artist Guild
Robert & Lucinda Bucklin
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Carol Doherty
Richard & Myrna Evans
Bryan & Kay Gabbard
John & Cherlyn Gates
Good Shepherd UMC
Susan Howland
James Laham & Patricia
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IN KIND GIFTS

Kim Adami
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Steve Garnaas-Holmes
Ellen Lewis
Carrie Lynch
Bob Moore
Danny Smith
Brad Wakeman

A View from the Ridge



ROLLING RIDGE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Volume 7, issue 2

Spring, 2012

“I get it!”

Fifty-five Buddhists came for an eight day silent retreat at Rolling Ridge in early March. The week was a bit challenging to Rolling Ridge staff who were used to greeting and smiling at all our guests, yet we were encouraged to respect the silence of the guests by not talking or smiling at them.

At the end of the retreat, our staff was invited to visit the meditation room to be thanked. On the last day, there was a buzz of talking and several guests shared words of gratitude.

One said, “Every religion and place must have a version of hell and maybe Rolling Ridge’s is 55 vegetarian and vegan Buddhists showing up for an 8 day silent retreat.” We all laughed. Then they gave us cards and notes of thanks and gifts of money and a standing ovation.

Such an awesome moment, several of the staff had tears in their eyes. Later one said, “I finally get it. We do all this hospitality stuff, answer phones, cook, smile, clean, not just because it’s our job and responsibility to do it, but so

groups and individuals can discover something holy, move closer to the Divine, discover peace. “ I’m sure the staff person knew this before receiving the thanks and ovation, but he truly saw and deeply experienced the ministry we provide. We create and hold the space for something powerful, something holy to happen. And it does!

I look forward to seeing you at this holy and hospitable place— whether you come for silence or not.
-Larry

Of Interest

- NEW FURNITURE, NEW SPACES
- WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING
- DIANA— STILL MISSING
- OUR WISH LIST
- WAYS OF GIVING
- NEW GROUPS AT THE RIDGE



Can you see it?

We asked an architect, Iric Rex, of Essex Architects, to design Rolling Ridge with more bedrooms and bathrooms. We hoped for 35 bedrooms instead of 22 but with creativity and sensitivity to the current design., Iric has a beautiful design of 43 bedrooms and bathrooms, plus two elevators, increased accessibility and a dining patio! Wow!

The plans are available for viewing at Rolling Ridge. We are excited to visualize the new

Rolling Ridge and invite you to see it as well. Iric has heard all the complaints about too few bathrooms, unmanageable heat and poor accessibility. The new plans address all those issues yet retain the intimate and historic design of the 1920’s. New planned solar panels show our dedication to being more energy efficient even in an old structure. Come see the amazing plans.

First Pledge, First Gift

We are looking toward our 65th year and announcing the formal capital campaign for the expansion and renovation of Rolling Ridge. Two persons have primed the pump, started the flow of generosity that will re-

sult in new bedrooms, bathrooms, heating, elevators and patios for Rolling Ridge.

Thanks to these persons. (continued on pg 2)

Inside this issue:

DIRECTORS REFLECTIONS	1
IRIC REX, ARCHITECT	1
FIRST PLEDGE, FIRST GIFT	1
ORGANIC FARM AT THE RIDGE	2
VANTASTIC!	3
FABULOUS TEA AND DESSERT	3
SPRING PROGRAMS	4

A View from the Ridge



Look for AdSaint Farm as you drive into Rolling Ridge.

NEW GROUPS AT THE RIDGE:

- THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
- TERRABLU TEAMS
- CURRY COLLEGE
- ROSTRO DE CRISTO
- ST. MICHAELS LOWELL
- NORTH ANDOVER WOMEN'S CLUB
- WOMEN IN RECOVERY
- ANDERS ARTISTS GUILD
- UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS

People's Choice Award

Make sure to stop in to the Lakeside Gallery Dining Room to cast your vote for your favorite artist and painting from the current Andovers Artists Guild show. The winner will be announced at the Art Reception on the evening of "VANtastic" on Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 5:30pm



"I don't think we're in Kansas anymore Toto" Room 9 has never looked more lovely! With new paint, new lights, new rug, and a private bath and cozy sitting area, it's the "toast" of East wing!

Organic Farm at Rolling Ridge

Rolling Ridge has joined with the New Entry Sustainable Farming Project to offer land to an organic farmer. This summer, Adisson Touissant, from Haiti will have an acre to grow 20 kinds of vegetables and fruits that will be part of a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project with harvest shares available through the World PEAS marketing collaborative.

Adisson completed the Farm Business Classes offered by New Entry and located our land through their available land data base. Rolling Ridge will receive a share of each week's harvest and this summer will serve fresh organic produce to guests at Rolling Ridge.

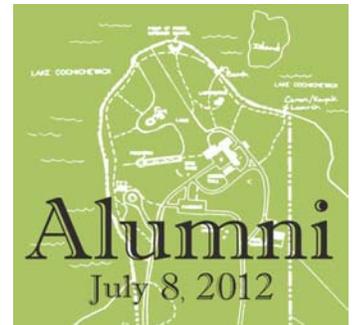
Don't forget to consider booking a massage or body work with our Ridge Wellness Team next time you're here! For an appointment, call Kim at 978-687

First Pledge (cont.)

The Letter from a United Methodist minister contained this message: " I am excited about the vision you have for the Ridge. I will never forget the first time I saw that place; my mouth fell open and I thought, we own this? It is such a magnificent place, with tremendous potential. I would be delighted to

contribute toward fulfilling this vision by pledging a minimum of \$10,000.00 to the cause."

The first gift was a check from a friend in Texas who heard of our vision. She wrote, "here is a check and with it prayers for a successful capital campaign. Blessings and don't give up!"



Join us for our second annual alumni event. Tag Rolling Ridge in your old photos on our Facebook Page at Facebook/rollingridgeNA

What are they saying?

From Conference Groups:

- The almond raspberry cookies were spectacular!
- This is a beautiful serene place with a wonderful staff! Boston University Group

From Rolling Ridge Program Attendees:

- Retreats at Rolling Ridge awaken me to the "blessed connectedness" of community & God
- A gift to step away, to reflect, listen, be challenged and be comforted.

- A breath of fresh air for those who desire a prayerful spacious day.
- An amazing tranquil escape so close to Boston, a true treasure
- What an incredible opportunity for retreat, practice, and growth! I feel so thankful that God led me here.
- This was a life changing experience. The one day programs are perfect for me.

"Hello Director of this Wonderful place!

I am a Christian and a Buddhist. I want to thank you very much for providing this Christian abode retreat for my practice. It has been very helpful to me."

- Jane (retreatant)



Fabulous Tea and Dessert

Over 35 people attended the annual donors tea and dessert events at Rolling Ridge. The two events recognize annual donors to Rolling Ridge. Registration fees do not cover all the expenses at Rolling Ridge, so our gratitude for annual gifts is immense. With the completion of the five year grant from the New England Conference United Methodist Church, our dependence on gifts from individuals, organizations and churches is all the greater. Thank you for responding to our spring and fall appeals.



A Sampling of the Sweets made for the Donor appreciation event by Chef Rebecca. Want to order some for your next event? Call and ask for our homemade desserts to-go offerings.

Rolling Ridge in the News

Eagle Tribune and Patch North Andover carried feature articles on "Where's Diana?" The statue of Diana of Versailles has been missing from its pedestal for 25 years.

No plans, no plants: Techniques used to Recreate a Historic Planting Plan at Rolling Ridge by Maureen O'Brien was in the winter 2011-2012 issues of Perspective— a publication of New England landscape Design and History Association.

Patch North Andover featured Executive Director, Larry Peacock in its March 4th edition of "meet your neighbor".

New Furniture

When the Executive Director's wife, Anne Broyles, who works for Habitat for Humanity, told him that Marriott was donating some furniture to Habitat's Restore, a light bulb went off in Larry's mind. Calls and visits resulted in Rolling Ridge purchasing from the Restore; three sofas, four chairs and ottomans, 12 conference room chairs, multiple table and floor lamps, mirrors, and two dozen clock radios.

The new items are part of our ongoing effort to improve our facilities for our guests. Thanks to

Wish we had...

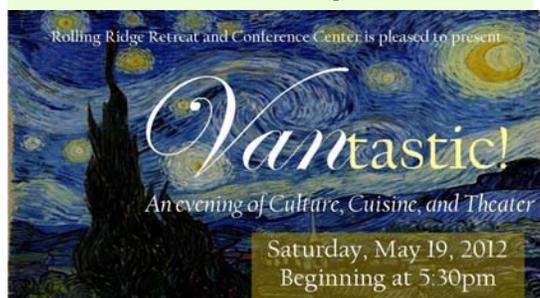
Maybe you have something lying around that you don't need anymore? Don't put it in a yard sale! Take the tax write off and donate it to the Ridge! We sure could use:

- Bureaus
- Nightstands
- Rocking chairs
- Outdoor furniture
- Serving dishes
- End tables

Habitat for Humanity for making the items available to Rolling Ridge. Their Restore is in Lawrence and is open to the public. (You may find other Restores in your local area— check them out.)

The "Board Room" has been officially created with the purchase of a 12' walnut board room table to utilize the comfortable conference room chairs purchased at the Restore. Come to the Ridge & see!

VANtastic! On May 19, 2012



Come to Rolling Ridge on Saturday evening, May 19, 2012 for an evening of culture, cuisine, and theater. The evening will feature the new summer art

show "See the bright morning" by the Andovers Artists Guild in the Lakeside Gallery Dining room, a fabulous hors d'oeuvres reception from 5:30-6:30 featuring harpist, DeLuna, and a wonderful buffet dinner at 6:30pm. Guests will then proceed to Tyson Hall for an 8pm curtain of "Vincent", a full length play about Vincent VanGogh by Leonard Nimoy performed by Doug Brendel. ALL THIS for \$30 per person if purchased by 4/19/12. After 4/19, tickets are \$40 per person. Buy your tickets on line at www.rollingridge.org or call our office at 978-682-8815.

Virus or Vaccine?

What are the shifts demanded of religions today that they begin to function more as a vaccine that prevents violent eruptions rather than as a virus that causes them?

Join us on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 for a Dinner, **Public Address, and Book signing by Dr. M. Thomas Thangaraj**

Call 978-682-8815 to book dinner reservations, or on line at WWW.ROLLINGRIDGE.ORG.

"A True Oasis of Quiet Beauty and Gracious Hospitality"

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Organization.

Visit our website
at
www.rollingridge.org



Diana— LOST and yet to be discovered. Since our last newsletter, Diana has received a lot of press, but, sadly, to date, no further information regarding her whereabouts has been reported.

Life is a gift,
and it offers us
the privilege,
opportunity, and
responsibility to
give something
back by
becoming more”

-Anthony
Robbins

Ways of Giving

Rolling Ridge developed a new brochure to encourage multiple ways of supporting the ministries and hospitality of Rolling Ridge.

Included is information on :

- Making a will and including Rolling Ridge

- Naming Rolling Ridge as a beneficiary of retirement or life insurance policies
- Making a gift that provides life income to you and a gift to Rolling Ridge. Charitable Gift Annuities and

Charitable Remainder Trusts are two approaches.

We would be happy to send you a brochure and talk with you about estate planning. We work with the United Methodist Foundation of New England for additional counsel and opportunities.

Rolling Ridge offers peace in a world of busyness and stress, silence in the midst of noise and competing voices, and the simple beauty of woods and water away from bright lights and blinking screens. We provide time to listen, space to rest, places to dream and plan.

Spring Programs (and beyond) at Rolling Ridge

- Reiki, Level One: April 13, 2012 led by Gale Lyman, a partnership with the Lyman Center and Rolling Ridge
- **NEW!! “The Soul of the Champion: Recognizing the Spiritual and the Transcendent in Sports” with Bob Flanagan on Monday evening, April 30, 2012**
- Being Like a Tree: The path to Wholeness: May 7, 2012 with Retreat Leader, Jana Marie Whitten
- **NEW!! Crystal Singing Bowl Meditation evening with Sherryl Comeau on Wednesday, May 9, 2012**
- “Change as Invitation: Assessing and adapting in a fast paced world” with Margaret Benefiel and Susie Allen, May 10, 2012
- **NEW!! VANtastic! An evening of culture, cuisine, and theater. On May 19, 2012 at 5:30pm**
- **NEW!! “The Way of the Child: helping children experience God” with Cathy MacGovern on 5/19/12**
- 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
- A Walk with Jesus and Scripture: June 20, 2012, with Retreat Leader, Paul Millin
- Drumming for Joy! Our evening program with leader Jane Gossard on 4/23, 5/22, and 6/18
- **NEW!! RELIGION IN A WORLD OF VIOLENCE: VIRUS OR VACCINE? Dinner, Public Address, and book signing with Dr. M. Thomas Thangaraj on June 26, 2012 beginning at 6pm for dinner, and 7:30pm for the public address.**
- Rolling Ridge’s Second Annual ALUMNI DAY! July 8, 2012
- RIDGEFEST 2012, Sunday, September 23, 2012 from noon to 4pm

Visit WWW.ROLLINGRIDGE.ORG for a complete description of our programs and registration. Click on “Programs” and “Day Apart Retreats” or “special events”

A View from the Ridge



ROLLING RIDGE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Volume 7, issue 3

Summer, 2012

From the Director

I'm not planning to die any time soon, but I recently redid my will before a trip out of the country. My will and health directives were written in California before I moved to Massachusetts so it was time to bring them up-to-date. And to add Rolling Ridge to my list of beneficiaries.

My dad was a factory worker in Flint, Michigan, making AC spark plugs for nearly 40 years. It was a working class job, but my parents were frugal, wise and generous. They were always willing to help people in our neighborhood (Mom baked lots of pies

that went to neighbors, not my stomach) and in our church. So it was not a surprise after they died to discover four groups that would receive gifts from their estate. They took care of us three children and they continued their legacy of caring for others in need.

I am grateful for their witness and thankful to have been part of wonderful organizations that I want to continue to support after I die. I can't take it with me and the ministry of Rolling Ridge and others my wife and I have chosen, are worthy of support.

We all live on the gifts of those who have gone before us. We all can continue to help those who come after us. If you would like to discuss a bequest or other gift to Rolling Ridge, I would be honored.

Who or what do you wish to leave a legacy gift? It helps sort out what's important and worthy of your time and money. Blessings on your thinking and planning.

Larry

Of Interest

- THE BOARD ROOM
- WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING
- PEOPLE'S CHOICE
- OUR WISH LIST
- FALL "DAY APARTS"
- NEW GROUPS AT THE RIDGE
- A VERY NEW ENGLAND CHRISTMAS



"A Day at the Ridge" – September 23, 2012

Doors will open to Rolling Ridge on September 23, 2012 for a day of tours, food, music, presentations, art, and more. Sunday afternoon, from 12-4, come hear landscape architect Kyle Zick talk about the plans for renovating the beautiful fountains. Come meet historic preservation leader, Maureen O'Brien and learn about Fletcher Steele, the dynamic young, soon to be renowned, landscape architect who designed Rolling Ridge. Enjoy artists painting and a

presentation by the Andovers Artists Guild. Delight in scrumptious food prepared by Chef Rebecca, the Ridge's culinary leader. Hear Executive Director Larry Peacock share plans for expansion and meet architect Iric Rex. Live music, good food, even a chair massage. A wonderful day at the Ridge. Free parking and no admission charge. Fees for food and massage services are additional.

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DIRECTORS REFLECTIONS	1
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ORGANIC FARM AT THE RIDGE	2
DR. M. THOMAS THANGARAJ	2
PICNIC DAYS AT THE RIDGE	3
FALL "DAY APART" SCHEDULE	4

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- Nightstands, end tables, coffee tables, sofa tables
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HOPE FOR OURSELVES, THE EARTH, AND THE WORLD— IS IT UP FOR GRABS?

Join us for a a week of Spiritual renewal, insightful presentations, silence, worship, sharing, reflection time, in a gracious historic manor, retreat center surrounded by autumn in New England from September 30-October 5, 2012 for the **NEW ENGLAND FIVE DAY ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION** with author Robert Corin Morris and teacher, Susan Mackenzie.

Robert Corin Morris, is a nationally known author and retreat leader.



S u s a n MacKenzie, Ph.D. is a spiritual director, retreat leader, and professor of environmental studies.



Registration fees include program presentations, materials, overnight accommodations: double-occupancy room (\$585) or single room (\$785) and all meals. Commuter rate: \$435. Limited scholarship assistance available for laity. CEU's available.

**To Register, go to :
www.neumc.org/registrations/register/31
Or call 978-682-8815 for further information.**

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Rolling Ridge Hymn

(tune: *Hyfrydol*)

For this place of quiet beauty,
Lofty hall and towering tree,
Sheltered ways of shining waters,
Give we thanks, O Lord, to thee.
Gathered in thy holy presence,
Drawn apart from daily care,
Here renew our minds and spirits
In these hours of work and prayer.

Donald A. Williams— 1960

"A True Oasis of Quiet Beauty and Gracious Hospitality"

Looking for the 500,000

Are you one? One of the half million youth and adults who have attended camp or programs at Rolling Ridge in North Andover since 1948? Please join us and friends old and new at Rolling Ridge on September 23 from noon to 4pm for our "Day at the Ridge". Special opportunities for Alumni to reconnect and share stories and photos will exist.

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Host your graduation, reunion, church and school event, birthday or family picnics at Rolling Ridge with our Catered Picnic Packages. Delicious catered picnics starting at \$15 per person for groups of 20-250. Clambakes, sunset picnics, and BBQ's.

- Sports, swimming and outdoor activities
- Lakeside trails, labyrinths and formal estate gardens
- Midweek and evening discounts (except Fri/Sat)



The Olympic Sized Swimming Pool at Rolling Ridge is a wonderful add-on to your special Picnic or celebration. Call Joanna to reserve your event today! (additional rates apply).

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This spring we co-sponsored two programs with the New England Pastoral Institute. Focusing on church and pastoral leadership, they reflect Rolling Ridge's growing commitment to provide programs for religious organizations, as well as for personal spiritual renewal. The health of any community depends on many organizations, including vibrant, functional, and spiritual religious groups. Look for more programs coming up.

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We rejoice in new partnerships.

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AND, it's not too early to book your holiday meal at Rolling Ridge. Lunch or Dinner. Business group or church group. Midweek or weekend end. It will be delicious and special. Call Joanna— Sales director at 978-682-8815 x12.

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We celebrate the new lights and new décor that have enhanced our dining room, and provided a place for the many talents of the Andovers Artists Guild to reside. We have sold 1-2 paintings from each show. The current show will be available to view until late summer.

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Rolling Ridge is now in the midst of the third shift, moving to be "the premier retreat and conference center in New England" with a primary focus on adults.

Each shift requires energy and capital. We hired Essex Architects to design the renovation and expansion to make us the "premier" center. More bedrooms, bathrooms and accessibility are planned. Plus a dining patio overlooking the lake and new programs.

If you would like to be part of this exciting third shift 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

A True Oasis of Quiet Beauty and Gracious Hospitality

ROLLING RIDGE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

660 Great Pond Road
North Andover, MA 01845

Phone: 978-682-8815

Fax: 978-681-1162

E-mail:

thestaff@rollingridge.org

Rolling Ridge is a Not for
Profit Charitable
Organization.

Visit our website
at
www.rollingridge.org



Room 12 in the East Wing.
Thank you to Steve and Jerri Artz
for their hard work; transforming
the tired old dorm style room into a
place of calmness, comfort, and
beauty.

“Everybody
needs beauty as
well as bread,
places to play
in and pray in,
where nature
may heal and
give strength to
body and soul”

-John Muir

What people are saying...

*“Staff charming,
grounds beautiful, food
delicious, facilities
great!”*

*“The entire space
creates calm, peace,
and renewal”*

*“A Day Apart is better
than a thousand other
days”*

Ridge on the road

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- June 15– Andover Rotary Club
- June 20– Deaconess the
Abundant life community,
Concord
- June 24– Preaching at Crawford
Memorial UMC, Winchester
- June 29– Preaching at
Aldersgate UMC, Chelmsford

Welcome

Welcome to Keith
Bridges, new
Director of Facilities
and Grounds at
Rolling Ridge. A
North Andover
resident and builder,
he brings many skills
to this grand estate.

Rolling Ridge offers peace in a world of busyness and stress, silence in the midst of noise and competing voices, and the simple beauty of woods and water away from bright lights and blinking screens. We provide time to listen, space to rest, places to dream and plan. Call Joanna Ouellette, our sales specialist to book your group or meeting at Rolling Ridge.

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A View from the Ridge



ROLLING RIDGE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Volume 7, issue 3

Summer, 2012

From the Director

I'm not planning to die any time soon, but I recently redid my will before a trip out of the country. My will and health directives were written in California before I moved to Massachusetts so it was time to bring them up-to-date. And to add Rolling Ridge to my list of beneficiaries.

My dad was a factory worker in Flint, Michigan, making AC spark plugs for nearly 40 years. It was a working class job, but my parents were frugal, wise and generous. They were always willing to help people in our neighborhood (Mom baked lots of pies

that went to neighbors, not my stomach) and in our church. So it was not a surprise after they died to discover four groups that would receive gifts from their estate. They took care of us three children and they continued their legacy of caring for others in need.

I am grateful for their witness and thankful to have been part of wonderful organizations that I want to continue to support after I die. I can't take it with me and the ministry of Rolling Ridge and others my wife and I have chosen, are worthy of support.

We all live on the gifts of those who have gone before us. We all can continue to help those who come after us. If you would like to discuss a bequest or other gift to Rolling Ridge, I would be honored.

Who or what do you wish to leave a legacy gift? It helps sort out what's important and worthy of your time and money. Blessings on your thinking and planning.

Larry

Of Interest

- THE BOARD ROOM
- WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING
- PEOPLE'S CHOICE
- OUR WISH LIST
- FALL "DAY APARTS"
- NEW GROUPS AT THE RIDGE
- A VERY NEW ENGLAND CHRISTMAS



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Dr. M. Thomas Thangaraj

RELIGION IN A WORLD OF VIOLENCE: VIRUS OR VACCINE?

Religion in recent years, has been linked to various instances of violence in today's world. While religion is not the virus that causes violence in all these

instances, religion has been justifiably implicated in most of these. At the same time, history proves that religion is the most fitted and well-equipped resource to prevent and remove such violence if it begins to function as a vaccine. What are the shifts demanded of religions today that they begin to function more as a vaccine that prevents violent irruptions rather than as a virus that causes it?

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-John Muir

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A View from the Ridge



ROLLING RIDGE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Volume 7, issue 4

Fall, 2012

From the Director: "What Goes On There?"

People are curious. What happens at a Retreat and Conference Center – especially since Rolling Ridge is a long ways down the curvy road and not so visible to those who drive by.

Here is a little glimpse into one long weekend. On Friday, a weeklong youth leadership program conducted by the Boston YW concluded. Sixty plus youth and counselors departed after lunch after an intense week of dialogue, learning and fun. Rolling Ridge staff began the process of "turning over" sixty beds and baths and meeting rooms for the next group.

Friday night, five leaders of the next group arrived to prepare for the Saturday to Monday meeting of national leaders of spiritual director training programs. Seven states would be represented in the thirteen leaders. Rolling Ridge continues to attract national groups who find Boston or Manchester airports conducive for gathering at Rolling Ridge.

Saturday daytime, a wedding service took place on the picturesque bowling green and the sun broke through the clouds to create a lovely day.

Sunday, while the spiritual directors were meeting inside, a Haitian Baptist group arrived for an outdoor worship service, afternoon picnic, fellowship and swim. In the wooded area, a small group of five women arrived to walk the two labyrinths. They enjoyed the silence of the wooded path interspersed with a little Gospel music from the Baptists.

Monday, the shuttles took folks back to airports, the staff cleaned rooms again, getting ready for a person arriving for a personal retreat Monday afternoon, a Boston University faculty and administrative retreat on Tuesday and preparing the Moses Conference room for twenty Chinese students to learn oil painting for a week from a master teacher.

Behind the visible service to our guests, the kitchen staff is

receiving organic produce from the new organic farm at Rolling Ridge and canning pickles and preserves as well as creating new recipes for guests featuring our "field to table" produce.

The sales staff answers phones for groups seeking a space to meet, the bookkeeping staff keeps track of accounts and the facilities and grounds staff repair doorknobs, get ready to meet furnace engineers for a new heating system and keep the grounds mowed and ready for all guests.

For a peaceful retreat center, there is a lot going on but you, our guests, will not notice what goes into making your stay comfortable, organized and hospitable. The staff does their work so you can do your work or planning or learning or worship. We hold the space for you. Please come. Experience the Rolling Ridge difference.

Lamy

Of Interest

- AFTERNOON TEA
- ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION
- ALUMNI REUNION
- OUR WISH LIST
- FALL "DAY APARTS"
- NEW GROUPS AT THE RIDGE
- FROM FARM TO TABLE



Inside this issue:

DIRECTORS REFLECTIONS	1
TEA AT THE RIDGE	1
ALUMNI REUNION AND RECEPTION	3
5 DAY ACADEMY	2
PICTURE THIS	2
SPECIAL THANKS	4
FALL "DAY APART" SCHEDULE	4

Afternoon Tea and History at the Ridge— Celebrating the future of Rolling Ridge

September 23, 2012 from 2pm-6pm.

North Andover author, Stephen Roper, in his history of North Andover, calls Rolling Ridge, "the last great estate." Come visit the estate. Enjoy an elegant tea in the beautiful, European-styled courtyard. Visit with the three architects who have studied the history of the award-winning place. Talk with them about their designs and plans for renovation and expansion.

Begin with a selection of teas and sweets—tiny

sandwiches, petit fours, and cream scones—from 2:00 until 4:00. Reservations are necessary.

Meet Maureen O'Brien, Landscape Preservationist, whose Harvard Landscape class used Rolling Ridge as their focus which led to her thesis work on the Courtyard of the Ridge. She knows lots of stories about the early days of North Andover and Rolling Ridge and has the plans for the Courtyard renovation. You will be able to see the beginning of the new plantings and help with the dedication of the new bench. Her feature presentation is at 4:15.



The Celtic Cross that greets guests as they enter Rolling Ridge was donated to the Ridge by the Tewksbury United Methodist Church in 2003.

A View from the Ridge

Picture This

The French doors in the sitting room open and you gently go down a winding stone stairway that descends to a sun-dappled outdoor patio, with wide open views of the calm lake, lovely flowering planters and inviting chairs gathered around tables laden with chilled lemonade, fresh ginger cookies, and mouth-watering chocolate dipped strawberries.

This is part of the new vision for Rolling Ridge because we know when you come here, you are looking for peace from the busyness, comfort from the stress, and a sweet reminder that life is good.

The new patio is part of a grand expansion and renovation that will retain the intimate footprint of the estate yet increase accessibility, improve comfort and provide additional spaces for meeting, fellowship and dining. Besides a new outdoor dining patio, we are adding 20 new accessible bedrooms and bathrooms to the main building, creating a new meeting space with accessible bathrooms, modern technology and a coffee bar/snack area, renovating the fountain and courtyard and opening the original road.



If you would like to be part of this exciting new vision and can help with fundraising, the capital campaign, or help with community events and advisory groups, please contact Executive Director, Larry Peacock, 978-682-8815 or Larry.Peacock @rollingridge.org.

NEW GROUPS AT THE RIDGE THIS FALL:

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- National Institute for Mental Illness
- ALPHA PHI ALPHA,
- UNH
- Base Camp for a Hollywood Movie Shoot
- Boston College— Organization of Latin American Affairs
- Bentley College
- Brandeis University
- Inward Bound Mindfulness Education

Ways of Giving

We welcome gifts in many forms.

- **Online** Gifts may be made by credit or debit card through the Rolling Ridge web-site.
- **Checks** Please make checks payable to Rolling Ridge and mail to the address listed on the back panel.
- **Securities** By giving appreciated stocks or securities to Rolling Ridge, you can avoid capital gains tax while receiving a full tax-deduction on the value of the gift on the day of the transfer. Please call or email us for instructions. When you do make a gift, it is very important that we know it is coming so that we can identify you as donor. Please telephone 978-682-8815.
- **Property** Rolling Ridge is pleased and grateful to consider gifts of property—real estate, art, or other valuables, which may also offer tax advantages to you as donor. We welcome a conversation to discuss if and how we may be able to receive such a gift.

HOPE FOR OURSELVES, THE EARTH, AND THE WORLD— IS IT UP FOR GRABS?

Join us for a a week of Spiritual renewal, insightful presentations, silence, worship, sharing, reflection time, in a gracious historic manor, retreat center surrounded by autumn in New England from September 30-October 5, 2012 for the **NEW ENGLAND FIVE DAY ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION** with author Robert Corin Morris and teacher, Susan Mackenzie.

S u s a n MacKenzie, Ph.D. is a spiritual director, retreat leader, and professor of environmental studies.



Registration fees include program presentations, materials, overnight accommodations: double-occupancy room (\$585) or single room (\$785) and all meals. Commuter rate: \$435. Limited scholarship assistance available for laity. CEU's available.

Robert Corin Morris, is a nationally known author and retreat leader.



To Register, go to : www.neumc.org/registrations/register/31 Or call 978-682-8815 for further information.



Congratulations to Emily & Jared!
August 18, 2012



Something old is new again! The Rolling Ridge Logo has had a facelift! Look for the new logo on publications and for the new sign at the road!

THE ANDOVERS
ARTISTS GUILD
NEW SHOW, "FULL
COLORED BEAUTY"
IS NOW AVAILABLE
FOR VIEWING IN
THE LAKESIDE
GALLERY DINING
ROOM.

*O sacred season of
Autumn, be my teacher, for
I wish to learn the virtue of
contentment. As I gaze
upon your full-colored
beauty, I sense all about
you an at-homeness with
your amber riches.*

-Edward Hayes

Alumni Reunion and Reception

Join us on Friday, September 28, 2012 for our Alumni Reunion and Reception from 11am-2pm. Calling all "classes" of the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's who came to Rolling Ridge, and all retired United Methodist Clergy. Come to a fabulous luncheon buffet, meet up with old friends, hear about the expansion plans of Rolling Ridge, participate in a "stairway sing", and take a tour of the mansion and grounds..

Reservations for the event can be made on line at www.rollingridge.org or call us in the office at 978-682-8815. The cost is \$18 per person.

Tea at the Ridge (cont. from pg 1)

Meet Kyle Zick, Landscape Architect, and one of the few nationally who specialize in the gardens of renowned Rolling Ridge designer, Fletcher Steele. Kyle is from Boston and has new drawings and plans for getting our elaborate fountains restored and running. His feature presentation will be at 4:45pm, and he will be around throughout the day.

Meet Iric Rex of Davis Square Architects, who won a competition to design the renovation and expansion of our facilities while keeping the intimate character and historic sense of the mansion. His feature presentation, with floor plans showing the new dining patio, new accessibility, new bedrooms, will be at 5:15 pm. He will be available for conversation throughout the afternoon.

This year is the first anniversary of the Conservation Restriction and Trail easement that the Town of North Andover worked out with Rolling Ridge. We look forward to celebrating with town officials and the community.

There is no charge to come to the presentations; full tea service is \$18. For the tea, please make reservations by Sept. 16 at www.rollingridge.org/programs/special-eventsprograms or by calling 978-682-8815. In case of rain, tea and all presentations will be inside the mansion. Rain or shine, come to the Ridge on September 23.

For more information on Tea at the Ridge, contact Joanna At 978-682-8815, thestaff@rollingridge.org or online at www.rollingridge.org

Christmas at the Ridge

It's not too early to book your holiday meal at Rolling Ridge. Lunch or Dinner. Business group or church group or family gathering. Midweek or weekend end. It will be delicious and special. Call Joanna— Sales director at 978-682-8815 x12.

Wish we had...

Maybe you have something lying around that you don't need anymore? Don't put it in a yard sale! Take the tax write off and donate it to the Ridge! We sure could use:

- A fabulous wooden bench for the courtyard
- Bureaus, Serving Dishes
- Nightstands, end tables, coffee tables, sofa tables
- Rocking chairs



The Bowling Green at a recent Wedding Ceremony here at the Ridge.

PICKLES

Thanks to everyone who responded to our Facebook request for suggestions for a bushel of cucumbers. Adisson Touissant, our organic farmer, harvested a bumper crop of cucumbers and now we have pickles! Already guests this summer have dined on eggplant parm, fresh green and red lettuce and green pepper stir fry. The organic produce is a big hit with our guests, and Chef Rebecca is trying new recipes. Adisson plans to keep supplying Rolling Ridge until November!



Adisaint Farm at Rolling Ridge bursts with organic vegetables, and prepares for a bountiful harvest.

Check out the farm as you drive in—and dine on the freshest organic produce in town. Farm to table!

Rolling Ridge

Retreat and Conference Center

A True Oasis of Quiet Beauty and Gracious Hospitality

ROLLING RIDGE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

660 Great Pond Road
North Andover, MA 01845

Phone: 978-682-8815
Fax: 978-681-1162
E-mail:
thestaff@rollingridge.org

Rolling Ridge is a Not for
Profit Charitable
Organization.

Visit our website
at
www.rollingridge.org



The overgrown plants and shrubs have been removed from the courtyard. Although the new plants are young, a new day has begun for the courtyard restoration.

Living the Slow Circles

Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace. The garden door is always open to the holy.

-May Sarton

We Get Comments

- “Rolling Ridge is a place of grace that provides bread for the journey. You can walk your way into the arms of God here.”
- “Serene and peaceful buildings and grounds.”
- “Fabulous and joyful staff”
- “Beautiful meeting rooms”
- “Each time I walked outside, I felt like I was listening to a relaxation CD – songs of birds to gentle rain.”



A Place for you— to rest, to renew— to just be- Lake Cochichewick is a summer sight to behold at sunset.

Did You Know?

Russell Tyson owned Rolling Ridge from 1928-1948. He was only the second owner and wisely continued to hire landscape architect Fletcher Steele to work on the grounds which resulted in Rolling Ridge winning the Hunnewell Medal in 1935 from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. He was also a Trustee of the Art Institute of Chicago and has a gallery of Asian art named after him.

A Very Special Thank You to: Our summer lifeguards: **Gavin Lynch, Sean Ryan, Jessica Hajjar, David Kitchen, Lawton Powell, and Maya Spencer.** Also thank you to **Tyler Salois** for his grounds work, **Maureen O'Brien** for securing the donation of plants for the new courtyard, and to **Melissa Sweet** for spending a day weeding in the courtyard.

Fall Programs at Rolling Ridge

- **Tea at the Ridge**, Sunday, September 23, 2012 from 2pm-6pm
- **“Awakening in Time”** Day Apart with Pam Kristan on Thursday, Sept. 20, 9:30am-3:30pm
- **“Harvest Us Home”** Day Apart with Sr. Patricia Cushing on Thursday, Sept. 27, 9:30-3:30
- **Alumni Reunion and Reception**, Friday, September 28, 2012 from 11am-2pm
- **“Contemplative Photography”** Day Apart with Tom McMillan on October 10, 9:30-3:30
- **“Spirit Dancing, Body Speaking”** Day Apart with Marsha Therese Danzig on October 16
- **“The Jesus Sutras”** with retreat leader Ray McGinnis on October 22, from 9:30-3:30pm
- **“Calling the Quiet”** Day Apart with Susan Kapuscinski Gaylord on October 30, 9:30-3:30
- **“LGBT: Family, Friends & Faith”** with Craig Collemer on November 12, 9:30-3:30
- **“Gratitude”** Day apart with retreat leader Paul Millin on November 19, from 9:30-3:30pm
- **“How full is your bucket”** with Jana Marie Whitten on November 26, from 9:30am-3:30pm
- **“Advent Quiet Day”** with retreat leader, Larry J. Peacock on December 4, from 9:30-2pm
- **Drumming for Joy!** on 9/24, 10/15, 11/13, and 12/12 with Jane Gossard from 7-8:30pm

Visit WWW.ROLLINGRIDGE.ORG for a complete description of our programs and registration. Click on “Programs” and “Day Apart Retreats” or “special events”.



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Facebook