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 1.5 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 ecclesiastical 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 hours, 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.

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 hours, 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.

Lee O'Brien, Director of Guest Services

Wish List

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

- Gift Cards to Loves/Home Depot/BJ’s/Sams Club
- Kayaks/Canoes
- Outdoor Rocking Chairs
- Serving Dishes
- New Patio Furniture
- High Efficiency Washer and Dryer
- New Shade of Blue
- New Carpeting in the Lakeside Gallery Dining Room
- New Patio Furniture
- Outdoor Rocking Chairs
- New Shade of Blue
- New Carpeting in the Lakeside Gallery Dining Room

A View from the Ridge

Volume 12, Issue 1

The Larry J. Peacock Carriage House

Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center

The Administration and Sales Office nine full operations was sold for the asking for 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

Looking beyond our greatest hopes and expectations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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 Andover’s 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 new 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, and the courtyard received a major restoration, and the administration offices were relocated to the previous directories office.

The administrative offices were relocated to the previous directors office, and the reception and executive director offices were refurbished and enhanced. Rolling Ridge said farewell to the Interim Director, Melinda Trotti, as well as longtime employee/champion of housekeeping, Alaine Corney. 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 of our supportive donors helping us to succeed beyond our greatest hopes and expectations.

About the Author:

Lee O’Brien, Director of Guest Services

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 Thursday, April 4

Sacramental Living, with retreat leader, Mary Jane O’Connor-Bopp 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 for a complete description of our programs and registration. Click on “Register for our programs/Events”

“The Larry J. Peacock Carriage House”

“The Peacock Carriage House is planned for a meet and greet.”

“Changing the World...One Retreat at a Time”

www.rollingridge.org
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 companionship.

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 supportive environment. There is no agenda outside of listening, 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平安。

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 hard to keep your stay with us exceptional from start to finish. Welcome Virginia!

The Search is Over

It is with gratitude to God that I reflect on the past 13 months since Larry Peascoc announced his retirement, and the work of the Search Committee began! The faithfulness and love of our Core Committee for the work of Rolling Ridge has been evident to me throughout this time, 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 Search Committee included, but were not limited to, including Kathy Stevens (North Andover resident), Rev. Judy Proctor (UCU Clergy), and Rev. Nizi Sados-Dogan (UMC clergy). Lee Brown 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 reviewed 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 24-hour visit 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 are looking forward to bringing him into our Ridge family in January of this year.

We are grateful for those who have continued to support our work, especially those who have been a part of our Ridge family for many years, including Trudy Peascoc-Brayle, Triy Ostler, Cindy Crowinshield, Ron Clarke, and many others.

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A View from the Ridge

FROM THE DIRECTOR: Lawrence Jay

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

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

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

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

Get ready to live into the promises of a new season. See you this summer.

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

The GIVING GARDEN at Rolling Ridge

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

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

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

Volunteers to work the garden are welcomed at weekly work sessions: Sunday afternoons, Tuesday evenings, and Thursday mornings. Sign-up at www.southchurch.com/giving-garden. If you or your group is interested in volunteer at the Giving Garden while staying at Rolling Ridge, email givinggardengrows@gmail.com.
Since its inception in 2011, the Peace Conference at Rolling Ridge has become an important platform for healthy dialogue and inspirational hope. Diverse speakers over the years have addressed issues of peace-making, Earth tending, and inter-faith reverence. In a confusing political and social climate, now more than ever, people need a safe space as we seek understanding, harmony, and change.

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

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

SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 22, 2017
1:00 pm Registration Opens
2:00 pm Plenary Session with Dr. Robert A. Jonas
5:30 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Evening conversations

Sunday, July 23, 2017
For full-time registrants: breakfast, spiritual direction and wellness options in the morning
12:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm Workshop Session 1
2:15 pm Workshop Session 2
3:30 pm Closing Prayer for Peace

SUNDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS at 1pm & 2:15
Read a full description on the back page

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

RETREAT COSTS:

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

REGISTER ON LINE AT www.rollingridge.org
About our Saturday speaker:

Robert A. Jonas

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

Community Organizing

with Alice Mann and Team

Description: Beyond its practical results, faith-based community organizing can have deep soul-singificance for those who participate. This workshop will address:
- Distinctive features of the “faith-based community organizing” approach.
- How participants may find in this work a spiritual practice, a wisdom tradition, and an antidote to civic despair.
- Steps for connecting with a faith-based community organizing effort in your own area.

Non-Violent Communication and Compassionate Listening

with Jean Shula

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

Personal Beliefs and Political Reshaping

With Henry Schoenfield

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

Spiritual Resistance in a Time of Crisis

With Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

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

Church 3.0:

Building safe space

with Wendy Miller Olapade

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

SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS:

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

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

Lawrence Jay, Executive Director
Lee O'Brien, Director of Guest Services
Danny Smith, Director of Operations
Virginia Ferriman, Housekeeping Mgr.
Martha Sanders/Culinary Specialist
Ellen Lewis, Bookkeeper
Greg Clarke, Maintenance and Facilities mgr.
Laurie Brown, Sales & Hospitality Specialist

Meet Gregory Thereault

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

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

Artist Reception

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

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

Still Waters

SUNDAY EVENING CONVERSATIONS AT ROLLING RIDGE
May 28, 2017 at 5:30pm

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

Asian Commission Retreat

In partnership with Rolling Ridge, the Asian Commission of the New England Conference invites United Methodist Asian Clergy to join us at our 2017 annual retreat:

UNITED WE STAND - in faith, in hope, in love - Facing the challenges of Asian ministry
With Guest Speaker, Rev. Florence Li.
October 30-November 1, 2017
REGISTER at www.rollingridge.org

Upcoming Events at the Ridge

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

“Changing the World... One Retreat at a Time” www.rollingridge.org

Taizé

A RETREAT OF UNITY & PEACE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 31-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

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

To register, go to www.rollingridge.org/REGISTER
Dear Friends of Rolling Ridge,

Thanks to the generosity of people like yourself, what started as a dream in 2013 has become a reality. With over 200 gifts and pledges received, nearly 1 million dollars was raised to help Rolling Ridge move confidently into the future, to “Restore, Rebuild, Renew,” and to complete some capital improvements.

Although the original 4 million dollar goal was not reached, we are thankful to God for each and every gift received. Generous gifts from friends and supporters like you provide a firm foundation upon which Rolling Ridge can build to expand our ministry and programs as an oasis of peace in a hectic world.

To invest in the Ridge’s future, the decision was made to use the campaign gifts to renovate Moses Hall. With pledges still being collected, a 3 year loan with the Conference Trustees was secured so that construction could begin. Work began in May 2016 and completed 4 months later in September. The official dedication of the new “Larry J. Peacock Carriage House” occurred in November, with finishing touches of décor continuing into early 2017. The result is a newly renovated, beautiful facility, which maintains the charm of the Main House with modern amenities including heating and AC in each of the 10 guest rooms.

The remodeled lower floor meeting room in the Peacock Carriage House has been named the “Moses Meeting Room” to celebrate the historical connection of the building with Horace V. Moses whose contribution to Rolling Ridge in the 1950s funded the construction of the original boys’ dorm.

Along with the renovation of the Carriage House, restoration was also done in the Courtyard, the Main House façade, the Excedra, and the Fountain Walls, which were in need of much repair. Inside the Main House, Tyson Meeting Room also received a much needed face lift. New carpet and flooring were laid in the Dining Room and Sitting Room. The offices were remodeled. New restrooms and a new Wellness Room were added on the lower floor, with central air conditioning restored to the main first level. (See inside for before and after pictures.)

While the “Restore, Rebuild, Renew” Campaign has allowed Rolling Ridge to make many needed changes and improvements, there is still much to do! We would love to see other projects from the original goals completed, but additional gifts are needed. If you have not yet given or would like to increase your pledge, please contact me.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP and belief in the work of the Ridge. As the campaign wraps up, please look inside this final Newsletter to see what your gift has enabled us to complete. If you have not been to the Ridge recently, please schedule a visit. I would welcome the chance to introduce you to the “new” Rolling Ridge.

Peace,

Lawrence Jay, Executive Director

THE CAMPAIGN IN REVIEW

- The Larry J. Peacock Carriage House: a Million Dollar renovation bringing 10 guest rooms with 8 private bathrooms, a new meeting space, new heating and air conditioning
- The Courtyard Restoration
- Building façade repaired and painted
- Excedra restored
- Fountain walls and benches restored
- Tyson steps restored
- Tyson renovated
- Dining Room Roof replaced
- Two new bathrooms in the lower level
- New Carpeting in the dining room and the sitting room, and 7A and 7B guest rooms
- New Administration, Directors office, and Guest Services offices
- New Wellness Room
- Shutters refinshed and repainted
- Central Air to dining and sitting room repaired.
New Wellness Room
Reception & Guest Services
Oval Room Facelift
Restored Columns & Courtyard Walls
Columns Restored
A New Look
New Dining and Sitting Room Carpeting

“Changing the World... One Retreat at a Time”

www.rollingridge.org
A View from the Ridge

ROLING RIDGE RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Volume 13, issue 1

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

LAWRENCE JAY

During the summer of 1948, Rolling Ridge transitioned from the private home of Russell Tyson to a retreat home for the United Methodists. It has been a blessed 69 years of ministry as this mansion on the shore of Lake Cochichewick continues to be a spiritual home for many.

As I pass the 8 month mark in my tenure as Executive Director, I am blessed as I find a new home here at the Ridge. Being away from my “home home” in California, I’ve been thinking a lot about what makes a “home”.

It is said that home is where your heart is, and I believe that is true. Rolling Ridge is a spiritual “home” for many who have found their hearts touched here through the beauty of the grounds, the hospitality of the staff, the encouragement of the programs, the presence of God in this place.

But it’s not just the guests. Rolling Ridge is also “home” for our staff, who serve the guests with all their heart and work hard to make this place special.

The Ridge is blessed to have a staff that considers itself a family and recognizes each person who comes through our doors as a guest into “our home.”

Rolling Ridge is “home” because of heart — the heart of guests who find renewal and the heart of staff who go above and beyond to welcome everyone.

I may have left my heart in San Francisco, but I’m finding a new home as I serve with all my heart here at Rolling Ridge.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Like any home, Rolling Ridge continues to make improvements. Last year saw the completion of the Larry J. Peacock Carriage House and remodeling in the Main House with a new wellness room, new carpets in the dining room, new flooring in the sitting room, and new glass dining table rounds. In recent months, the AC on the first floor was restored, dead trees are being cut-down providing more sun and lake views from the property, the cistern in the courtyard is returning to a wishing well fountain, the front entrance is being upgraded, and rhododendrons have been planted in the Bowling Green (See page 3 for pictures and more details).

As we finish up 2017, we have one more home improvement project on the docket and need your support. If you’ve ever driven to the Ridge, you know that the road can be a bit bumpy and during the winter, treacherous. Thanks to a very generous donor, we have $25,000 towards repaving the front entrance and much of the gravel road to the house. Because the road crosses near wetlands and a vernal pool, town conservation restrictions prevent us from paving the entire road. The areas we can pave however will cost $30,000. Thus, we need only $5,000 more to pay off this project in full.

To help us reach this goal, a second donor is offering a matching grant challenge. Every dollar you give will be matched up to $2,500. What a gift! What a challenge! Will you do your part to help us reach our goal? If just 25 people gave $100 each, with our matching grant challenge, we will reach our goal of $5,000. Please give generously to our road repaving project and help us create a smoother drive to your home at the Ridge. (You know your car will appreciate it!)

A pledge card is enclosed in this newsletter. On behalf of everyone who calls the Ridge “home”, thanks for your support!

“Changing the World... One Retreat at a Time”
**A View from the Ridge**

**Taizé**

a retreat of unity & peace

Thursday, February 22 to Sunday, February 25, 2018

Experience the rhythms of a Taizé pilgrimage during this 3 night, 4 day retreat on the shore of Lake Cochichewick in the beauty of North Andover, MA. Facilitated by Rick McKinley, this retreat will introduce the history and practices of the Taizé community and provide times of worship, learning, and community sharing. No prior background in Taizé music is required. We will learn songs and share in new prayer practices together. Workshops on justice and solidarity will also be provided, along with times of relaxation, renewal, and informal fellowship. To register for this retreat, visit www.rollingridge.org/register or call our office at 978-682-8815.

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**THE DAY APART RETREAT AT THE RIDGE**

Our culture runs at a frenetic pace. People live busy lives and don’t make the time to slow down. At Rolling Ridge, we have just the solution: **A Day Apart Retreat**.

Our Day Apart Retreats were created for busy people who don’t have time for a full weekend away, but need the opportunity to recharge their spiritual batteries and to be renewed.

Experienced retreat leaders provide insight and instruction. Retreatants have opportunity for reflection and rest. New companions for the journey are befriended. With excellent food and a beautiful location along Lake Cochichewick in North Andover, A Day Apart Retreat ministers to body, mind, and spirit.

This year, we are offering three series of retreats: Wellness, Leadership, and Spirituality. Retreatants can register for just one Day Apart Retreat, but if they register for any three retreats, they will receive a $30 discount. An overnight and/or wellness treatment may be added to extend the Day Apart to a full retreat experience.

For many in our world, a “sick day” may be needed to tend to one’s mental health. A Day Apart Retreat may be just what the doctor ordered!

Coming in the weeks ahead:

- **“Well-Being in Ministry”** with Norman Bendroth on October 2
- **“Tune up your Spirit; Rest, Restore, Renew”** with Janet Kessenich on October 11
- **“Franciscan Spirituality: Connecting with Creation as Kin”** with Lawrence Jay on October 12
- **“For a Time such as this: Facing Challenging Conversations”** with Charles McCrea on November 4
- **“Celtic Spirituality: Celebrating Creation as the dwelling place of God”** with Carroll Moore on November 9
- **“Creative Expressions: Wellness in Writing”** with David Zoffoli on November 8
- **“Advent Quiet Day”** with Karen Kilty on December 4

All retreats are $65 per person, and run from 9:30am-3:30pm. For more information, visit www.rollingridge.org/registerforourprograms.

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Are you looking for a time and space to refresh your soul? On the **last Sunday of each month**, Rolling Ridge offers **Still Waters** as a place for rest, companionship, and renewal. Weaving conversations and food, prayers and silence, Still Waters offers a peaceful and renewing evening. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm with a program at 6:30 pm, concluding by 8:00 pm. Dinner with program is $20 per person. There is no charge to come just for the program. Register at www.rollingridge.org/register for our programs/Still Waters.

Make plans to join us on the last Sunday of the month: October 29, November 26, December 31.

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

www.rollingridge.org
It’s never too soon to put a date on your December calendar! Join us on Sunday, December 10th as we open our doors to showcase the Winter Art Show of the Andovers Artists Guild, along with additional works of art from talented local artists. All artwork will be for sale, and a portion of all proceeds will benefit NEIGHBORS IN NEED of Greater Lawrence. Rolling Ridge will offer complimentary refreshments, and the event is open FREE to the public. Call 978-682-8815 for more information.

RHODODENDRONS RETURN: THE BOWLING GREEN RESTORATION CONTINUES

It has been a long labor of love getting the landscape around the Bowling Green ready to receive new plants, and to restore the beauty of “what once was” when Fletcher Steele imagined the pink to red to violet shades of rhododendrons inviting people to enjoy the beauty of the fountain. Now, thanks to the generosity of Sally and John Perkins, the rhododendrons have been donated, and the specific placement of colors with a diversity of new species is on its way to recreating the work of nature’s art that Steele designed nearly 100 years ago.

The maintenance and grounds crew at Rolling Ridge, under the leadership of property manager, Gregory Clarke, worked tirelessly removing overgrown, dead, invasive plants and trees, to expose the beautiful potential awaiting a time such as this. Kudos to the crew, and thank you to the Perkins as we plant, awaiting to see the rebirth and renewal of the garden in the coming years.

TRAILS AND SAILS HISTORIC GARDEN TOUR

On Friday, September 15, Tyson Hall was the gathering spot for over forty people who attended the Fletcher Steele Historic Garden Tour sponsored by Trails and Sails with the Essex National Heritage and Rolling Ridge. Executive Director, Lawrence Jay, was the speaker and tour guide for the afternoon event. The tour included an overview of the elements of Steele’s design, some of which no longer exist on the 38 acre property like the Diana statue, the Birdcage, the Sunset Lodge Boathouse, as well as the famed cascading fountain. Guests also were treated to a tour of the inside of the mansion at the conclusion of the tour.
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:

- Interaction Institute of Boston
- Modern Mystery School of Boston
- Glorious Power Church Pastor’s Retreat
- First Korean Church of Cambridge
- American Baptist Asian Women’s Retreat
- American Justice Creation
- Christ is the Answer Church Women’s Retreat
- Community Music Works of Providence RI

MAKING THE CREATION CONNECTION: Christians and Environmental Justice

The Christian faith is often portrayed as being “anti-environment,” but in fact Christianity has deep roots in theology, the Bible, contemplative traditions, and ethical principles that call us to care for creation and create a just and life-sustaining society. On Saturday, November 11, from 9:30am-4pm, retreat leader Margaret Bullitt-Jonas will offer a three-part framework to transform hearts and minds about our environmental responsibility as Christians and to inspire bold and faithful action.

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


SUMMER PEACE CONFERENCE 2017

This past July, over 50 people attended “Speaking Out, Listening Deep: Spiritual Grounding for Political Action,” our seventh annual Peace Conference with Saturday plenary speaker, Dr. Robert A. Jonas, and local community leaders leading Sunday afternoon workshops. This was the first year the Peace Conference spanned a weekend and from those who attended, this was a welcomed change. With an overnight and more leisure time, participants had the opportunity to walk the grounds, rest amid the beauty, and enjoy leisurely conversation. As one attendee said, the time “filled me with peace and nourished my soul. And the food was good too!” Plans have begun for our 2018 Peace Conference. If you’d like to be part of the team, contact us at thestaff@rollingridge.org.