

Meet our New Director of Hospitality Operations: Kaitlin Horvath



My name is Kaitlin Horvath and I am honored to become part of the team at the Bishop's Ranch as the Director of Hospitality Operations. I grew up in Southern Indiana, went to school in South Florida, and on November 7th I will be arriving from Maryland where I served as the Associate Director of Camp Wright, an Episcopal camp and retreat center in the Diocese of Easton.

For the last 12 years, I have developed a summer camp program for over 1200 campers per summer. I worked alongside a summer staff of 40-60, some of whom I met as campers when they were just seven years old. Along with our four year-round staff members, I have hosted dozens of weddings, scout troops, church picnics, and community events each year and helped to make Camp Wright a pillar in our

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Predictable. Change.

Aaron Wright, Executive Director



Fall has long been my favorite season. Growing up in the Midwest, it always felt somewhat dramatic — simultaneously a season of change and also very predictable.

It brought the brilliant transformation of leaves, a reprieve from summer's heat and humidity, and the arrival of my favorite holiday — Thanksgiving.

This will be my sixth fall at The Ranch, and much like my childhood, it promises to be both predictable and full of change.

As if on cue, Summer Camp's youth-driven energy has given way to our fall groups and activities — including the return of quilters, Parish sponsored weekends, the Fall Hike, the grape harvest at nearby vineyards, and the regular rhythms that only fall can bring. Guests enjoy the renowned Ranch hospitality and food, and pause for rest and refreshment.

Change is also in the air. We're seeing old friends return to the Ranch — some for the first time since 2019! At the same time we're experiencing the impact of the changes the pandemic and other external forces have brought to some of our longstanding groups and individuals. Some groups no longer exist, some group leaders moved away during the pandemic, some groups are smaller in number, and some groups are thriving and larger than before. These changes have brought a lot less predictability to our reservations calendar, and that will take some time and effort to understand and make adjustments. And we continue to deal with the unpredictability of climate change, including the on-going drought and threat of wildfires.

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On The Trail Forgive Us Our Trespasses?

A Regular Column by Greta Mesics



I am and have been a big time trespasser for much of my adult life. I am that person who goes out for a little walk and keeps going until I don't know where I am and must bushwhack my way home. Sounds like a poor, wandering, lost soul metaphor, which is also true, but I really do trespass a lot.

I was kicked off of my favorite place of wild wandering about two years ago. After 35 years of trespassing, I was barred. I grieved that loss of old trails, tree friends, and steep climbs just as I would grieve the loss of a friend. I still do. One day I might sneak back up to Egg Hill and greet my wild lands friends again. Perhaps.

After the loss of my favorite tromping trails, I was welcomed onto the trails at The Bishop's Ranch. That is what The Bishop's Ranch does. It welcomes us all, even hardened and unrepentant trespassers. All of us.

At first I felt oddly uneasy in this new welcome; however, I soon realized that now I am both a welcomed friend and still a constant trespasser. I am really good with that. I chat with TBR humans and friends on the trails and feel welcome. But, I am never unaware that I am trodding on other creatures' ground, disturbing their peace, gawking at the huge blue heron at Lower Lake,

the otters' den, the climbing pipevine with heart shaped leaves, the tall, tall trees, the ants, the butterflies, and so many living beings that I fail to notice.

So, I still ask to be forgiven for my trespasses.



And...on the trails at The Bishop's Ranch, I walk easy as I feel the forgiveness and wonder about my own ability to forgive. Somehow the welcome and the trespassing combined are really helping me forgive as widely and as wildly as I have been welcomed.

In humble gratitude, Greta

Meet our New Director...(continued)

community and the Episcopal camp and retreat industry.

Working as the Director of Hospitality Operations is an opportunity that will allow me to expand my management skills and utilize my professional experience in providing a welcoming and engaging experience to all Ranch patrons. I'm excited to work with dedicated staff who are passionate about the work they do, embodying the spirit of hospitality that is intrinsic to The Bishop's Ranch.

I have never lived on the West Coast and I am looking forward to learning and exploring the area and all its natural beauty. I enjoy hiking, scuba diving, teaching yoga, raising chickens and home improvement projects. I hope to greet many new friends at The Bishop's Ranch in the coming weeks.

Facilities & Land Report

By Matt Kissmann



I remember picking up our old convection ovens back in late July of 2016. They were already “well-loved” when we purchased them from an Oakland-based cupcake shop. The shop owner had purchased them used so we were their third owners. But, they were an upgrade for us at the time and served us well over these past seven years – pumping out countless batches of cookies and tasty galettes from our talented kitchen. Though these ovens have become valued members of our team, the costs to keep them running no longer makes sense.

Enter two, brand new, straight from the factory Vulcan VC4GD ovens! Though the specifications are almost a direct replacement for our old ovens, the differences are immediately apparent. They’re quieter, more efficient, they have ease of use features like grab-n-go racks and a rapid cool down function. Most importantly, they should help our heroes in the Ranch kitchen do their work for years to come. I’m looking forward to more vegan chocolate chip cookies and baked chicken thighs!

If you wonder how much these new ovens will be used, in the month of September the kitchen:

- Baked 3,058 pieces of dessert, cookies, bars, or slices of cake
- Roasted 555.5 pounds of vegetables
- Baked 100+ lbs of Ranch Granola

Predictable. Change. (continued)

One unexpected change to The Ranch’s landscape and operation is the announcement that the dairy next door is closing. As I write this article on a cool fall morning, the last of the milking cows are being loaded into trailers to be transported for sale. The dairy and the Ranch have always benefited from a symbiotic relationship — sharing land, staff, water and friendship. This monumental and developing change impacts The Ranch community profoundly, presenting us with numerous challenges and opportunities. Our most immediate concern is for several of our staff members who call the dairy home.

If there is anything we can count on, it’s change. With this in mind, our Board of Directors has spent the past year working on a new strategic plan for The Ranch. This strategic plan is designed to serve as a road map. It will help provide the guidance required to navigate ever-shifting landscape in which The Ranch exists, as we work to meet its mission.

One of the primary initiatives of the strategic plan is a commitment to get even clearer on our mission. While The Ranch will always be a place of life changing hospitality, in order to be able to respond to the forces of change that shape our world we must clarify the prevailing *Why* of our mission. This clarity will inevitably help inform *How* we do what we do, in new and innovative ways. I believe this work is essential to sustain the legacy of The Ranch for current and future generations. We’ll be sharing more about the plan soon.

If we’ve learned anything through the pandemic, it is that we can and need to honor what has come before while being open and ready to welcome change.

I’m thankful for all your support and love of The Ranch! It’s what makes it possible for us to continue to offer our much needed life changing hospitality in an ever-changing world! You sustain The Ranch and its mission with your prayers, love, visits and gifts.

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Kaitlin Horvath

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Coming Home

A newsletter about life at The
Bishop's Ranch

The Bishop's Ranch
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Healdsburg, CA 95448

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Contact us to update
your contact info and
communication preferences:
advancement@bishopsranch.org

www.bishopsranch.org

Upcoming Programs

Quiet Days in Advent: Meeting Obstacles As an Integral Part of the Path December 8-11, 2022

Join us for our annual contemplative Advent retreat. This year's Advent retreat will be curated and overseen by our Chaplain, Fr. Brendan E. Williams, CMR, who is also a monastic Prior, professional spiritual director, theologian, and experienced teacher of contemplative practices. Fr. Brendan will be joined by Fr. John Kirkley—a parish priest, retreat leader, and teacher of centering prayer—as well as other clergy and lay leaders who will collaboratively offer teaching, guided meditations, spiritual direction, and communal Liturgy, including a daily Mass. As in years past, Anne Blanton will once again offer prayerful movement sessions throughout the retreat. We invite you to nourish your soul in the depth and contemplative quietude of Advent at the Ranch.

Wisdom of the Heart December 16-18, 2022

Experience the ancient treasures of contemplative practices that can nourish your spirit in a weekend that weaves together story, image, song and silence. Our days will intersperse times of silence with music, art and contemporary poetry as we focus on the theme of the Magnificat, "Saying Yes to Life with Joy". Contemplative practices will include chanting and singing, Labyrinth walks, Lectio Divina, Visio Divina, a candlelit Taizé service, and the creation of Earth Art mandalas. Deepen your journey during your free time in the art room, on the trails, or in front of the fire.

Epiphany Reflection Day with Bishop Marc January 7, 2023 | 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Gather with other seekers to consider the themes of Epiphany, the season of the revelation of light to the world, which begins in the dark with the story of the wise men following the star to the cave. The season offers a beautiful way to lift our hearts and eyes to the cosmos and to the reality of the expansiveness of divine creative energy at work in darkness and in light. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Marc Handley Andrus will be our guide for a day that will lay claim in fresh ways to the ancient practice of turning to the light—in company with others who have traveled to The Ranch for a day of ideas, discussion, music, and prayer.

Ranch Quilt Retreat February 5-9, 2023

Make time for those unfinished projects or new endeavors at a four-night quilt retreat. With all meals provided and no chores in sight, beginning through advanced quilters can truly focus on their passion. This retreat is intended to give you the time you need for yourself without formal instruction or sales pitches.

Upcoming Programs

School of Earth and Soul: The Great Search with John Philip Newell February 14-16, 2023

A new series in The School of Earth & Soul: called *The Great Search* — *Seeking the Sacred in a Time of Religious Exile*, and will consist of three annual retreats. *The Great Search 1* will focus on seeking an unbounded vision of the sacred in all things and will draw on the teachings of Thomas Berry, Nan Shepherd, and Martin Buber.

In 2016 John Philip Newell began a teaching initiative that is now called The School of Earth and Soul. Its purpose is to reawaken awareness of the sacred in all things and to help translate this awareness into compassionate action. The School follows a three-year cycle of teaching and spiritual practice. Participants may join at any stage in the three-year cycle in either of the series, *Celtic Wisdom* or *The Great Search*.

Enneagram and the Spiritual Life February 25, 2023 | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Explore the spiritual wisdom of this dynamic psychological system. Both beginners and those who have working knowledge of the Enneagram are welcome. The workshop will include an overview of the Enneagram and a thorough explanation of the nine strategies and their relationship to the whole, delivered with generous humor and group interaction. Bill will share some examples from his forthcoming book *I Came Here Seeking a Person: A Vital Story of Grace*.

Spring Hike March 18, 2023 | 9:30am - 3:00pm

Join us for an inspirational springtime hike to witness the many kinds and types of wildflowers that grow at The Bishop's Ranch — blooming in their own time and demonstrating the remarkable movement of nature toward diversity. Be prepared to walk five miles at a rambling pace, with several hundred feet of elevation change, taking time to discuss what we find.

Easter with the Aramaic Jesus: Returning to Ripeness After Wandering with Neil Douglas-Klotz April 6-9, 2023

Having lived through the world's events of the past three years, we will touch base again with Jesus' eternal wisdom viewed through his native language and what it means for our lives today. How do we face our deepest fears and resurrect ourselves using Yeshua's example and timeless teachings?

Neil will share many familiar chants and body prayers as well as a number of recent ones that arose from the work on his new book, *Revelations of the Aramaic Jesus*. This is a wonderful doorway into Jesus' native spirituality and way of meditation.

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What is the Acorn Society?



“The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.”

— Emerson

Members of The Acorn Society serve as ambassadors of The Bishop’s Ranch. Their spiritual, intellectual, personal, and financial contributions are all essential to the growth of The Ranch and help sustain its legacy for future generations. Members are encouraged to advance the mission of The Ranch through any of the following activities:

- Make a meaningful, yearly gift to the Annual Fund
- Experience your love of The Ranch by attending retreats, programs, and events, as well as signing up for volunteer opportunities
- Attend services at The Chapel of St George
- Pray for the ministry of The Ranch
- Consider including The Ranch in your will, estate, or trust
- Share your love of The Ranch by inviting others to experience The Ranch’s hospitality through retreats, programs, events, or volunteer opportunities
- Participate in the annual Acorn Society Forum to help shape The Ranch’s future

The Annual Acorn Society Forum

Acorn Society members, Legacy Circle Members, Board of Directors, Ranch staff, and local friends are invited to participate in this Annual weekend at the Ranch which consists of Ranch presentations, amazing meals, fun, and celebrations. The weekend culminates with an open Board Meeting and Eucharist. While attending this weekend is not a requirement, we encourage folks to attend for an excellent opportunity to build community and lifelong relationships with others who love and support The Ranch.

More info: bishopsranch.org/acorn



Community Grants Help Make Summer Camps Affordable and Accessible for Local Youth

Special thanks to the following organizations that support Summer Camps at The Ranch:

- **The Maria Kip Orphanage Foundation**, San Rafael, California
- **The Gaurdsmen**, San Francisco, California
- **The Josephine S. Leiser Foundation**, Ft Lauderdale, Florida
- **The Healdsburg Unified School District**, Healdsburg, California
- **The Episcopal Diocese of California**, San Francisco

“This summer was a deep and meaningful journey where many people of all ages gathered, broke bread, and joined in intentional community building.”

—James Goff,
Lead Ranch Hand, Summer Camps

“Our sponsors and summer camp donors make it possible for families and children from all walks of life and from all over the Bay Area and beyond to take part in summer camp.”

—Aaron Wright, Executive Director

Hosting Is Connecting

by Mari Gonzalez, Housekeeping Manager



“One thing I love to do is to learn something new and get the best out of that experience.”

Mari, Housekeeping Manager

My name is Maria González (Mari) and I've been working at The Bishop's Ranch for over 20 years. I am currently the Housekeeping Manager but I have worked in the kitchen and office over the years.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to host a weekend. Learning about the responsibilities of hosting and getting to know The Bishop's Ranch in this way made my job that weekend an experience that helped me better understand why I like working here.

The weekend I hosted I stayed in one of the rooms at Harrison House. My first feeling when I entered the room was that it was calm and peaceful. Everything around was nice and clean, with a king-size bed that was cozy and comfortable. Although my responsibilities as Housekeeping Manager require that I spend some of my time in the different buildings of the Ranch, I often had questions like: why do we have so many wine openers? Why do we need books in the rooms? Or even why is a host important? After my weekend

hosting I discovered why these things and the Ranch employees are so necessary and essential.

Over the weekend, I was asked several times by guests for wine openers, and some books which, by the way, I could not take out of the Ranch library because it was occupied! After many calls from guests, I began to understand why it is important to have a host or employee on call who responds to the needs of guests. By hosting my first weekend, I learned the important lesson that serving and attending to the needs of our guests creates deeper connections with them and with God.

Overall, the experience I had was very nice and I really enjoyed it, so when Aaron asked me if I would like to continue hosting in the future, I said yes! I hope to see you on a future weekend!

Make a Gift to the Annual Fund today!

All aspects of life at The Ranch happen because we are a community. The Annual Fund provides direct support to the operating budget of the Ranch, allowing us to continue as a place where life-changing experiences and treasured memories are born.

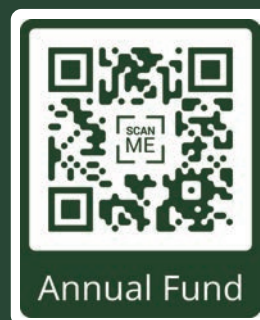
When you support the Annual Fund you help us provide summer camps, increase resilience of Ranch lands, reach out to our community, and offer much needed hospitality and respite to all who visit.

Donate online at bishopsranch.org/donate or scan the QR code below

Mail in a donation or make a pledge using the enclosed remit envelope

Transfer stock or other securities; see instructions at

bishopsranch.org/stocksandsecurities



Share Your Ranch Photos

Sharing your treasured photos from your Ranch experiences is easy!

Just send them to
photos@bishopsranch.org.

Who knows, they could end up in our newsletter, on social media or even on our website.



The Bishop's Ranch

of the Episcopal Diocese of California


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Coming Home Fall 2022

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Recipes from the Ranch

Ranch Tomato Chipotle Gazpacho

Soup Base

- 2 cups canned tomato juice
- 1 cup fresh diced tomatoes
- 1 cup diced cucumber
- 1 cup diced bell peppers
- 1-3 cloves of garlic, to taste
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon lemon or lime juice
- 1 teaspoon honey or sweetener of your choice
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1-3 teaspoons of chipotle peppers*

Salt and Pepper to taste

Soup Garnish

- 2 tablespoons cilantro or parsley
- 1 cup green onions, sliced
- 1 diced avocado

Make the Soup Base the day before to allow the flavors to develop. Put all ingredients into a bowl and gently mix together. Season to taste. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Add the Soup Garnish ingredients one hour before serving and adjust to taste.

** We use the canned Chipotle in Adobo sauce and blend into a paste. Go light the day before since it gets hotter as it sits, then add more the next day after tasting for seasoning.*