

Life Raft - Part 2

The anticipated sequel to Executive Director Sean Swift's Fall 2012 newsletter article.

Samuel took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer—"the stone of help"—for he said, "Up to this point the Lord has helped us!" —1 Samuel 7:12

"Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; And I hope by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home" Captain Richard keeps these lines from a favorite hymn displayed in the cabin of his family's small sloop, the Ebenezer III. When I am down below to help with cooking or look at the chart, I see it on the bulkhead (wall). I like the idea of celebrating coming into safety, to acknowledge help received. I also like the reminder that we are continually in relation with natural forces larger than ourselves, like the sea, wildfires, hurricanes, earthquakes. On deck, a crew member pointed out the unidentified object and we all gathered on the starboard side of the boat to see if we could identify it, hoping it was a whale.



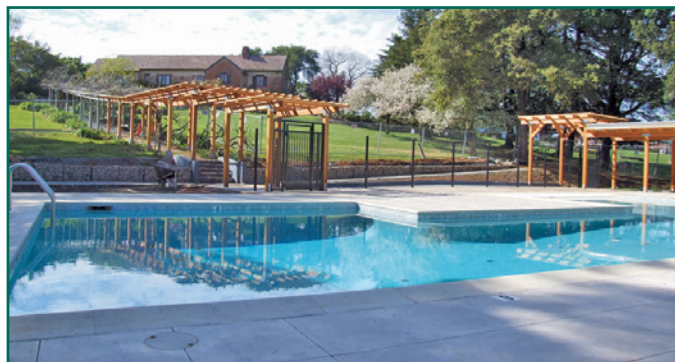
View from Ebenezer III

The sloop, the Ebenezer III, was northbound. We had anchored the night before at Drake's Bay on the Point Reyes peninsula. Many people believe that the English privateer, Francis Drake, careened his galleon, The Golden Hinde, in the estuary here in 1579. This belief is reflected in many place names in Marin County. After anchoring, we stood on the deck and felt a cold wind sweep through a gap in the headlands. I zipped up my jacket and wondered how the anchorage had worked out for the English. They were on the far side of their world, completely unknown to them. On our anchored night in 2012, in the bay named for him, the sky was clear, a blaze of stars forming overhead as the daylight leaked away.

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The End of a Long Dry Spell

by Jack Dowling



New pool with extended, historic arbor and Ranch House in the background

I remember a childhood summer day in the mid-seventies when I came to the Ranch with my family to visit a friend who had recently joined the Franciscan community. We had a picnic lunch, and then the reward for the long drive north came, an afternoon swim.

In those days the pool area was surrounded by a red, woven wood fence, and the decking around the pool still had traces of the aquamarine and red pigment. The memory of this day is so strong in my mind because as I was walking around the pool deciding on the best spot to jump in, I stepped on and was stung by a bee. I leapt in the air and landed in the pool. Immediately the cool water brought a sense of relief, much like the relief thousands of people have felt dipping into that water on hot afternoons at the end of a long day.

Now, forty years later, all the great memories I have that are associated with the pool at the Ranch are heightening my anticipation of the new and improved pool area. I know my expectations will not be let down.

The eighty year old pool with its crumbling deck and the fifty year old changing rooms and leaky roof have been completely removed. In their place is a beautiful new pool complex that includes an expanded concrete and wood deck, wheelchair accessible parking and pathways, and a large shade trellis.

The pool itself is larger, with one sixty foot long side for lap swimming, and two bays on the opposite side. One bay provides a gradual entrance where toddlers

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Creation Speaks by Andrea Foote



*"We give you thanks
O God, for the
goodness and love
which you have
made known to us in
creation..." (BCP 368)*

Through the renewal of body, mind and spirit, time spent at The Bishop's Ranch tends to reveal the goodness and love in our lives. Once outside our daily routine and environment we can be most open to change, to love, and to seeing the goodness in creation and in others.

Whether you live in a city apartment or a suburban house, your surroundings serve as the stage for your life, a background for daily tasks and trials, with endless possibilities for creation. At the Ranch, the spacious beauty and tranquility of God's creation can be a catalyst for coming out of our daily routines. The Sonoma County countryside, the Russian River valley we overlook, the chaparral forests and rolling hills we tromp through alongside cows and campers jolt us out of routine and into "Ranch mode."

This might mean you are reminded you are part of "one body," and an integral part of your community. "Ranch mode" may make you more willing to play a goofy game, try a new art project, or talk to someone you don't know. Being at the Ranch may help you slow down and watch the fog retreat in the morning, energize you to make decisions as a vestry, or give you a receiver to hear the quiet voice of God. Here personal, communal, and spiritual growth is inspired. A muse for creation.

"From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation..." (BCP 370)

This beautiful slice of creation we treasure at the Ranch is more than just host to our rest and play; it teaches lessons and sparks conversations. As a community we will explore these through the lens of "Creation Speaks," the theme for 2013 at The Bishop's Ranch.

During the upcoming spring programs and summer camps we will explore what creation is saying with our reason and skill, as living members of God's creation. As humans we are the "rulers of creation," a role laden with responsibility. What does that mean and how should we act accordingly? I invite you to ponder what creation has said to you at the end of a day. What minute piece of goodness or love are you more thankful for? You may not hear the coyotes howling across the Russian River Valley each night, but the blossom on a tree could be singing the thankful signs of spring.

Join us at the Ranch and make new memories; we have programs for every age. As always, partnership funds are available to make a Ranch visit accessible for all.

Upcoming programs

The **Spring Service Day, May 4**, is an opportunity to do hands-on work with Ranch staff giving back to the place we all love. The fellowship is fun, and opportunities to learn about Ranch operations and maintenance are plenty. Lunch is provided and participants are welcome to camp overnight at no cost.

EcoPilgrimage, June 16-19 is a journey by boat and by foot through the Russian River watershed from The Bishop's Ranch to the Pacific Ocean. For more information see "Summer Camp" on page 3. *Full program details available at www.bishopsranch.org*



EcoPilgrimage 2012



Wanted: Canoes!

Mimi and Charlie Bupp recently donated their canoe to the Ranch. We will put it to great use this summer as part of the EcoPilgrimage flotilla. Do you have a similar vessel, or paddles, gathering dust in your garage? Contact andrea@bishopsranch.org. We will pick it up and provide you with tax donation information!

Summer Camp - A Program for Every Age by Andrea Foote

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2013

EcoPilgrimage- June 16-19
Camp Staff Training- June 24-29
Family Camp- June 30-July 6
Senior High BREAD- July 7-13
Junior High BREAD- July 14-20
Generations- July 21-27
Music Camp- July 29-August 3

Family Camp and Generations are weeks where you can gather at the Ranch with your family, whether that be an immediate family, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or family of choice. Morning programs and chapel times provide structure with a balance of afternoons free to roam the hills, take a swim, cool off in the art center, or join a pickup softball game. Both camps offer evening activities to strengthen your

family's ties with each other and the larger community.

BREAD and Music Camps let youth leave their family, friends, and school life behind. At camp, the Ranch's mature and well-trained camp staff create a community each week where campers are able to be their authentic selves. Campers will explore the Ranch countryside, create art, be part of a cabin and small group, sing songs, laugh around campfires, and explore their faith with fun and engaging chaplains. Evenings hold some fun all-camp surprise activities. Participants this summer will be the first campers to enjoy water activities in our NEW SWIMMING POOL!

The EcoPilgrimage is a trip by boat and by foot through the Russian River watershed from The Bishop's Ranch to the Pacific Ocean. Now in its third year, the pilgrimage was a huge success in 2012, and we are excited about this expanding program. You will paddle the Russian River, learn about native species, the effects of industrial agriculture in Sonoma County, sing and pray in camp each night while you rest with fellow pilgrims, camp in the forest and end up on the beach. This is primarily an adult program, however young pilgrims 15-17 are welcome with a parent or adult companion. Please see full program details on our website.

I look forward to welcoming your family and children to camp this summer. Ample scholarship is available through our Partnership Fund to allow everyone a camp experience at the Ranch. I am happy to discuss the program via phone or email; contact me anytime. andrea@bishopsranch.org (707) 433-2440x133

Registration materials are downloadable from our website: www.bishopsranch.org/camps.html



Team Yellow at Generations Olympics Summer 2012

Pool, continued from page 1

can play and people can get in and out without using the ladders. The other bay, at the deep end, allows for playing games without disturbing lap swimmers.

To replace the changing rooms, two new bathrooms with showers have been built at the St. John's Meeting House. As a result, the south end of the pool area is open for landscaping and makes the St. Stephen's Youth Village (the Cottage area) feel more expansive and connected to the rest of the Ranch.

At the time of writing this, the pool project is just a few weeks from completion. It is primarily an effort to improve an aspect of our hospitality, making the Ranch better equipped to serve our 8,000 guests each year. We have been offered the gift of generosity. To date, over 200 donations and pledges totaling \$783,000 have been made towards the \$950,000 needed to complete the project.

There is currently a generous matching challenge which will double any gift or pledge made. *See side bar for paving stone information.*

I invite you to join me now in supporting this project, and to join me later this year for a refreshing and relaxing time at the new pool area.

The Bishop's Ranch Board of Directors

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Jan Slaby
Incarnation, Santa Rosa
Sean Swift
The Bishop's Ranch



A donation of \$1,000 or more gives you the opportunity to have an inscribed paver installed at the entrance to the pool. The handsome bluestone pavers are ideal for honoring friends or family, or making an inscription in memory of a loved one. Help us to our goal and put your name or group name in the picture!

The Bishop's Ranch Staff

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Robin Miller
Pedro Morales
Eleanor Nichols
Rosalva Nuno Aguirrea
Robert Olsen
Ivan Thorpe

Employees are listed in their primary work group. Several work in more than one function.

Coming Home

A bi-annual newsletter about life at The Bishop's Ranch, a retreat and conference center for all ages.

Send correspondence and address corrections to:
The Bishop's Ranch
Coming Home
5297 Westside Road
Healdsburg, CA 95448
Tel. 707-433-2440
Fax. 707-433-3431
email: info@bishopsranch.org
www.bishopsranch.org

AmeriCorps Team - Silver 2

The Bishop's Ranch has been blessed through an ongoing relationship with AmeriCorps NCCC, a national service program. Four teams of volunteers have now worked and lived at the Ranch, and left a lasting impression on the grounds, trails and buildings, as well as the staff community. Below is a report from our most recent team, Silver 2 on their experience so far in AmeriCorps.



Silver 2 Team

Life in AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps is a wild ride and our team, Silver 2, is glad to have been granted the opportunity to live and work at The Bishop's Ranch. Our program is a ten-month commitment during which teams of young adults ranging in age from 18-24 are assigned to four service projects throughout the Western Pacific Region. Our first round was an unexpected disaster relief project for Super Storm Sandy in New York, New York, and our second round has been here at the Ranch, doing primarily environmental stewardship and conservation.

During our first round we provided service under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with the Super Storm Sandy Relief effort. We mucked and gutted homes, canvassed neighborhoods, distributed donations, and managed volunteers. For most of our project, we lived on a Merchant Marine ship in Staten Island. The work was challenging and changed daily, but the constant reminder of devastation lingered in the back of all of our minds, motivating us to push through and assist in any way we could. Three of our teammates were chosen to speak at a conference in Manhattan with the CEO of the Corporation of National and Community Service, Wendy Spencer. Silver 2 went into our project

by Greta Ashworth & Joshua Vetter

not knowing what to expect, a bit scared and even excited to be near a big city. But after our five weeks of service, each and every one of us grew from the experience and felt lucky to have been pioneers to following teams.

The team was elated to discover that our second round project would be spent living and working at The Bishop's Ranch doing environmental stewardship and conservation. This has been our first normal project round, and aside from learning about the impact of this kind of work, the team is adjusting to new routines and personal responsibilities that will be carried out until the end of our AmeriCorps term. It has been rejuvenating to experience the wholesome and relaxing atmosphere of the Ranch. In New York we were on our toes at all times, poised for new challenges to appear at any moment. It has been wonderful to now have a regular routine, to settle into the Ranch community with familiar and welcoming people to interact with every day. While we have been at the Ranch, Silver 2 has constructed several check dams such as gabion baskets for erosion control, done trail work, fuels reduction, and facilities maintenance. We have worked on the pool project, with apple trees in Gina's Orchard, and developing the new patio outside the Art Center.

Our stay here has been beyond pleasant. It has been fantastic to have a majority of our meals cooked for us at the Refectory and to be able to live in the Ranch facilities. Besides the luxurious conditions of our stay, we have had the chance to learn and grow under the leadership of our Team Leader, Jason Linguanti and the maintenance staff, Doug Wade, Rick Kaye and Thor Bjornestad. This has been a great opportunity to learn about ourselves and our team. We are looking forward to utilizing the skills we have gained here on future projects. We will be sad to leave, but happy that we have learned so much! Much thanks to The Bishop's Ranch!

Visit the website at AmeriCorps.gov to learn more.



Silver 2 levels art patio

The Fundamentals of Renewal – The Ranch Annual Fund

Fundamental – relating to the underlying principles or structure of something; serving as an essential part of something; in music, relating to the lowest note of a chord in root position, the note that gives the chord its basic harmony.



Although the Ranch is a non-profit institution organized for religious and educational purposes, it has a mandate to operate on a firm business foundation. It was decided in the 1980's that the sustainable way to become a place where spirit, mind and body are renewed is to take in as much money through

guest fees and donations as is spent on providing services to guests. In this way, the Ranch would avoid an indebted future burdensome to the people of the diocese. Like a traditional chord played on a piano or a guitar, strong lower notes resonating powerfully provide the field where the harmony is sustained. The high goal of fostering spiritual renewal is supported by the practical business of paying our way.

The efforts of providing hospitality—comfortable rooms, good food, well trained and caring staff, of looking after well-loved buildings and beautiful land—are ongoing and considerable. These costs complicate a central Ranch purpose of being open to all, regardless of financial means. Costs of providing services such as insurance, buying food, paying staff can create a gap between the actual costs of operating the Ranch and income from guest fees. Bridging this gap is addressed by Ranch leadership in two ways: one is the creation and use of the Partnership Fund, which provides scholarships to children attending camp or to adults and children attending weekend retreats; the second is through the Ranch Annual Fund, which asks those who believe in the Ranch to make a tax-deductible financial gift in addition to use fees they may have paid. Their gifts help keep the Ranch open, well cared for and hospitable.

The Ranch Annual Fund helps keep the lights on. It heats the water and keeps the rooms warm in winter. It buys equipment that help the staff be more efficient,

such as a new food processor in the kitchen. Or it replaces a worn out faucet, buys light bulbs, purchases new bed spreads or a water heater to replace an old one in the Ranch House. The fund provides training sessions for staff, or buys a new chain saw for bringing in firewood. The Ranch Annual Fund provides a great host of critical things that help create a welcoming environment.

Under the leadership of a talented, volunteer Advancement Committee, the Ranch has set specific goals for the Annual Fund. The effort to let people know about Ranch operating costs began in January with the goal of finding 525 households by year-end to donate to the fund and help keep the Ranch operating well. So far, 97 generous households have donated and \$48,177 has been raised! Donations of any size are welcome, it's the people who respond that make this effort successful. Please join your thoughtful, fellow Ranch supporters and consider a donation to the fund. You can aid the hardworking Advancement Committee reach a worthy goal to make the Ranch a more welcoming place for all!

After the first of the year in 2014 an Annual Fund report will be issued with a list of all the Annual Fund donors in 2013. A pledge envelope is included with the newsletter for your convenience. Please do not hesitate to contact the Ranch office if you have questions or would like additional information.

What is the daily cost to run the Ranch? It costs:
 \$198 per day to keep the lights and heaters on,
 \$378 per day to provide food for the kitchen staff to turn into meals,
 \$53 per day to provide clean linens,
 \$168 per day to provide maintenance and housekeeping supplies, including toilet paper.

Good stewardship of land and facilities now, ensures that future generations are able to enjoy the Ranch.

(figures based on 2012 expenses)

Hallelujah for volunteers! Wouldn't you like to be one too?



Men of Grace
volunteers

By the time you read this issue of Coming Home the most recent AmeriCorps NCCC team, Silver 2, will have moved on from the Ranch after committing over 3,500 collective hours to our service. The Men of Grace have a long history of volunteering, and service to the Ranch is a tradition for our summer camps. Youth groups from St. James, San Francisco as well as all over the Alameda Deanery devoted mission trips to Ranch projects in summer 2012. You can volunteer too, bring your parishioners, youth, men's, or women's group, family and friends.

"Like" The Bishop's Ranch on Facebook for even more photos of projects in-progress. Contact Andrea Foote, Camp Director and Volunteer Coordinator to discuss other group volunteer options.

andrea@bishopsranch.org

Legacy Circle - An Interview with Gloria Bayne

Gloria Bayne has been a part of The Bishop's Ranch family since 1968, and has long been active in her support of the Ranch. A founding member of the Legacy Circle, Gloria shared with us many of her memories of the Ranch in an interview with Caroline De Catur Putnam.



Gloria Bayne plays badminton at parish retreat

What is your earliest memory of The Bishop's Ranch?

My husband, Henry Bayne, and I, and our three young children, Steven (9), Lisa (7) and Gordon (3) attended the Clergy Conference for the first time in 1968. We fell in love with the Ranch on our first visit and returned many summers after that, either to the Clergy Conference or by renting Kip Cottage for our family. There was no better vacation place. When grandchildren came along, we took them to the Ranch too. They looked forward to going, whether accompanying us on a parish retreat or on our own as a family.

What is your favorite season at The Bishop's Ranch?

Late fall, when the persimmon tree has no leaves but persimmons hanging.

Where is your favorite view?

From the chapel lawn, across to Mt. St. Helena.

Where is your favorite corner of the Ranch?

There was a space that isn't there any more: there was a little pond with a bench between the chapel and the Refectory, a secluded place with a gate on it.

What is your favorite dish in the Refectory?

It's hard to say what my favorite dish is because so many of them are delicious. The multigrain hot cereal is one I look forward to having at breakfast. Many of the dishes in The Abundant Table cookbook are among my favorites at home as well as at the Ranch. I just finished making rosemary-garlic chicken from the cookbook.

Which is your favorite chapel window?

I attended the dedication of the earliest windows donated by Nancy Markell in memory of her husband, Dr. Ed Markell, a physician who specialized in infectious diseases. It's the one with the malaria mosquito in it. Whenever I have occasion to show the windows to friends, I always ask them to find the mosquito.

How has the Ranch changed since you first visited?

There are more buildings now. When we went in

1968 only the Ranch House, Kip Cottage, and the Refectory were there along with a couple of small cabins, I think. In the early days there was a caretaker who was responsible for maintaining the buildings. Then the Franciscan brothers were there for several years, looking after the place. The Revs. Joe Pummill and Peter Farmer, and Mark Farmer followed the Brothers. When Mark resumed being Director of only St. Dorothy's, Sean Swift became the Director of the Ranch. Sean has been an incredible and outstanding leader for the Ranch for over 23 years. All the staff is very welcoming, ensuring we feel comfortable and cared for.

Do you prefer program retreats, parish retreats, or personal retreats?

I've done them all: I've been there with friends for overnights; my book club went there a couple of times for a weekend; we had two family reunions there, and we also had a weekend with the godparents of the children. And I like the parish retreats because it is a great way to get better acquainted with fellow parishioners.

There's a wonderful photo from our parish retreat (All Souls, Berkeley) last year of you playing badminton with young fellow parishioners. Can you tell us about that game?

Badminton was one of my favorite sports in high school, and I couldn't resist picking up a racquet to play with seven-year old Ben Brochard, who was holding a racquet waiting for someone to join him. Other young fellows joined us and we gave it a good shot with a promise that we will try again at some other time.

You may not know that I also played ping-pong with Jennifer Ying (who is in her twenties), and I beat her!

What is it about the Ranch that inspired you to join the Legacy Circle?

The Ranch is a place that should go on forever. It should be preserved for families, parishes, and personal retreats as a quiet, inviting environment and 'a place where lives are changed.'

We thank Gloria for her forty-plus years of passion and dedication to The Bishop's Ranch, for all her gifts, and for taking time to give this interview.



Remember The Bishop's Ranch in your will or estate plan. Contact the Advancement Office at 707.433.2440 x105 or visit www.bishopsranch.org/planned_Gifts.html for additional information.



View of Mt St Helena

DONATIONS OF REAL GOODS

Anonymous, linens
 Bryce Austin, apples
 Mr. Miguel Ayala, t-shirts
 Ruth Bland, LCD projector
 Susan Blomberg, linens
 Tamara Borok, linens
 Mimi Bupp, canoe with equipment
 Fran Carlson, linens
 Joan Dedo, cookbook
 James and Meredith Dreisback, linens
 Jordan Enev, copier, printer, scanner, fax machine and TV
 Jim and Janelle Fazackerley, 23 first aid books
 Pamela Galloway, linens
 Laurie Glover, atlas
 Carol Glover, chairs
 Maria and Angel Gonzalez, ping pong paddles, vacuum cleaner
 Barry and Eleanor Hotchkies, linens
 Men of Grace, "tree houses" by Philip Jodidio
 Henry H. and Carole Jan Lee, linens and

kitchen supplies
 Candace and James Martin, assorted household items
 Marcia McCowin, entertainment
 Jean McMaster, linens
 Mr. and Mrs. Bud Moak, home-grown vegetables
 Willa and Stuart Pettygrove, linens
 Christopher and Caroline Putnam, linens
 Ray and Bill Riess, linens, ping pong paddles, ping pong balls
 St. John's, Ross, meeting space
 St. Luke's, San Francisco, meeting space
 The Rt. Rev. and Mrs. William E. Swing, toaster and potholder
 Dickson Yeager, coffee maker
 Adrienne Yee, linens
 Brian Sullivan and Gayle Okumura Sullivan, peaches
 Lisa Thorpe, quilt for raffle
 Norman and Martha Wohlken, espresso maker

Gifts given to The Bishop's Ranch in Honor, Memory or Thanksgiving

Gloria Bayne in memory of the Rev. Henry Bayne
 Susan Bergesen in memory of Ollie the cat
 Estelle Marie Bertolucci in memory of Harry Bertolucci
 Elaine W. Betts in memory of Darby Betts
 Becky Blessing in honor of BREAD and Music Camps
 The Rev. Mary B. Blessing in honor of Rebecca Ann Blessing
 Sarah Booth in memory of Corwin L Booth
 Tom and Margaret Bowman in memory of Leslie Bowman Marcus
 Mimi Bupp in loving memory of Randy Bupp
 Barbara H. Cadwalader in loving memory of Burns Cadwalader
 Patricia Clarke in thanksgiving for the horseshoe pit
 Helen Connolley in memory of Earl, George and John Connolley
 Lindsey Crittenden in gratitude for the Ranch and its staff
 The Rev. Dwight and Rosi Edwards in thanksgiving for Patty Ford on her birthday
 The Rev. Dwight and Rosi Edwards in honor of Dick and Patty Ford
 Anonymous in memory of Donald August Holm
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul A.D. Evans in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ian H. Bradford
 Arlene Finn in memory of her dear mother, Mary Katz
 Bob and Ann Fletcher in memory of Jenny Fletcher
 Robert E. Gilchrist in memory of Gay Kenny
 Barbara B. Girard in memory of Jerry Girard
 Shelley Hird in memory of Jack Carter
 Beverly Vaughn Hock in memory of Louise S. Vaughn
 Laurell Ingham in memory of Timothy Ingham and the Rev. Henry Bayne
 Randa Jacobs in fond memory of my Colorado friends
 The Rev. Dorothy L. Jamison in honor of Richard Ford

Steven and Malaney Johnides in honor of Reverend Everett and Gloria Powell
 Ron Johnson in memory of Rosalie Johnson
 Anonymous in memory of Father Bart Sarjeant
 Sidney and Susan Kass with thanks to the kitchen staff
 Mrs. Mary S. Kimball in honor of Mark Fassett's assistance
 Vicki Kramer in memory of Jack Kramer
 Virginia Leary given in memory of husband Bob
 Henry H. and Carole Jan Lee in memory of Winston Ching
 Richard and Kathy Leslie in thanksgiving for the birth of Matthew Eckian Leslie
 Chuck and Kate MacLellan in memory of Rachel Higgins
 Alice Macondray in memory of Leslie Marcus, Jose Ramirez, and Ron Rausch
 Dale Madden in memory of Barbara Granat
 Jerry and Maura Maloof in honor of Sean, Caroline, Calen, and Brendan Swift
 Chris Markell in memory of Edward Markell and Anne Markell
 Julie and Sam Marty in memory of Tim Goman
 Jerry and Claire McCleery in honor of Bland W. Cannon, Esq
 Sue and Ron McNaughton in memory of Winnie Anderson
 Eric and Jessica Metoyer in memory of Kirstin Paisley
 Mr. Paul J. Miller in honor of Robin Miller
 Robert B. and Shirley A. Mitchell in memory of Becky Mitchell Meshna
 Joe and Mary Morganti in memory of Robin Powell
 Matt and Laura O'Connor in memory of Trevor, Ruth, Tom, and Evelyn
 Elita M. Park in honor of Stephen and Elita Park
 Ms. Marianne Philipp in memory of Albert Vann
 Connie and Frank Prim in loving memory of Lori Bond Keech

L. Dale Ralston in honor of Judy Fjell, director of Women Making Music
 Ann Robertson Ingram in honor of Emily Robertson Hood
 Sam and Helen Sause in memory of our son David Sause who loved the Ranch
 Jill Shira in thanksgiving for the life of Fr. Bill Fay
 Dan and Marti Sundeen in memory of Carl W. Schwahn, Jr.
 Pamela Dodd Tate in memory of Gayle Simons
 Cathy Thompson in memory of Frank Thompson
 Ken and Elizabeth Thompson in honor of SFSF
 Suzanne and Russ DeVore in honor of BREAD Camp
 Bob and Roberta Tomkinson in honor of Bishop William Swing
 Tom and Roxanna Trutner in memory of The Rev. Doug Warren
 Tom and Theresa Wajnert in honor of H.T. (Lin) Knight
 The Yee Family of Alameda, CA in honor of The Rev. Dr. Fran Toy
 Margery A. Ward in memory of Herb Ward and in thanksgiving for family

IN HONOR OF GENERATIONS CAMP

Walton Chang and Linda James, Deanna and Kam Chang
 Jack Dowling and Lisa Thorpe
 Jim and Janelle Fazackerley
 The Rev. Vanessa Glass and Mr. Michael Glass
 Don and Lyn Klein
 Bruce and Beth MacLean
 Craig Perlov and Dorothy Dickey
 Michael and Jennifer Robinson
 David and Leslie Ross
 Dodd and Mary Thorpe

IN HONOR OF DAVID AND BETSY DERUFF

Laurie Glover
 Kathy Henry and Karen Hager
 Brian and Tracy Haughton
 Kirk Schneider and Jurate Raulinaitis

Thank you for gifts to the Ranch's annual operations and development!

Gifts and pledges were made to the Annual Fund, Pool Area Renovation, Partnership (scholarship) Fund, the Treehouse Fund, the Spiritual Life Fund, Swing Pavilion project and much more...

Leah Ableson
Sandra J. Ahn
The Rev. Harry R. Allagree
The Rev. Susan Allison-Hatch
Dave, Kat, Patrick and Deedee Anderson
Steve Andrew
Emily and Dolph Andrews
Marc and Sheila Andrus
Anonymous (25)
Jerry and Pat Arrigoni
Kayleen Asbo
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd W. Aubry
Nancy Austin
Chris and Anne Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher R. Ball
Ms. Ruth Baney
The Rev. J. Barrington Bates
Margery Becker
Robert and Suzanne Bell
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The Rev. Machrina L. Blasdel
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Guests enjoying lunch on Refectory patio

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Life Raft, continued from page 1

Our captain woke his crew in the early dark next morning in preparation for the substantial upwind sail to the marina at Bodega Bay. As in Drake's time, sea conditions off the Point Reyes peninsula are unpredictable, complicated by the reality that traveling north on this coast generally means sailing against wind and current. I'm sure Drake and crew would have given a lot for a navigation chart of Pt. Reyes showing the depth soundings—such as the one in the cabin of the Ebenezer. Thus we passed the bell buoy that marks Drake's Bay quite early and moved offshore a few miles under sail, on the lookout for dolphins and whales, the sea fairly rough, the sky overcast. As the morning wore on the Point Reyes light slipped slowly by. Around the lighthouse sheer cliffs rose from the water and northward the immensely long sandy beach came into view, backed by lower bluffs or dunes. Two sailboats that had left Drake's Bay after us were also headed north and we watched their sails on the horizon with interest, noting their progress as one passed inside closer to the land and one far outside. They were using engines as well as sails and since we were using only sail power they slowly gained on us. We loved being under sail, the boat responding beautifully to the wind and waves in a process of continual adjustment. It was around that time that we spotted the floating object. The captain altered course in toward the land to investigate. As we moved closer to the object the bulk of the land behind rose higher on the horizon. Breaking surf flung water high and white over the rocks that lined the shore. We could now see over the ever-changing surface of the sea that the object was not a whale. A little later we could see what it was. Normally talkative, we fell silent, staring. In the sudden absence of conversation I noticed the sound of the waves on the hull, lines tapping the mast, the creaking of wood and fiberglass, the bite in the wind coming over the chilly water. It was a small boat, a raft; it lifted on a wave and we saw it was a gray and black life raft. There was no one on board—nothing except seawater sloshing around a crushed wooden seat, no oars or motor in sight. Though emergency life rafts today are generally round or square, with

some kind of inflatable covering, this oblong craft still brought the term "life raft" to my mind. Here it was, on its own. I realized that on the sea a built object without its human speaks of absence, a kind of terrible absence that a lost object can communicate, especially one that is meant to preserve life. We scanned the surface of the sea all around, looking for some clue as to why the raft drifted there. There might be a buoy perhaps for crab pots or a diver, or another boat nearby, or people waving on the beach. There was nothing. The captain brought us close enough for the boathook to grasp a shredded line that was trailing from the raft and we brought the mystery under tow. Later we hauled it up close to the stern of the sloop, bringing its bow out of the water so that it would not slow our progress. It was about eight feet long, rectangular but with rounded bow and stern: that classic life raft shape. Looking at it, we had great curiosity as to how it came there. At the same time, we almost didn't want to speculate.

"That's good copy, Ebenezer Three", the coastguard radio monitor replied, repeating what the Captain had said. "Good Copy" seemed to be the phrase that affirms clear radio reception and the monitor repeated it after every transmission received. "What is your location? We'll do some checking and get back." For the next hour the captain was on the radio off and on, answering the questions of the coast guard. The lost life raft remained a mystery. The coast guard had no reports about it and were somewhat concerned. We continued our sail north over the rough seas. Then a call for the Ebenezer Three came on the radio monitoring channel. The captain answered and suggested a free channel where they could talk freely. The caller had a deep, practiced radio voice, call sign "Swagman". The ketch Swagman had set out from Seattle with a crew of two on a cruise to Mexico. After passing through the straits of Juan de Fuca she turned south down the west coast of North America, putting in at ports along the way. One afternoon, off of Humboldt Bay, a freak wave reared out of the sea and crashed over the stern. The shocking power of the water shook the ketch, the crew held on while the water poured over. It must have been a scramble as the crew checked for damages, putting things to rights. In the confusion they did not notice right away that their



Tall ship of Drake's day



Map of Pt. Reyes peninsula

continued on page 11

Life Raft, continued from page 10

dinghy was missing, a heavy rubber inflatable about eight feet long that looks like a life raft. The wave had broken it from its lashings and taken it away. The valuable raft was gone for good, they thought. They put into port and rested, taking in the comforts of land that seem so large when one has spent some time on the sea. How wonderful to have a stable platform for cooking dinner, where there is a toilet and shower, dry clothes, the assurance of safety. However, the little life raft did not rest. In the dark, guided by waves, wind and currents, it carried on.

No matter about preparations or firm decisions I make, my plans generally turn out differently than I envisioned, sometimes very differently. I find myself musing about control in my life and work or the illusion of control, about the strong influence of unknown factors. I thoroughly believe in reams of planning, but still, a project seems to have a life and timing of its own. Too much planning can bog a project down; too little can lead to disaster. When planning a mountain backpacking trip, it is important to study the maps until you have a clear understanding of elevation changes, trail conditions and the work it will take to traverse the country. On the other hand, for me it's important to remain flexible and leave room to follow a creek up the beautiful valley that you can't imagine until you see it. At the Ranch in the 1990's, the treehouse project was never planned in more than an off-the-cuff way. When people actually gathered on site with tools and energy and ready to work was when the planning actually was done. The treehouse developed as it went—at times against the resistance of Ranch leaders, including myself. The result was a tremendously loved place. Thousands of people visited and found inspiration there in the twenty years of existence of this perhaps most talked-about Ranch feature ever. It seemed to have its own current, its own flow. I hope the rebuilding of the treehouse will also gather its own momentum, but it is part of my thoughts about how we try to shape things and how they seem to shape themselves. On the radio, our captain and the Swagman became confident that our mystery vessel, the life raft, belonged to them. Now Swagman would set out from Bodega Bay marina, where they had been in harbor, and head out to sea toward the southwest. We would set a converging course and meet at sea.

I think there is absolutely no substitute for planning and preparation for a trip at sea. However, the sea is its own universe. As the ketch Swagman rested in port, the life raft did not. Alone, occasionally acting as a resting place for pelicans, who left their calling cards in white streaks on its sides, it continued south along the jagged coast.



Pelican gliding overhead

Its power was that supplied by the ocean and the atmosphere, what we would call random forces. When we came upon the dinghy it had travelled further than the

Swagman, a few hours sail south of where the

Swagman was berthed at Bodega Bay. The drifting raft, without propulsion or steering, had made better progress in the chosen direction than the mother ship.

On the horizon to the northwest we saw the two masts of a ketch which soon came into sight, a much larger boat than the Ebenezer. We waved to the two men on board and they waved back. Using the boathook and lines, the life raft was transferred back to its owners. The captain of the Swagman, bound for Mexico, invited us to come down south, they would treat us to a beer. We decided to continue north and eventually planned to hoist one of our own to their good luck. Plans, though, I've learned that sailors are cautious of plans. For now I hold in my mind the Golden Hinde and the Swagman, absence and flexibility, and courtesy of Captain Richard and Samuel, the Ebenezer, the stone of help.

The Bishop's Ranch Wish List

Camps and Programs:

- Costumes or unique clothing items for costume room
- Multi-passenger vehicles ie; minivan, Suburban, etc.
- Canoes or kayaks, in good condition
- Adult life vests

Housekeeping:

- Sheets, twin or double, in excellent condition
- Towels and washcloths, in excellent condition

- Vacuum cleaners
- Carpet shampooer
- Maintenance/grounds:**
- Belt grinder, metal working
- Blacksmithing tools
- Chainsaw – Stihl MS261, 20" bar
- Landscape materials: large boulders, soil, pavers
- Lumber, good quality new or reclaimed
- Water trailer, 500 gallon
- Wood planer, 12" electric

A monetary or in-kind gift for an item on the Wish List helps Ranch guests have a more comfortable and productive stay, and helps the Ranch staff improve services to guests.

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From "*the abundant table*" - Recipes from The Bishop's Ranch Kitchen

Ginger SNAPS

Studded with chunks of candied ginger, these gingersnaps feature the classic crackled top, shimmering with turbinado sugar. Makes 4 dozen cookies

- 3/4 cups (1 1/2 cubes) unsalted butter, melted
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 2 medium eggs, beaten
- 4 cups unbleached flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 heaping teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 heaping teaspoons ground ginger
- 2 teaspoons ground cloves
- 1/4 cup candied ginger, chopped
- 1 cup turbinado sugar to dip cookies in

In a small saucepan, melt the butter over low heat. Let cool slightly.

In the large bowl of an electric mixer or by hand, beat the melted butter and sugar until light and creamy. Add the molasses and beaten eggs and beat until well blended.

In another bowl, sift together the flour, salt, soda, cinnamon, ginger, and cloves. Add the flour mixture to the egg-sugar mixture. Add the candied ginger and stir with a wooden spoon until thoroughly incorporated. The cookies can be formed and baked now or for easier handling you can let the dough chill in the refrigerator for 1 hour before forming.

Remove the dough from the refrigerator. Line baking sheets with parchment paper or lightly grease the pans with shortening. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Place turbinado or white sugar in a shallow bowl next to the dough. Scoop about 1 tablespoon dough with a spoon or 7-ounce cookie scoop and roll into a ball. Dip one side of the dough ball into the sugar and place on baking sheet, sugar side up. Flatten slightly with fingertips. Space 2 inches apart, as these cookies spread out while baking.

Bake for 10 to 15 minutes or until cookie has risen and fallen, is dark golden brown, and has a cracked appearance on top. You can control whether they are crispy or chewy by varying the baking time. A shorter baking time will yield a chewier cookie. Let cool a few minutes on cookie sheets before removing to racks for further cooling.