

Coyote Cutting My Back Trail

by Sean Swift, Executive Director



Hummingbird rests in a fruit tree

On a sunny morning the hummingbirds and butterflies come for the nectar in the flowering plants by the Swing Hospitality Pavilion, swallows tilt in the air and foraging quail call from the thickets just beyond. Western bluebirds raised their young in nesting boxes down the hill and on the veranda

floor I am about to clean up an unwelcome souvenir a gray fox left during the night. At breakfast the maintenance crew were telling me they have trapped several raccoons for relocation to a faraway place out of reach of the Ranch, because that family has developed an overwhelming fondness for the trash collection area. Here at the Ranch there are constant reminders that this land represents food and home shelter for many who share this land with us. Not long ago I was reminded of this in a different way.

The trees shading the little creek canyon creaked in the strong wind, the sounds covering my inept attempts to walk quietly over sticks and leaves. I came into an open place, a small bowl formed by grassy ridges, and was surprised to see a half-grown coyote laying in the sun about twenty feet away. She was on her side, legs stretched in my direction, the gusts of wind ruffling her beautiful dense fur, black at the tips but tawny underneath. I noticed her long legs, and the gray pads of her paws before she expelled a breath of air, sat up and yawned like a sleepy child. Her eyes fell on me and in an instant she was no longer a child. I was standing as still as I could, but saw her body tense, her eyes take on age, knowledge, and at the same time a focus: it seemed to have something to do with guilt at being caught out, but even more with reproach and deep distrust. The wind was blowing from her to me and she wasn't

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A Team Effort

by Jack Dowling, Operations Director

Many mornings, I walk with our dog, Lucky, down to Westside Road to get the paper. On my trek I observe many of the great projects that our Facilities and Land team have accomplished along with the help of many volunteers and Americorps crews.

Walking along Harrison House, I pass a bank of native grasses planted to stem the erosion that was occurring. I also notice the wood trellis that was built to cradle the roses growing below the deck. A little further on, beyond the towering corn in Francisco's garden is the rustic, split-rail fence built by BREAD campers, and the walking trail that leads to the Pavilion and Refectory that was constructed by volunteers.



Doug Wade power washes chapel

I take in other landscaping and building projects as I continue up the driveway. Then, with the morning sun's illumination, I appreciate two of our most recent projects, the freshly painted chapel, and the level, shaded Art Center patio. The white chapel that is the centerpiece of the Ranch property was looking a



Americorps team admires their work after leveling art center patio

bit dingy. Ranch Foreman, Doug Wade, arranged a boom lift and power washer to give the building a good cleaning. In the process it was discovered that what seemed to

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Many thanks for your support! page 8

New Camp

by Andrea Foote



BREAD camps for students in Jr. and Sr. High have been held at the Ranch for over 20 years. In 2014 we will offer a camp for campers entering 4th, 5th, and 6th grades called

BREAD 1. BREAD 1 will weave all the usual camp favorites of swimming and dibble, nature hikes, arts and crafts, cabin bonding, daily campfires, dynamic chaplains and counselors with BREAD traditions and will be a shorter week designed for a younger age group. This camp is meant to be an introduction into the BREAD program. We hope your child will join the fun! Please pass the word along to members in your congregation, neighborhood or school.

SUMMER PROGRAMS 2014

Camp Staff Training- June 23-28

Family Camp- June 30-July 5

Generations- July 6-12

BREAD 1- July 14-19

campers entering 4,5,6 grades

BREAD 3- July 20-26

campers entering 10,11,12 grades

BREAD 2- July 27-2

campers entering 7,8,9 grades

"Almost Heaven, The Bishop's Ranch" by Andrea Foote



Bread 3 campers sporting "Creation Speaks" t-shirts

One of my favorite things about camp is the spontaneous, round-the-clock, exuberant singing. The 2013 Camp Staff was an especially musical group. They wrote Ranch specific lyrics to John Denver's "Take

Me Home, Country Roads," complete with banjo and guitar accompaniment. Needless to say the resounding lines "Westside road, take me home, to the place where I belong," became a staple at campfires and subsequent talent shows.

Over 300 people found a place to belong at the Ranch during the 2013 summer camp season. With "Creation Speaks,"

as a unifying theme for the whole summer, our creative chaplains found innovative ways to engage campers each morning and evening.



Staff vs. Camper capture the flag

During camp I almost daily find myself smiling, sometimes laughing and crying too, during moments of a camp chapel service. As the summer unfolds and each chaplain finds ways to weave the theme and Holy Spirit into our midst, I can visibly watch the campers and staff become a closer community.

The theme and stories are similar each week, but presented in a fresh way for each age group. Jr. High campers could be found building obstacle courses on the cool tile of the chapel floor. One hundred Family Campers enacted a (terrifying!) storm that echoed around the Chapel walls and ceiling. Sr. High campers routinely say their "Quest Groups," breakout groups with questions prompted by chaplains, are a sacred part of their camp



Generations Camp night swim and luau

experience. Generations campers engaged in their families through artistic responses. Music Campers processed around the Ranch triumphantly, and covered the chapel walls with their prayers.

Of course we took full advantage of our new swimming pool! Non-stop afternoon dibble games, nightswims, and innovative weekly "H2Olympics," were standout activities.

Campers and staff took part in service projects all around the Ranch, exploratory playful hikes through the countryside, boisterous campfires, and joyfully, emotional closing Eucharists. There were even a few blacksmiths in our midst.

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Almost Heaven continued from page 2

Every camper was able to silk screen their own t-shirt in an array of paint colors, and many of them were tie-dyed as well. By the end of each week there was a rainbow of camp shirts on the Ranch and in farewell photos.



BREAD Camp Water Olympics

Once the summer comes to a close and the school and work routines become rote, warm summer memories can seem distant. As the vineyards change colors here along Westside Road the Ranch Program Committee and I are actively planning for Summer 2014! We are excited to announce a new camp, BREAD 1 for campers entering 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. The Intergenerational Camps are early in the summer, with all Youth Camps following. See www.bishopsranch.org in January for registration materials and camp staff applications.

Team Effort continued from page 1

be dirt was in fact places where the paint had worn away. We called Steve Devine, our go-to painter and because it had just been washed he gave us a discounted price. Steve did a beautiful job and his price was fair, but the cost had not been built into this year's budget. Here is where the team effort comes in. Because of the success of the 2012 Annual Fund we were able to set aside money for unexpected maintenance projects. So it wasn't just the facilities team, or Steve's skill that beautified the chapel, but also the support of the 532 people that made an Annual Fund contribution.

The Art Center was established in 1997 as a place for people to explore their creativity. It is an intimate space that is great for individuals or small groups. When larger groups want to use the space they need to move outside the Art Center. In the past that area was sloped and uneven with tree roots and gopher mounds. In the summer, to temper the harsh mid-day sun, umbrellas sprouted up, taking some of the limited space. Resident Artist, Lisa Thorpe dreamed of a flat, shaded space where she could lead group art activities.

Last year when the old, gnarled acacia tree came down it seemed we could finally create a patio. Plans were developed, but it was a project that Doug and his crew could not pull off without help. That help came in two forms. The first was Silver 2, the Americorps crew that stayed and worked with us from January to April. They worked over the course of a couple weeks to excavate and level the area, install gopher wire and weed cloth, spread base rock and a layer of wood chips. They landscaped the slope below the new patio with native grasses and created a retaining wall with steps as an alternate entrance to the space. The project was finished off with the addition of steel poles with wire strands to support shade cloth. The result was a great space where large groups gathered and crafted together in comfort even in heat of the summer.

Help for that project came in a second form, the annual contributions that individuals and families make to the Ranch through the Annual Fund. Those contributions allow us to host Americorps crews, accomplish special projects, take care of unexpected needs and further the ministry of the Ranch.

Hardly a week goes by where I don't hear from people about how great the Ranch is kept, and how it seems to improve every year. I always respond that we have a great team here. When I say that I don't mean just the people who are putting shovels to dirt, hammers to nails or paint to walls. Keeping this place thriving is a team effort and Annual Fund donors are an important part of that team. We have a spot for you on our roster. Won't you join us?

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The Bishop's Ranch



Campers work on fruit trees during camp service day

The Bishop's Ranch Staff

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Sean Swift

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Rosalba Nuno Aguirrea
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Adriana Villafuerte
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

Praise Above All

by David Keller: A Prayer Resident for September 2013



Chapel of St. George

It is dark and about an hour before sunrise. The lights in the kitchen and refectory are already on and the staff are preparing meals for a new day. At 6:45 lights in St. George's Chapel go on and as prayer residents my wife, Emily Wilmer, and I will soon lead thirty minutes of silent meditation as a prelude to Morning Prayer at 7:30. Food for bodies and souls begin each day at the Bishop's Ranch. A warm meal and hearts open to God's presence follow each sunrise.

It's not an accident that morning and evening prayer in the Chapel begin with silent meditation. Silence in the morning makes space for listening to God before the voices and activities of a new day fill our lives. This intimacy will embrace and guide the busyness of both the staff and the guests who come to the Ranch for rest, recreation, and renewal. A return to silence before evening prayer is an opportunity to offer the day's work and relationships to God and look at them again through God's eyes before sunset.

Jesus' life shows clearly that he was more interested in feeding God's people than counting them. So whether there are two or forty-two at the daily round of meditation and worship in the Chapel, the constant pattern of silence, praise, and prayer embraces each day at the Ranch. This flow of God's energy runs through all that happens here. Prayer residents don't hang out

in the Chapel all day. We become part of the landscape interacting with guests informally and helping the staff when needed. We don't get a "prayer resident" tattoo on our foreheads when we arrive, yet it is amazing how often during worship, activities, or conversations that we enter the lives of guests and staff in serendipitous ways. Prayer residents receive room and meals, but the greatest gift is sharing the lives of the guests and staff that form a community of grace.

Being present is all it takes. During an event's coffee break a woman and prayer resident happen to meet and begin talking. Soon the conversation reveals anxiety around a transition in the guest's life and the presence of a stranger offers an opportunity for self-reflection. At evening prayer a guest hears a saying from an ancient desert father and later reveals that it shed new light on resolution of a conflict at his office in the city. A person enters the Chapel towards the end of evening prayer and another stays for a short time during silent meditation. It was all that was needed. Votive candles are lit night and day.

The daily rhythm of silent meditation and morning and evening prayer guides and supports the relationships and work that form each day at the Ranch. Like the central location of the Chapel itself, it provides an unspoken presence of God that makes the Ranch a "refuge for the spirit."



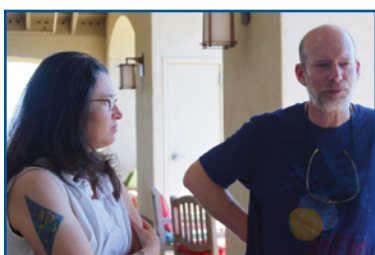
Guest in quiet reflection

New Chairs for the Chapel

Generous Ranch friends have sponsored and made possible the purchase of new chairs for the Chapel of St. George. Aside from their aesthetic appeal, they will make the Chapel a more flexible worship space. Currently there is a \$10,000 matching opportunity on the table to fund the remainder of the beautiful chairs and other upgrades for the Chapel of St. George. Use the envelope included in this newsletter and mark the gift "Chapel chairs", the gift will be doubled!



Legacy Circle - Janet and Richard Tarlov



Janet and Richard Tarlov

An appreciation of food might start with the experience of eating a perfectly ripe peach, a vine grown tomato, or an apple allowed to mature on the tree. For some, such encounters can lead

to a life dedicated to bringing interesting, fresh, and wholesome food into people's lives. Janet and Richard Tarlov are such people, bringing their lifelong interest in food to the Bay Area through their seven year old Canyon Market, in the Glen Park neighborhood of San Francisco www.canyonmarket.com/index.html.

As one discovers how food is grown, processed and brought to market, one learns to recognize and appreciate quality nourishment. That discernment can also be applied to other areas of our lives. In this way the Tarlovs have come to appreciate people and places, such as The Bishop's Ranch, that support family life. At this 'home away from home' they have attended retreats with St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, and week long Family and Generations Camps during the summer. Here they have found an authentic community that adds richness to their family life.

Janet and Richard are drawn to The Bishop's Ranch because of the striking, colorful and accepting community created in retreat. It has become an important part of the rhythm of their life as they raise their two sons, Max and Eliot, and establish themselves in the Bay Area. Some of their favorite places to spend time at the Ranch are the new swimming pool, the stream bottom, the valley trail to the Peace Pole, and the old Tree House.



The Tarlovs want to make sure that the Ranch is similarly accessible for other families in the future and therefore have become members of the Ranch Legacy Circle. You, too, may want to leave a lasting legacy and 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/support-us/the-legacy-circle/ for additional information.

Save Paper, Get Color

Green up your mailbox by switching to the electronic version of Coming Home. Over 2,500 people are now receiving the newsletter by email instead of paper. This saves paper and other resources, and also benefits recipients of the digital version with full color photos and links to information in that issue. The Ranch is committed to reducing the amount of printed material it produces. Won't you join the movement and provide us with your name, address and email at info@bishopsranch.org? Thank you!

If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, or to update your contact information, please email info@bishopsranch.org with your mailing information.

The Bishop's Ranch Wish List

- Front load HE washer/dryer
- Sheets, twin or double, in excellent condition
- Towels and washcloths, in excellent condition
- Vacuum cleaners
- Belt grinder, metal working
- Chainsaw – Stihl MS261, 20" bar
- 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.

The Bishop's Ranch pool is complete....but it's not completely paid for



Jack Dowling leads song at pool dedication

Hundreds of people of all ages have been swimming and cavorting in an enhanced pool area at The Bishop's Ranch. The renovation has brought heightened refreshment to the wonderful sense of Ranch summer. Rave reviews follow the first visits to the new pool area, including Ranch supporter Jan Wellhausen Moore who wrote:

"My granddaughter, Clara, and I enjoyed the new pool this summer! The quality and attractiveness of the overall project rates 10+ on a scale of 1-10. The design of the pool area fits so well with the existing structures and landscaping, it seems as if it's always been there. It has further enhanced the beauty of The Bishop's Ranch."

There was a lively dedication festival on June 1st with swimming and a barbeque picnic in the cedar grove. Prayers of thanksgiving were followed by swimmers wading and jumping into the water in a delightful celebration.

The new accessible pool is now welcoming swimmers of all ages, is garnering rave reviews, and is significantly extending the swimming season for Ranch guests. It has, however, been a challenging project, taking three years to complete. The 1930's era pool that existed at this location served the Diocese very well, but much work had to be done to have a new pool installed with today's standards of accessibility, seismic safety and engineering—as well as furnishing the aesthetics for an inviting pool area. The pool is classed as a commercial facility by the health department, a category that has stringent standards.



Sean and Caroline Swift wade in the water at pool dedication

The site proved to be of soft soil that required extensive shoring and compaction. Excavation discovered older gas and water pipes and electrical cables radiating out to serve other parts of the Ranch so that the project resembled the renovation of an old house more than new construction.

The construction phase is now complete at a cost of \$1,097,366. The construction is of very high quality and will prevent costly maintenance issues in the foreseeable future. There is still additional landscaping work to complete around the pool area, and that will be handled in-house by the Ranch maintenance staff and volunteers.



Family enjoys beach entrance to play together safely

Construction costs include two new wheelchair-accessible restrooms with showers. These will serve the guests using the pool as well as the Ranch's expanding number of campers. New features also include a pump house, solar water heating system, shade trellis, grape arbor extension, new pool entry, handicap-accessible walkways and parking stalls,

permeable paving in the parking area, and a beautiful, enlarged pool deck.

Thanks to the generosity of many contributors \$1,045,334 has been given or pledged to date leaving \$52,000 needed to complete the pool project. A matching grant means each contribution toward the \$52,000 will be matched dollar-for-dollar. Help complete the pool project today www.bishopsranch.org/support-us/pool-area-renovation/.

For more information contact Executive Director Sean Swift sean@bishopsranch.org or 707-433-2440 x110.



Young swimmer enjoys a refreshing splash



Children gather around pool paver designating the Wilson Family Beach Entry placed in the donor patio outside the pool gate.

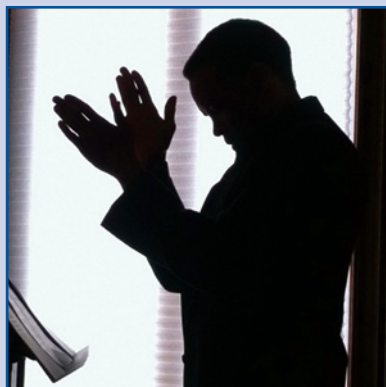
A donation of \$1,000 or more gives you the opportunity to have an inscribed paver installed at the entrance to the pool. The handsome bluestone pavers are ideal for honoring friends or family, or making an inscription in memory of a loved one. Help us to our goal and put your name or group name in the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



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

Anonymous in memory of Patrick Rankin, Grace Cathedral Boys Choir
 Gloria Bayne in memory of The Rev. Henry Bayne
 Bonnie Bishop in honor of Bobbe Rockoff and Eleanor Errante's wedding
 Mimi Bupp in loving memory of Randy Bupp who loved the Ranch and Rusty who loved to swim
 Kitty and Don de Brauwere in honor of Millie Lippert and family
 Joan Dedo in memory of Margery T. Ward
 Anne Draper and Gail Draper in memory of C. Richard Draper and Harriet Longley Draper
 Sallie Enderlin in memory of Rev. John Austin
 Sallie Enderlin in memory of Ruth Johnston
 Chip and Kay Filak in honor of Bill and Mary Swing
 Thomas and Nancy Gille in honor of Jack "Cass" and Jan Grimes
 Barbara B. Girard in memory of Jerry Girard
 Michael and Audrey Gould in honor of Rev. Dr. Fran Toy
 Nancy and Max Grandfield in thanksgiving for the peace and love at the Ranch
 Samantha Haycock in honor of BREAD camp
 Bob and Jackie Klamt, in honor of SFSF
 Richard and Kathy Leslie in memory of Margery Ward
 Lou Marines and Linda Jensen in honor of Ejler Jensen
 Susan Pelmulder and Eloise Blanchard in honor of SFSF
 Susan Pierpoint in honor of Annie Pierpoint's engagement to Andrew Mertz
 Warren Pittman and Ayliffe Mumford in memory of Nicholas Mumford
 Tom and Margi Power in honor of Bill and Mary Swing
 Connie and Frank Prim in loving memory of Lori Anne Bond-Keech

M. Jeffrey Qvale in memory of Kathryn Qvale
 Laura Rice-Hall in honor of SFSF
 Joy Robinson in memory of Morton and Emilie Robinson
 Max and Frances Slimmer in honor of SFSF
 Hervey and Dyson Stockman in thanksgiving for Sam Parke
 Dan and Marti Sundeen in honor of Ginny Leary
 Sean Swift and Caroline Draper Swift in memory of Margery Ward
 The Donahue Family in honor of AmeriCorps NCCC
 Jephtha and Elizabeth Wade in honor of Margaret and Lloyd Aubry
 Tom and Theresa Wajnert in memory of Marge Ward
 Fred and Jenny Walter in memory of our parents
 Lorna Woelfel in honor of SFSF
 Joshua and Maria Wong in honor of The Rev. Dr. Fran Toy
 Barbara B. Girard in memory of Jerry Girard
 Sean Swift and Caroline Draper Swift in thanksgiving for the ministries of Richard Schaper and Jim Forsyth



Major donors were honored at a special jazz performance

IN HONOR OF THE CHAPEL OF ST. GEORGE GROUP

Mary Bowers
 Kitty and Don de Brauwere
 The Rev. and Mrs. Richard B. Ford
 Marv and Nancy Hiles
 James T. Love
 The Rev. Raymond B. Maloney
 Christine Berardo and Robert Markowitz
 Rod and Mary McAulay
 Jerry and Nora Webster
 Linda Wilkie
 Jon and Elizabeth Worden
 Dickson Yeager
 Marisha and Paul Zeffer

IN HONOR OF GRACE CATHEDRAL BOYS CHOIR

ALUMNI IN MEMORY OF RICHARD PURVIS AND

JOHN SHIELDS

Mr. Alan Chesterman
 The Rev. Tom Chesterman
 Lloyd and Delyn Kelly
 Frank T. Kyte
 Bob Loshuertos
 James and Frankie McLeod
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IN HONOR OF THE RANCH HANDS QUILTING GROUP

Anonymous
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 Barbara Cortelyou
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 Dee Merz
 Eleanor Joy Nichols
 Frances Threewit
 Shirley Young

IN HONOR OF ST. JOHN'S OAKLAND

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 Anne Ware Meyer
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 Susan Pierpoint
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 Mr. Arthur C. and
 The Rev. Dr. Fran Toy

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...



Friendships bloom at the Ranch

Sandra J. Ahn
The Rev. Harry R. Allagree
Dave, Kat, Patrick and Deedee Anderson
Steven and Joanne Andrew
Adolphus Andrews, Jr.
Anonymous (29)
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Dorothy W. Banks
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Klaus Berkner
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Mr. Henry Tenenbaum
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Nigel G. and Jane A. Heath
Michael and Martha Helms
Phoebe L. Hendrix
John Hickson
The Hinckleys
Elizabeth Honig and Deb Niemeier
The Householder Family
Nelson and Noreen Huey
The Rev. Robert E. Hughes



*Mosaic project during
Generations Camp*

Helen Louise Ittner
Bob and Pat Jacobs
Carol James
Linda James
Patricia and Philip Jelley
Anne and Doug Jensen

Judy Johnston
Martha Jones
The Rev. Vern Jones
Linda Joplin
Rhonda Kaufman
Joy B. Keele
David and Maureen Kennedy
David Kincaid
Anna Klay
Don and Lyn Klein
Jack and Carolyn Klemeyer
Tony Kovscek and Rebecca Taylor
Susanne La Faver
The Rev. Joseph A. Lane
Ross and Dorothy Laverty
Claudia A. Lewey



Campers explore the garden

Christopher and Peggy Lewis
Ralph and Lynn Locher
Janet Lohr
Bruce and Marilyn Lonbaken
James T. Love
Susan Lucas
Wolfgang and Pat Lusse
Emily Lyon
Dale Madden
The Rev. Raymond B. Maloney
Lou Marines and Linda Jensen
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Christine Berardo and Robert Markowitz
Candace and James Martin
Marcelo Martinez and Linda Matthews
Debra and Jess Marzak
Rod and Mary McAulay
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Josie and Bill McGann
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Mary McIntire
W. Lynn McLaughlin and David L. Webb
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Mr. Peter J. Musto
Claudia Nadalin
Gregg and Lisa Napoli
Doug and Renee Nichols
Eleanor Joy Nichols
Betty Nolen
Margaret Nolte
Mike and Martha North

These names reflect gifts or pledge payments received between March 1, 2013 and September 30, 2013. If you sent in a contribution during this time and your name is not here, we apologize. Please contact us to let us know. If we received a contribution after September 30, 2013, your name will appear in the next issue.



Volunteer Day helper

Elita M. Park
 Sam and Mandy Parke
 Karen O. Patera
 Craig Perlov and Dorothy Dickey
 Mr. W. Jeffers Pickard
 Anne Pierpoint
 Susan Pierpoint
 Mary Pless
 Elizabeth Porter
 Terri Leinsteiner
 Erik Puknys and Colleen Kavanagh
 Christopher and Caroline Putnam
 Judi Putnam
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 The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams
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 Sheila Cunningham Sims
 Jan and Jerry Slaby
 Kent and Cristina Smith
 Martha Smith
 Margaret E. Smyth
 The Bullard-Sofman Family
 Deborah Sorondo
 Jeff Strathmeyer and Patty Strickland
 The Rev. James Stickney
 Ann and Joe Stockwell
 Richard and Martha Stookey
 Marjorie Sun
 Deborah Sweek
 Mark and Sheri Sweeney

Alan and Sara Swimmer
 Dan Sykes and Janet Kornegay
 Stewart Tabb
 Richard and Janet Tarlov
 Virginia M. and Paul Terry
 Suzanne and Russ DeVore
 Dodd and Mary Thorpe
 Gregory Toto and Susan Crown
 Mr. Arthur C. and The Rev. Dr. Fran Toy
 Kirsten Tucker and her son Stuart Tucker
 Amalia Vagts
 Carol Vellutini
 Dr. Bernie and Linda Votteri
 Rock and Marni Warner
 Dewey and Susan Watson
 Kay Wells
 Mr. Herbert and the Rev. Jan H. West
 Richard S. Wheeler
 William C. Whiteside
 Inge H. Wilde
 Brian Wittenkeller
 Douglas and Nancy Wolcott
 Jon and Elizabeth Worden
 Dennis and Debbie Yee
 Lisa Yount
 Marisha and Paul Zeffer
 Sophie Ziegler

GIFTS FROM ORGANIZATIONS

Bay Area Country Dance Society
 The Beverly M. Folger Foundation
 The Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation, Inc.
 Convent of the Transfiguration (Society of the Transfiguration)
 East Bay Community Foundation
 ELM retreat
 Epiphany, San Carlos
 Episcopal Diocese of California
 Holy Innocents', Corte Madera
 Oak Park Quilters
 Resurrection, Pleasant Hill
 St. Gregory Nyssen, San Francisco
 St. John's, Oakland
 St. John's, Ross
 St. Paul's, Healdsburg
 St. Philip's, Scotts Valley
 St. Timothy's, Danville
 Trinity, Menlo Park

DONATIONS OF REAL GOODS

Bryce Austin, 8 pounds of avocados, 22 pounds of peaches
 Steve Baughman, 50 copies of the CD "Ain't Got Long"
 Mary Barclay, seven redwood logs
 Judi Basolo, linens
 Susan Blomberg, sawbuck and a barbecue
 Don and Carol Anne Brown, event venue
 Fran Carlson, linens
 Emmett and Carol Cooke, linens
 Nicole Cowlin of Material Girls, beautiful quilt
 Joan Dedo, homegrown lettuce and cherries
 Paul Draper and Jeanna Menze, washing machine and dryer
 The Rev. and Mrs. Richard B. Ford, wheelbarrow, waterhose, and irrigation supplies
 John and Nan Gallagher, linens and books for the library at the Ranch

Pamela Gallaway, linens
 Carol Glover, linens, rakes, brooms, ladders, machete, weed picker, card table, box of rags, and cooler
 Carol J. Graham, purificators
 Pete and Darlene Haro wind chimes given in honor of Peter Haro
 Gerard Kirk Harris, rope
 Brian and Tracy Haughton, linens
 Wendy Kress, painting
 Henry H. and Carole Jan Lee, linens
 Sandy Mann, linens
 W. Lynn McLaughlin and David L. Webb, copper cross, air conditioner, utility pump, cooler, bird cages, linens
 Bill and Betsy Nachbaur, wine
 Ray and Bill Riess, ping pong table and supplies
 The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Ring
 San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers, 15 - 120" round ivory tablecloths
 Michael and Catherine Secour, photo cards
 Marjorie Sun, linens
 Mr. Arthur C. and The Rev. Dr. Fran Toy, linens
 Drs. Tami and Mark Van Cleve, coffee pots and coffee percolators
 Joanna Weichert, linens
 Rick Williams, canoe and equipment

DONATIONS OF TIME AND TALENT

Arjan Amiri
 Alan Beber
 Francois Blue
 Bishop's Ranch Board of Directors
 Chapel of St. George volunteers
 Michael Defty
 Dave Householder
 Men of Grace
 Ron Johnson
 Eric Lowe
 Craig Palmer
 Jim Petersen
 Wayne Rash
 Javier Salazar
 Chuck Sanderson
 David Sherman
 St. James', San Francisco Youth group
 Brian Wallace
 Dalton Ward
 Dickson Yeager



Electric vehicle charging station donated to the Ranch ready to give a charge!

Coyote Cutting My Back Trail, continued from page 1

sure what I was, but she was afraid to move further, calculating rapidly. We looked at each other for what seemed like a long time, but it was probably only a few seconds.

Then suddenly she was up and running, angling away from me, her body long and flat over the ground. Once on her feet she did not look around or hesitate, made no yip or bark that I heard and seemed to know exactly where she was going. Now I saw the others. One, full grown I thought, was already running away at amazing speed in a different direction than the first. Another was about the size of the first pup. This one was sitting up under a bush that grew in the open not far away. His head was swiveling in all directions in a way that made me imagine he was saying to himself, "what the heck?" Still trying not to move, I swayed, losing my balance, and then he too was off in a third direction. The last animal was larger, very large for a coyote in my experience, dark in color, loping away to the right along the edge of the woods. Unlike the others, it looked back toward me as it ran. Within twenty seconds they were all gone.

I must have stumbled into a daytime resting area for the local pack that we often hear singing uproariously, especially on winter nights. Sorry to say they are probably also the group that had been supping on the neighbor's sheep over the last few years. The place had something of the air of a pirate's den: the clay ground was bare and packed down in places, dried thistles stuck up here and there, partly chewed bones were scattered about, some with cartilage still attached. I picked up a flattened plastic milk jug, wondering how it got here, far away from any houses. It was perforated with dozens of tooth marks and I realized it was a chew toy like a dog would have. Hanks of golden yellow and gray fur trembled in the wind, caught on desiccated blackberry branches. Then in the trees behind me I heard something move, steps rattling the dry live-oak leaves that carpeted the ground.

Though I couldn't see far into the woods I knew with certainty what the sounds meant - the big coyote was cutting my back trail.

After disappearing over the rise of ground, he must have doubled back through the woods and come to observe more closely what had startled them. I told myself there was nothing to be afraid of, but despite that knowledge, fear breathed onto the back of my neck, making my skin prickle. I realized this was the big coyote I had seen before, the only coyote I have recognized as an individual. He was sometimes a topic of discussion among the neighbors, as his large size and overall dark color made him distinctive. I had guessed he was the mother of the group, but a neighbor, more knowledgeable, was sure he was the male leader. Now, after sniffing my back trail, he probably knew who I was. For all I knew he was aware of where I lived and remembered that I had interesting looking chickens in my yard. This act of coming to observe me, instead of the other way around as I naively thought was the way it was supposed to be, set him apart even more.

I was there by accident, not to roust or hunt, but though we lived in the same neighborhood, the coyotes and I lived parallel, essentially non-touching lives. If we had a relationship, it was one quite different than that I might share with birds we provide nesting boxes for, or what we imagine when we plant shrubs for food and sheltering places for other creatures. As a fellow mammal the coyotes were both closer to me, with a nature that made me think I could read what was going through the pup's mind as it stared at me, as well as further away: there was no possibility I could be construed as anything other than an enemy. The coyotes asked for nothing, though they would take something of mine if it could be useful to life. We may feel we are the lords of creation, but the coyotes are not asking anyone's permission. They are and remain marvels of independence, to be studied or reflected on as I found myself doing, but maybe never understood.

I walked out of the little clearing and looped toward the developed part of the Ranch by a different route. I couldn't help but look back once or twice, wonder if I was being watched, and despite myself, feeling a little tingle on the back of my neck.



Guests hike along trail to peace pole knoll

Havens – Cristo redo



Team moves Cristo



Guest reflects on Sculpture



New Trail leads from Peace Pole to Cristo

In 2009, the Ranch received a gift of a 10-foot tall steel sculpture of the crucifixion titled Cristo, a work of the late Skip Gauthman. (Coming Home, Fall 2009) A site was chosen near the Peace Pole with a massive oak tree providing a backdrop for the sculpture. During

a storm in 2011, one huge branch, literally half the tree, split off and fell to the ground. While shocking, we felt there was some symbolism to be found in the broken branch, like the curtain of the temple torn in two. This past winter, the other half of the tree came crashing down, and for safety reasons our Facilities and Land crew removed both fallen sections. Now Cristo was left without its magnificent oak back drop, on what now felt like a barren, exposed hilltop.

In October, the focus of the Fall Service Day was to rework the Cristo meditation site. Twelve hearty souls gathered and worked on the plan to level a new spot, create a new trail and to move the massive steel sculpture. Now the Cristo sculpture is nestled in its new spot among a ring of oaks with a path leading to it that begins at the peace pole.

Staff Appreciation Day



Ranch staff gather for picture sporting new Ranch logo hats given out on Staff Appreciation Day

In mid December the Ranch held a staff appreciation day, some Ranch's board members prepared and served lunch. Each staff member was acknowledged for their contribution to the Ranch and those with ten years of service or more received an special gift.



Operations Director, Jack Dowling and Executive Director, Sean Swift, acknowledge staff for their service to the Ranch



Ranch Board members made lunch for staff



The Bishop's Ranch

of the Episcopal Diocese of California
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From "*the abundant table*" - Recipes from The Bishop's Ranch Kitchen"

Sweet & Sour RED CABBAGE

This winter vegetable is completely transformed by a fast sauté followed by a slow, covered simmer. Select cabbages that are heavy for their size and have bright crisp leaves. We like to pair this with a roasted pork loin or chicken sausages and potato pancakes. For a vegetarian meal, this works well with sautéed portabella mushrooms and mashed potatoes.

1 medium red cabbage
3 tablespoons oil or butter
2 tart apples, peeled and sliced
5 whole cloves
4 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
2 to 4 tablespoons brown sugar
Salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

Quarter the cabbage and remove the core. Slice the cabbage into thin shreds or ribbons, about 1/4-inch thick. Rinse the shredded cabbage with cold water and drain.



Red cabbage in saute pan

In a wide, heavy-bottomed pan melt the butter or oil over medium heat. Add the cabbage, apples, cloves, and a pinch of salt. Stir to combine and sauté for a few minutes, stirring. Turn heat down to medium-low. Cover and cook for 20 minutes or until the cabbage is tender and limp, stirring occasionally. Add the vinegar and sugar and cook for about 10 more minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper, adding a bit more sugar and vinegar if necessary. Cook for about 5 more minutes to allow flavors to meld.

Serves 6 to 8