Fall 2017

An Integral Connection to Place

by Jack Dowling, Advancement Director

I drive up a long stretch of freeway; take the prescribed exit and then turn at the intersection. I follow a winding rolling stretch of road for a ways. The turns and rising and falling roadway have a familiar rhythm and the varied landscape holds visual waypoints that urge me onward. As I get closer to my destination, I feel a quickening in my body and senses as if I am reconnecting to some source of power.

This is the way I would feel about driving to The Bishop's Ranch in the many years I came here for camps and retreats when I was younger. Even now, after twenty-one years of living here, I get that feeling if I have been away for a while.

I attend an annual gathering of Episcopal camps and conference center staff, and this year, to our good fortune, our meeting place was at Camp Mokule'ia on Oahu, Hawaii. While there, I learned the Hawaiian word 'aina, which in its simplest translation means "land." For the Hawaiian people though, the word 'aina is deeply emotional because of the integral connection their ancestors had to the land and nature, to their island home.

Since then I have found myself reflecting on that word and how it highlights to my relationship to The Bishop's Ranch. In my 53 years I have been drawn again and again to the Ranch, and have seen and experienced things that have shaped who I am.

I remember as a child visiting with my family wondering about these strange men in brown robes. Later, as a teenager, I spent two weeks working alongside the the Franciscan brothers during a summer work project. That was my first experience of rhythms of daily prayer life.

As a young adult, I practiced a different rhythm of daily prayer as a volunteer at BREAD camps. We prayed and sang and lived in community, and I learned how rewarding it is to work with young people. During this time, in the safe, comfortable space of the Ranch, I began to explore a calling to ministry. This exploration led me to discern that ordination was not a path for me, but ministry that included education and service to others was.

Significant parts of my adult journey have happened here. My wife Lisa and I were engaged in



At Camp Mokule'ia a signpost was erected pointing the way to other Episcopal camps. We are all connected by our 'aina.

the arbor leading to the pool after a long week of camp. A couple of years later, we agreed to another commitment by accepting a residential job at the Ranch.

Eleven hours after our son Ivan was born, I carried him into the Refectory where he was met with joyous waves from the Benedictine Experience participants who were observing a silent meal. I have been able to watch Ivan grow into a man over 21 years, and rejoice in how life at the Ranch has shaped him into a creative, caring person.

I have cried with joy as dear friends got married here, and I have wept at memorial services for others. And when my mom died I knew this was the place she would want her ashes joined with my father's and spread on the land at the Trailside Sanctuary that Lisa and I had built in their memory.

The mission of the Ranch includes serving God by providing a place where lives are changed. The Ranch has changed me. I have an integral connection to this place and all it stands for.

I would love to hear your stories about how you became integrally connected to the Ranch. Please feel free to call or email me at jack@bishopsranch.org.



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Staff News



Brooke, Oliver, Mateo, Aaron and Mac Wright

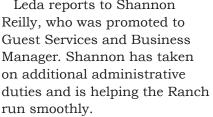
Meet new Hospitality Director Aaron Wright. Aaron joined the Ranch staff in May, coming from the Diocese of Southern Ohio where he worked on the bishop's staff focusing on intentional communities and young adult ministry. In June his wife Brooke and their three sons Mac, Mateo and Oliver joined him and they are settling in to their home in the Friary.

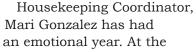
When Jack Dowling left his Operations Director position to become Advancement Director, the Ranch did a staff reorganization which resulted in the creation of the Hospitality Director role. As Hospitality Director, Aaron is focusing his energies on developing the Ranch staff team to ensure we are providing the best hospitality possible.

Also joining the staff this spring is Leda Wagner, our new Reservations Coordinator. Leda is learning the ins

and outs of our complicated reservations calendar.

Leda reports to Shannon







Leda Wagner

beginning of June, her son Juan Pablo, who was born with spinabifida and has been in a specialized care facility in Saratoga, was able to visit home for the first time. The trip, funded by the Make-a-Wish Foundation, allowed him to come to his new sister's baptism and have a short home visit.

Two weeks later, Juan Pablo passed away. When he was born, his doctors said he would only live weeks, but buoyed by the faithful love of his family, who visited him every week, he lived for almost six years. Please remember the Gonzalez family in your prayers.

Upcoming Ranch Programs

- •Fall Service Day October 7, 2017
- •Pneuma The Spirit of Christian Formation October 9-12, 2017
- •Fall Hike October 21, 2017
- The 3rd Act:

 A New Stage & Purpose for Women Over 50

 November 5-7, 2017
- •Yoga with Marie Hirsch November 11, 2017
- Winter Creative Retreat December 2-3, 2017
- •Silent Days in Advent December 8-15, 2017
- Wisdom of the Heart December 15-17, 2017
- •Epiphany Reflection Day January 6, 2018
- Celtic Consiousness & Winter's Stillness
 January 30-February 2, 2018
- Ranch Quilt RetreatFebruary 11-15, 2018
- •The Enneagram and the Spiritual Life February 24, 2018
- •Spring Wildflower Hike March 10, 2018

Please visit the program page on our website for more information or to register for these and other program offerings at The Bishop's Ranch www.bishopsranch.org

2018 Camp Dates

- •Generations Camp Sunday, June 24 – Saturday, June 30, 2018
- •Family Camp Sunday, July 1 – Saturday, July 7, 2018
- •BREAD: Explorers (entering grades 10-just grad) Sunday, July 8 – Saturday, July 14, 2018
- •BREAD: Adventurers (entering grades 7-9) Sunday, July 22 – Saturday, July 28, 2018
- •BREAD: Discoverers (entering grades 4-6) Monday, July 30 – Saturday, August 4, 2018

Save the dates!

Registrations will be live online in early fall.

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THE BISHOP'S RANCH STAFF

Executive Director Sean Swift

OFFICE

Jack Dowling
Cass Grimes
Shannon Reilly
Dana Starr
Caroline Draper Swift
Leda Wagner
Aaron Wright

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The Rev. Patricia Moore Ivan Thorpe Lisa Thorpe

Facilities and Land Aaron Jefferson Matt Kissmann Al Petrie Johncaleb Sarsfield

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Miguel Gutierrez
Dominic Marsden
Robin Miller
Pedro Morales
Eleanor Nichols
Rosie Nuno Aguirre
Robert Olsen
Sara Olsen
Gabe Velasquez

Coming Home

A 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

Reflection of Eternity - No Beginning and No End

by Kat Anderson, Ranch Board and Legacy Circle member



Kat & Dave Anderson with their children Dee Dee & Patrick

I'm especially captivated by the "no end" part of this title – as in, "no end to The Bishop's Ranch."

Full disclosure - I am a lawyer. And, in the past, I have written wills and trusts. Because of that, I guess I have been able to disassociate myself from the cold hard fact that when you read someone's will or trust they are dead. Not a pleasant thought, of course, but because of my seat at the table of others' final plans, I've been given a gift of insight – that you understand someone's priorities, values, loves, and hopes when you help them plan how to disburse their estates. It's poignant to talk with someone about how they were affected by the kindness of a person and because of that event, they want to show they remember and value that kindness, that connection.

Before I first visited the Ranch, I heard about it for years from Christine Wardell and Sheri and Michael Coholan, all St. Mary's parishioners. They described that our Parish Retreat occurred at a very special place. For a while, I was a bit skeptical. I wasn't sure about a church retreat – what that meant – like hours of services and praising the Lord like Church Revival style, as I was familiar with in the South? Well, I had that wrong. When I did finally stay at The Bishop's Ranch on retreat, I regretted years of missing out.

My children, Patrick and Deedee, also fell in love with the Ranch. I have crisp memories of my children enjoying freedom with Mother Nature. The great tree-swing in the acacia that is no more. The tree house up on the hill, also retired. BREAD camps, Choral Music Camp, and, many, many precious moments, provided opportunity to just be with friends in a space of peace and security that we all love.

I cannot disassociate the people who live and work at the Ranch from my Ranch experience. I love those who love the Ranch – Sean and Caroline, Jack and Lisa, Cass and Jan and the rest of the staff. I consider them part of my extended family and I am concerned for their well-being as much as they have shown me for mine.

Sometimes, I jump in my car and I drive up to the Ranch. As the miles peel away, I shed the worries of urban living in San Francisco. I visualize the trees and gardens of the Ranch, the vistas across the valley toward Mt. St. Helena, the dairy cows, the Ranch House...the blood pressure calms down, the breathing gets more vital. I feel more alive. And, then I step foot on the Ranch, and I feel rested.

This has been a resting place for me while very much alive, and a place where I like to bring and/or be with people I respect and love. Reflecting on that, it makes sense to me to make the Ranch the symbolic resting place of my last light before leaving this existence and moving on to my Spiritual home. So, I chose to include the Ranch in my estate planning. It also is a complement to my decision to provide for my parish and the Diocese. All three will be beneficiaries of my estate. When the time comes, my children will know in no uncertain terms how much the Ranch has meant to me. They will know what their mother's priorities were in life and in death. They will inter my ashes in the Columbarium at St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal church on Union Street in SF. Maybe they can also scatter a few of my ashes up in the hills around the Ranch and know that is where I'd prefer they visit to remember me.

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Your Ranch, Your Gift, Your Legacy – Impact The Bishop's Ranch with a Lasting Gift

Planned giving allows anyone concerned with the wise use of his or her personal resources to make a considered choice about their ultimate disposition. In general planned gifts are made through:

- A Bequest in a Will
- A Life Income Gift such as a charitable gift annuity, or a charitable remainder trust
- Gifts of Special Assets (real estate, closely held stock, life insurance, retirement accounts)

If you wish to create a lasting legacy and remember The Bishop's Ranch in your will or estate plan, contact Jack Dowling, Advancement Director at 707.433.2440 x105 or visit www.bishopsranch.org/support-us/the-legacy-circle/. If you already have done so and your name is not on the list below, please let us know.

New members will be inducted into the Legacy Circle during the Acorn Society Annual Forum on the weekend of June 1-3, 2018.



The Bishop's Ranch Legacy Circle

Founded in 2011 by Ranch supporters who include the Ranch in their estate plans. The Legacy Circle has the goal of supporting long-term financial health of The Bishop's Ranch.

Anonymous (2) Sandra J. Ahn. AHC Kathleen "Kat" Anderson * Gloria Bayne * The Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham * Bonnie K. Bishop Kay E. Bishop * Thomas and Margaret Bowman Carl K. Cheney Mary Jane Chetelat David G. Cockerton * Liza Colton * † Earl † & Helen Connolley Margery Crawford * † Jacqueline S. Daley * † Judy & Bob Davis * Joan Dedo * Rev. Dr. Sir Thomas W. Devereaux * Jack Dowling & Lisa Thorpe Dennis & Phyllis Edmondson * Jim & Janelle Fazackerley The Rev. John and Nancy Gallagher Neysa Carpenter Garrett Nancy & Max Grandfield Jack & Jan Grimes The Rev. Stacey Grossman * Fred Hansen & Lauran Pifke * Judy Harris & David Smith Nigel & Jane Heath * Elizabeth A. Hook Anne and Doug Jensen Father Vern Jones *

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Sean Swift

The Chapel of St. George Healdsburg

Dewey Watson

The Chapel of St. George Healdsburg Page 6 Coming Home

The Big Shuffle – a whole lot of moving going on!

by Lisa Thorpe



Participants in Lisa Thorpe's workhop

My husband Jack Dowling, our son Ivan, and I have lived at The Bishop's Ranch for 21 years. The Casita, where we have lived that whole time, is right in the middle of the retreat center – and when I say center, it truly is between the two main gathering places here – the chapel and the dining hall. Over the years as the size and frequency of groups increased at The Bishop's Ranch, it became less and less private and harder to find refuge and respite in our own home. So a change was proposed. Kip Cottage, a lodge at the bottom of the hill on the edge of the grounds, has been

underutilized since the Swifts moved off campus five years ago – but it needed a lot of work. The Casita, our abode, was too much in the fray, so a plan was made for us to move to Kip and for the Casita to become the Art Center! This is a big win-win for everyone I think: our family gets a more private, quiet home and everyone who comes to the Ranch gets a new bigger, brighter creative arts space for workshops, reflective retreats and parish weekend art projects.

Beginning in February we began the tear out at Kip – carpets, old tiles, old fixtures, kitchen counters... you get the idea. Then came the build up – refinishing kitchen cabinets, new windows, painting, flooring, book shelf building and on and on. Jack and I did as much of the work as we could to save the Ranch money and get the place just how we wanted it. Contractors did the important stuff like install double paned windows, repair the rotted subfloor and put on a new roof. After four months we moved into our new home. I am super proud of how it came out and love being down here out of the flow and fray.

Moving one thing meant moving another, so I also moved my studio into my old bedroom and all the group art materials and tables that were in the chapel basement Art Center are now in my old livingroom – now dubbed the Casita Creative Art Center! Since we moved, numerous Ranch guests have enjoyed creating in the bright new space, one parish used it for a family art project, and I've led three creative workshops, including one for these people with happy faces pictured here from my 5-month offering, Mixed Media Monthly. Thanks, ladies, for kicking off a new identity for the Casita!

Winds of the Spirit Inspire Generosity

by Jack Dowling

Through the end of August, 286 households have contributed to the life of the Ranch through a gift to the Annual Fund, helping us raise over \$167,000. We would like to have at least 530 households participate by the end of the year.

Recent projects that were made possible by our Annual Fund include renewing the exteriors of the cottages and surrounding landscapes, reroofing Kip Cottage, and refinishing the wood floors in the Pavilion.

I invite you to join me in supporting the Ranch with a gift to the Annual Fund. A gift of any size is welcome and can be made using the enclosed envelope, or at our website, www.bishopsranch.org/support-us/.



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Prayer Resident Insights

by Jim and Mary Trainor



Jim and Mary Trainor

When the bell of St. George's Chapel rings at 7:25 am and 5:55 pm, it is not time to eat, but time to pray. And whatever you are doing at The Bishop's Ranch, whether you are able to come to pray with others in the Chapel or not, know that you are being prayed for by others at that time. Yes, there is intentional prayer for all guests and staff at the Ranch twice a day, and everyone (regardless of spiritual tradition) is welcome to attend.

Each service is preceded by a half-hour of silence (at 7 am and 5:30 pm). During these times, the Chapel space is quiet and tranquil, a candle is lit, the lighting is subtle, and a sense of holiness and tranquility emerges; it is time apart from the busy lives we lead. Then following the half-hour of silence is a service of either morning prayer or evening prayer (following the Episcopal tradition, for the season of the year). Whoever chooses to attend experiences time to reflect after prayers, Scripture readings, and a short

meditation. The prayers include seasonal prayers and thanksgivings, a prayer for the day, prayers for the Ranch guests and staff, special prayers for those on the Ranch intercessory prayer list, and individual prayers. The services are led by the Ranch's Prayer Resident, who you might encounter along the trails or at meal time in the Refectory (if you do not attend the prayers).

What is a Prayer Resident? Every month a volunteer (either a clergy person or layperson) comes to serve as Prayer Resident and live on the Ranch. In addition to leading the times of silent and spoken prayer twice a day, the Prayer Resident holds time of individual prayer and is integrated into the Ranch life for the time that s/he serves. This means that the Prayer Resident gets to know the staff and the Ranch property, is available to help out as needed, and interacts with guests as appropriate.

What difference does the presence of the Prayer Resident make? The Prayer Resident is a visible reminder of the fact that the Ranch is a spiritual place, being lifted up to God in prayer on a daily basis. The Prayer Resident is a caring, interesting, vibrant, spiritually-centered member of the Ranch team—and a reminder that the boundaries of the Ranch extend way beyond Westside Road. Prayer makes a difference! Philippians 4:6-7 "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

The Revs. Jim and Mary Trainor are Episcopal Priests from the Diocese of Fond du Lac and Prayer Residents during the month of January



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

This list includes gifts received January 1 through June 30, 2017

Marilyn Bardet

in memory of Lloyd Aubry

Susan Bergesen

in memory of Jack, prince of cats

Suzy Brennan

in memory of Jeff Geffine

Greg Brown

in memory of all the good times I've had at the Ranch, and to help some more folks come and experience it with a scholarship

Mimi Bupp

in loving memory of Randy Bupp

James and Inge Byrnes

in honor of Carolyn Cooper and Phyllis Edmondson

Paul Cleveland & Debbie Lawson Cleveland

in honor of the late Lloyd Aubry

Rod & Deb Covington

in memory of The Rev. Albert Colbourne Edris Dade

in memory of Floyd Dade

Jack Dowling & Lisa Thorpe

in honor of the financial vision of Mike Helms

Cynthia Galt

in memory of William Craig and

Beverly Vaughn Hock

in memory of Louise S. Vaughn

Gina Hind Hodgson

in memory of Lois Brasfield

Steven & Malaney Johnides

in honor of The Rev. Everett and Gloria Powell

Mabel Leeds

in memory of Frank H. Leeds, MD

Ginger Levick

in honor of Deborah Levick

Ann N. Lowry & John A. Perez

Debart N. Lavers

Chuck and Kate MacLellan

in memory of Rachel Higgins

Lewis Maldonado

in memory of Catherine Maldonado

Phil & Dian Matthews

in memory of Richard T. Matthews

Anne Ware Meyer

in memory of Brian Marion

Daniel Mevers

given in honor of Shep Skiff

Donna Dowling Muzzy

in memory of Jack Martin Dowling

Joy Robinson

in memory of Morton and Emilie

Robinson

Mary Thorpe

in memory of Dodd Thorpe

Kay Wells

in memory of Ron Wells

Richard S. Wheeler

in honor of Dr. Roderick &

Lucia Dugliss

Verena Won

in memory of Stanley Won



Save Paper, Get Color

Switch to the electronic version of the newsletter and green up your mailbox. Over 3,200 people are now receiving our electronic newsletter. 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 want to update your contact information, please email: info@bishopsranch.org.

The Bishop's Ranch Wish List

- Electric golf cart
- Sheets, twin or double, new, preferably white
- Towels and washcloths, new, preferably white or off white
- Pots and skillets, new or in excellent condition
- Utility trailer

- Digital water tester
- Microscopes for field biology
- Vehicles in good working order: Mini van, 9 passenger type
- Electric spice grinder

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. Page 9 Coming Home

Thank you for Gifts to the Ranch's Annual Operations and Development!

Includes gifts and pledges to: the Annual Fund campaign, the Art Center, the Chapel of St. George, the Endowment Fund, Gina's Orchard Watershed Environmental Education Program, the Partnership Fund for scholarship assistance, the Pool Area Renovation and Landscape, the Tree House, and the William and Mary Swing Hospitality Pavilion Project. All names reflect gifts or pledge payments received between **January 1 and June 30, 2017**. If you sent in a contribution during this time and your name is not here, we sincerely apologize. Please contact us to let us know. If we received a contribution after June 30, your name will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

Mimi Bupp

James & Inge Byrnes



DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS Anonymous (9) Sandra J. Ahn Douglas & Susan Aley Maria Altorfer Brigitte Anderson Kathleen "Kat" Anderson Chloe Andrus Helen Archer-Duste Maitreya Badami & family Maya Balenz Ruth Banev Marilyn Bardet Elizabeth E. Baxter Alan R. Beber Christine Berardo Liz Berg Susan Bergesen Judith Bianchi The Rev. Davidson Bidwell-Waite & Edwin A. Waite Carla Bliss Susan Blomberg Richard & Nancy Bohannon Su Boocock The Rev. Dr. Lynn E. Bowdish Carol Branan Pam Braswell Suzy Brennan Liza Weaver Brickey Greg Brown

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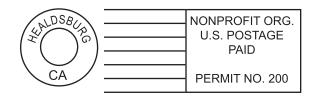
Anonymous, hand towels & bath towels Anonymous, 2 serving platters Susan Blomberg, assorted linens Joseph J. and Rosemary G. Campos, a Kenmore vacuum cleaner Beth Conte, 17 stemmed wine glasses Diane Farrar, 2 new pillows for Webb Lodge Jack and Jan Grimes, a box of 1000 mailing labels Sandy Mann, 2 cases of oranges and assorted linens Joan Minninger, assorted linens The Rev. Elaine and Art Reichert, a quilted, labyrinth wall hanging and Kirby vaccum cleaning system The Rev. Sally Singingtree, three copies of her chanting CD, "The Fire of My Being" James N. Sinunu, olive oil pressed from the olive trees on his Healdsburg property Tim Wilson and Sylvain Pelletier,





The Bishop's Ranch

of the Episcopal Diocese of California 5297 Westside Road Healdsburg, CA 95448 Change Service Requested





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Recipes from The Bishop's Ranch Kitchen

Cinnamon-Raisin-Pecan Pinwheels

We served these pinwheels this summer at the parent gatherings at the end of each camp. There were never

Ingredients

For dough

1-3/4 cups unbleached all-purpose flour; more as

2 tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. table salt

6 Tbs. cold unsalted butter, in 1/2-inch pieces

3/4 cup cold buttermilk

For pinwheel filling

1/2 cup packed light brown sugar

1/2 cup golden raisins

1/2 cup chopped pecans

1 tsp. ground cinnamon

4 Tbs. melted unsalted butter

Position a rack in the center of the oven and heat the oven to 425°F. Line a large rimmed baking sheet with

cinnamon. Set aside.

In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, sugar, baking soda, and salt. Using a pastry blender or your fingertips, cut in the butter until the mixture resembles coarse meal with some pea-size lumps. Stir in the buttermilk just until the flour mixture is moistened. Do not overmix; the dough should just come together, and it will be sticky. Transfer the dough to a floured work surface and gently knead 6 to 8 times, dusting lightly with flour if needed to keep it from sticking.

Gently form the dough into a 5-inch square. Using a floured rolling pin, roll the dough into a 12-inch square. Brush the dough with 2 Tbs. of the butter and evenly sprinkle with the sugar, raisin, nut mixture. Tightly roll up the dough (like a jelly roll), pinching the seam to seal it shut. Using a serrated knife, cut the roll into 12 pieces. Arrange the pieces on the prepared sheet, spacing them about 1 inch apart.

Bake until puffed and golden-brown, 15 to 18 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack and brush with the remaining 2 Tbs. melted butter. Let cool until warm, about 10 minutes, before serving.