

# The Deepest Realities of Life

When [the magi] saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. • Matthew 2:10-11

Three things come together in my mind for this edition of the Carillon. First, as many of you have probably heard by now, Gene Tucker passed away in on January 4<sup>th</sup> of this year. Gene was one of the most important people in the life and community of Ring Lake Ranch over its history, guiding and supporting the Ranch in numerous ways both during Maggie Kahin's life and especially after her passing. The entire Ranch community will miss him dearly. A full article honoring Gene and his life follows on page 3.

Second, one of Gene's last projects was a forward to the history of Ring Lake Ranch that Carl Koch has just finished, entitled *Renewal in Sacred Wilderness: The First 50 Years of Ring Lake Ranch*. More information about the book follows at the end of this article.

Third, my wife Katherine preached on the visitation of the Magi on Epiphany Sunday, the Sunday after Gene passed away. Her thoughts on the importance of wise ones in our lives resonated so deeply with my feelings about Gene and so many others involved in the history of Ring Lake Ranch that I want to share an excerpt from her sermon:

"We need wise ones to help us remember what is really real in the universe. That our

flesh is beloved by God, just as it is, so much so that God took it on, with all of its limitations and vulnerabilities. That we are not immortal and perfect, but that our lives are precious, flawed, and fleeting and worth engaging with love, forgiveness, and grace for one another.

...This story also reminds us that wise ones aren't who we might expect. They are not always the teachers of our own religious tradition, although what a rare gift wise elders from our own families and communities can be. Sometimes wise ones are foreigners, strangers, religious Others. Sometimes they are a friend who has also lost their parent too soon, or who has a child just a couple years older and remembers how hard it is... Sometimes wise

# The Ring Lake Carillon

Ring Lake Ranch • Dubois, Wyoming • Spring 2018

An ecumenical retreat center offering "renewal in sacred wilderness."



Carl Koch served as Director of Ring Lake Ranch from 2006 to 2011. Immediately before coming to the Ranch, he directed the MA in Servant Leadership program at Viterbo University and was program director at the Franciscan Spirituality Center in La Crosse, WI. He has authored thirty-six books, the latest being *Journalkeeping: Exploring a Great Spiritual Practice* (Sorin) and *Leading Like Francis - Building God's House* (New City Press).

"All are really God's children. All will be received here in the search to understand one another and ourselves. In this one spot to which I've been led, Christ will not have to weep for his divided people. Here, the broken circle of humanity may join."  
Maggie Kahin

Renewal in Sacred Wilderness

Carl Koch

## Renewal in Sacred Wilderness

The First 50 Years of Ring Lake Ranch



Carl Koch

ones are younger than us, less experienced than us, sometimes even teenagers and toddlers in our own home who demand to know why things have to be the way we think they should be. And sometimes, God help us, it's our turn to be the wise ones... to remind others of the deepest realities of life that can be trusted, and to help them discern and affirm the call of God, the path of salvation, in the midst of their crazy lives."

As I read through the draft of Carl's history, I was reminded again and again that Ring Lake Ranch is the result of the efforts of countless people, from its humble beginnings as just Maggie Kahin's personal vision to the guests, staff, and volunteers who will bring it to life again this summer. Certainly, people like Maggie, Gene

Tucker, Priscilla Marsh, Ed Everding, and other wise elders we have lost in recent years helped span much of the history of the Ranch and gave us all guidance and lessons in loving dedication to a vital experience of the Holy. But so many others have also taken their turns when called to help discern the path forward. Sometimes the calls were unexpected, and sometimes the answers even more so, but the generosity of the Ranch community for more than 50 years is surely a sign that, as Katherine said in her sermon, "the deepest realities of life... can be trusted."

Here is the final line of Katherine's sermon, as good a prayer of blessing as we could hope for as Ring Lake Ranch begins its 52<sup>nd</sup> summer: "We all need the help of wise ones to

The Deepest Realities continued on page 2



The Deepest Realities *continued from page 1*

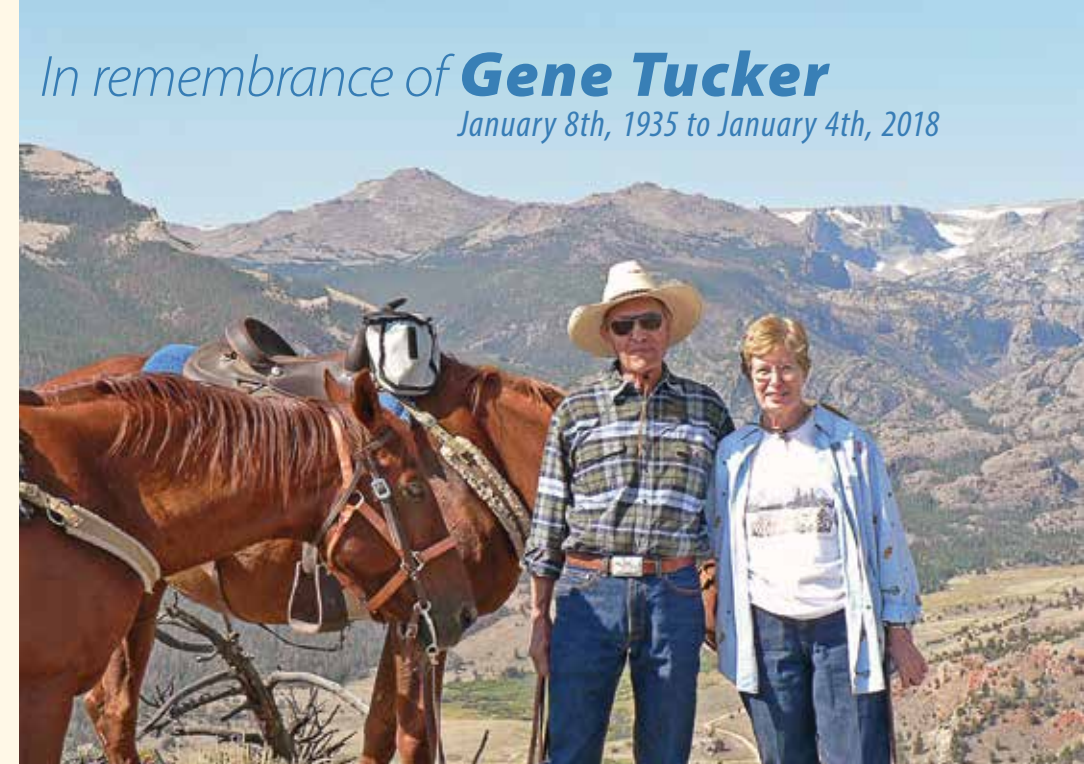
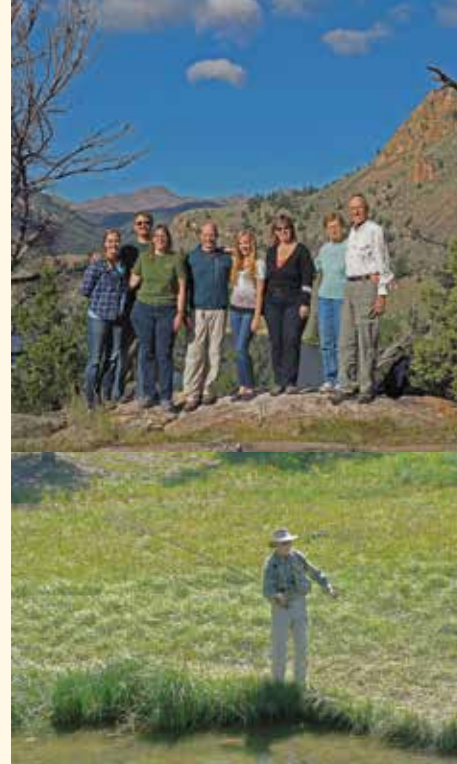
catch the vision of God's love for the world in the midst of chaos and uncertainty, so may we find them, may we listen to them even when they are strangers, may we be them when it is our turn."

With that hope for all of us to find and listen to wise ones we encounter, I am thrilled to announce the publication of *Renewal in Sacred Wilderness: The First 50 Years of Ring Lake Ranch* by Carl Koch. Many thanks to Carl, who worked entirely as a volunteer to compile the interviews, read through Ranch documents, and write the text. The existence of this book is a testament to his own enduring love of Ring Lake Ranch. Thanks as well to everyone who shared their memories with him.

With so many people involved with the Ranch for so many years, the stories Carl heard in his research proved to be nearly endless, but he has done a lovely job of collecting the essential elements of the Ranch's history, from Maggie's first vision of the place as a retreat center to the gathering of friends in 2016 that celebrated the Ranch's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Most impressive to me in the book is Carl's careful attention to discerning the ongoing expression of the Ranch's mission of 'renewal in sacred wilderness' in each generation of guests, staff, and supporters. I hope you will read the history not simply to know what happened at Ring Lake Ranch, but to understand better the meaning and depth of the sacred experience this place offers.

We will place permanent copies in each of the cabins and in the Ranch library this summer, but we will also have the book for sale in the Ranch Gift Shop.

•Andy Blackmun, *Director*



## In remembrance of **Gene Tucker**

January 8th, 1935 to January 4th, 2018

To put it simply, Gene Tucker loved Ring Lake Ranch. As his daughter Terri said, "He gave his time, expertise, and money where his heart was called." Gene and his family came to Ring Lake Ranch for the first time in 1974 and returned every summer for decades. Gene was a highly regarded Old Testament scholar who taught for most of his career at Candler School of Theology at Emory University and he led seminars on the Old Testament and other topics many times at the Ranch. When Maggie Kahin passed away, Gene stepped in and, working entirely as a volunteer himself, helped recruit seminar leaders, board members, volunteers, and guests for many years to keep the Ranch going. He also helped set up the initial investment account in the 1980's for the endowment that continues to support Ring Lake Ranch today. A native of Texas, Gene was an avid hunter, horseback rider, and fisherman who spent hours on the trails and the waters around the Ranch whenever he was there. We are all grateful recipients of Gene's dedication to and love of Ring Lake Ranch.

Gene wrote the forward to the new history of the Ranch, *Renewal in Sacred Wilderness: The First 50 Years of Ring Lake Ranch*, and in that forward, you can hear the love of this special place in his own words:

"The first time I turned off the highway onto the Ring Lake Ranch road, it was July, 1974. Our camper van carried me and Charly, Terri age 12, and Becky age 6 and a lot of questions. The first question is pretty obvious. I had been promised this beautiful mountain ranch, and all I could see was sagebrush prairie with the badlands behind me.

My first question was answered when we crossed the old wooden bridge over Torrey Creek into the Ranch. Here on the banks of two lakes were these beautiful log structures.

After meeting Maggie and the entirely voluntary staff, which outnumbered the guests at this session, I recall being struck by a contrast that raised another question. On the one hand, here was this spectacular landscape and these beautiful structures that Maggie had provided. On the other hand, the program and especially the finances seemed fragile. So I wondered if such an operation could survive. But it could through the power of Maggie's vision and the strength of her will.

All of us immediately fell in love with the place. It would be decades before we failed to spend at least two weeks of the summer at the Ranch. There were so many things we loved about the place: Fishing in the streams and lakes was great, and Maggie always insisted that I provide at least one fish

meal each session. And then for all of us there were the horses. Maggie gave me a horse to ride named Lincoln, a retired half-trained chariot racer. She said we looked alike. There were all day rides to the top of Arrow and Whiskey Mountains. Maggie always insisted on total silence when we got past timberline. And it never ceased to amaze me what a wonderful community developed every session. Becky spent every high school summer on the junior staff. I am convinced that Terri's experiences at the Ranch helped shaped her decision to become an ecologist working to save the natural order. Terri and Keith were married at the Ranch. And Terri eventually served as member and President of the Board. Most recently our granddaughter Lily worked summers as a wrangler, continuing the family's love and dedication to the Ranch.

... Ring Lake Ranch is a holy place. We know from the petroglyphs that its sacredness has been recognized for many centuries. But there is more. It actually goes back to the 7th day of Creation when God rested and commanded that we do the same."

The family has asked that memorial donations be given to Ring Lake Ranch or to Gene M. Tucker scholarship fund, Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

## The Ring Lake Ranch Carillon

Published twice yearly by  
Ring Lake Ranch

Designed by  
Roderick Robertson

Selected photographs by  
Rex Matthews, Michael Norman, John Van Nuys, Kelly Everding, Gary Batchelor, Stacey Donelson, Anna Pinckney Straight

### RLR Board of Directors

Amy Mears, *President*  
Mike Mc Kee, *Vice-President*  
Martha Stahl, *Secretary*  
Ann Hunter, *Treasurer*

Alice Nicol	Steven Koehn	Lynn Williamson
Suzanne Seaton	Ryan Collinns	Ken Iha
Martha Stahl	Michael Norman	Graham Opie



Publication of the Carillon is partially funded by a generous grant from the Wind River Visitor's Council through Destination Dubois

## Update on the 50/50 Capital Campaign: Preserve the Experience

The 50/50 Capital Campaign continues to move forward towards our goal of \$5 million dollars. The Ring Lake Ranch community has been very generous in donating and pledging over \$1 million to date, but we recognize that we will need outside resources to meet the goal of the campaign. To that end, the Ranch Board of Directors is working with consulting firm Hope Manifest, Inc., based in Birmingham, Alabama, to approach foundations and other larger donors to ask them to consider committing to our campaign. That process can take some time but we look forward to updating the Ranch community in the summer and fall about our progress.

If you haven't pledged to the campaign, we invite you to do so. We welcome pledges of unrestricted donations, donations specified for particular purposes, and planned gifts. Pledges can be fulfilled over five years or in a shorter time if you wish. If you would like to pledge to the campaign or if you have questions, please contact Andy Blackmun at [andy@ringlake.org](mailto:andy@ringlake.org) or call 888.458.5253.

We are pleased to acknowledge the generous pledges and contributions that supporters have already made to the 50/50 Capital Campaign:

### Big Whiskey (\$100,000 and over)

Anonymous  
Judy Plows

Becky Brown  
Bill Brown  
Kari and Ryan Collins  
Covington Catholic High School

Becky and Harold Walker  
Dick and Gretchen Williams  
Kramer Winslow  
Monroe Wright

### Arrow (\$25,000 - \$99,999)

Jerry Campbell  
David Petersen and Sara Myers  
Gene and Charky Tucker

David and Janice Cramp  
Debbie Creamer  
Lynn Cunningham  
and Dorothy Remy

Jim and Beverly Young  
Mike McKee and Ellen Hiatt  
Alice and Fred Nicol  
Sean Roche

### Middle Mountain (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Nate Bachtell  
CeCe and Geri Balboni  
Carl Koch and Joyce Heil  
Ann and Rod Hunter  
Marge McIntosh  
Mike McKee and Ellen Hiatt  
Alice and Fred Nicol  
Sean Roche  
Suzanne Seaton  
and Kathy Johnston  
Austin Turney  
Harry and Ann Wilson

John and Dita Daub  
Jonathan and Louise Fairbank  
Steven Koehn  
Kathy Leithner  
Julie and Mike  
,,,,Mavity-Maddalena  
Amy Mears  
Doug and Robin Melius  
Michael Norman  
and Sally Baycroft  
Steve Opie and Charlotte Heim  
Martha Passel  
Jeanne and Jeff Reed  
Jean and Dana Sutton  
Bonnie Thurston  
John Van Nuys  
Ben and Amanda Verheul  
Todd and Sarah Vetter

Suzanne Seaton  
and Kathy Johnston  
Austin Turney  
Harry and Ann Wilson

### Middle Mountain (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Nate Bachtell  
CeCe and Geri Balboni  
Carl Koch and Joyce Heil  
Ann and Rod Hunter  
Marge McIntosh

### Fossil Ridge Society (Up to \$999)

Charles and Karen Miller  
Marie Morgan and  
Berkeley Merchant  
LaRae Schneider  
and Sam Foushee  
James Taylor  
Ruth Venable  
Julie Wakelee-Lynch

### Torrey Rim (\$1,000 - \$9,999)

Anna Lee Bachtell  
Andy Blackmun  
and Katherine Turpin  
Janet and Bob Blackmun  
Roberta and Richard Bondi

### Petroglyph Society (Planned Gift)

Carl Koch and Joyce Heil  
The Estate of Priscilla Marsh  
Sheila and Carlyle Richards  
Harry and Ann Wilson



## Volunteers for 2018

We still have room for a few more people for Volunteer week. The volunteer spaces for most of our seminar weeks have been taken, but a couple spots remain open. If you would like to help out during Volunteer Week or check on available spots during the rest of the season, please contact Andy at [andy@ringlake.org](mailto:andy@ringlake.org) or 888.458.5253.

## Ring of Friends

We give thanks for the many generous friends who support Ring Lake Ranch with financial donations in 2018.

☐ *HEF indicates a gift in honor of Henry Everding to the Henry Everding Memorial Fund, which supports the riding program.*

We apologize if any gifts have been missed or attributed in error. Please let us know if any information needs to be corrected.

### Ross Lake Donors (\$5000+)

The Estate of Ed Everding (HEF)  
Dan Kreimer (Elder Student Scholarships)

### Lake Louise Donors (\$1001-\$5000)

Rick and Deb Angell (in kind)  
Anna Lee Bachtell  
Dubois Chamber of Commerce  
Jacqui Franklin and Tom Francis (HEF)  
Judy Plows  
Pat and Judy Roche

### Ring Lake Donors (\$501-\$1000)

Bill and Gail Brown

### Trail Lake Donors (\$101-\$500)

Ardene Adams and Cathy Franson  
Kari and Ryan Collins  
Lee Ensign  
Martha Eubanks (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Colleen Everding (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Kelly Everding (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)

Beth and Allan Glaesser  
Ray and Susan Grimaldi (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Dwight Haberman and Deborah Ricci  
Linda Sue and Jeffrey Hammonds  
Gail and David Henderson  
John and Debbie Horton  
Laura and Keith Hudson  
Lynn Huskinson  
Ken Iha to honor Alison, Elisa and Marv  
Johanna Johnson (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Zoe and Bill Kugler (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Marge Macintosh in memory of Dick Macintosh  
Julie and Mike Mavity  
Maddalena  
Richard and Deborah Manley in honor of Laura and Nathan Bryan  
Margaret and William McConaghay (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Don and Karen Metz  
Warren Murphy  
Hertha Oliva (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Sean Roche (in kind)  
Reenie Roe  
Barbara Rumsey (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Suzanne Seaton and Katy Johnston (in kind)  
Marilyn and Don Seymour in memory of Ed Everding  
Sandra Smith  
Martha Stahl  
Dawn Starks  
Lesley and Tom Tupper  
Katherine Turpin and Andy Blackmun  
Herb and Elizabeth Ware  
Gretchen and Dick Williams  
Lynn Williamson and Dan Hauck  
Ann and Harry Wilson  
Jean and Bill Wolfe  
Bev and Jim Young (in kind)  
Ashley Zauderer

### Torrey Lake Donors (\$1-\$100)

Madelon Affeld (HEF in

memory of Ed Everding)  
Janet and Peter Baumler (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Doris Boyle in memory of Andy Widhalm  
Becky Brown  
Carolyn Casarella  
Mary Chenoweth (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Debbie Creamer  
Dewitt Daggett  
Grace and Donald DeGroat  
Connie Disney  
Carrie Doehring (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Martha Donahue  
Bob and Ann Egbert  
Ed and Lee Everding  
Donna Fern (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Thomas Fitzgerald (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Mark George and Pam Eisenbaum (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Jean Geraghty (HEF)  
Mark Haberman  
Barbara Hadley (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Barbara Hammack (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Sarah Harrison (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Sharon Hartman (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Judith Heller in memory of Ed Everding  
Ellen and Lamar Hill  
Barbara and Bernard Harbaugh (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Naomi and Nick Hoyer (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Ann Jesse (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Brian Kahin and Julia Royall  
Janet and Mark Kami  
Cal and Carolyn Luker  
Priscilla Marden  
Thomas McGonagle (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Fred Mimmack (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Bonnie and David Northcutt  
Dennis and Mary O'Flyng glaesser  
Edward Pascoe (HEF in

memory of Ed Everding)  
Jim and Sue Roberts  
Linda and Mark Roberts (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Lisa Roberts (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Robert Ross (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Christine and Bruce Sautebin  
Karen and David Sautebin  
Eldon Schmidt  
Don and Marilyn Seymour  
Enid Slack (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Douglas Sunderland  
Dana and Jean Sutton  
Barbara Takamine (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Mary Savage Tibbetts (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Allan and Carla Townsend  
Inge Trump (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Austin H Turney in memory of Ruth and Fraser Turney  
Amanda and Ben Verheul (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)  
Becky and Harold Walker (in kind)  
Paula Wellnitz  
Dana and Linda Willbanks (HEF in memory of Ed Everding)

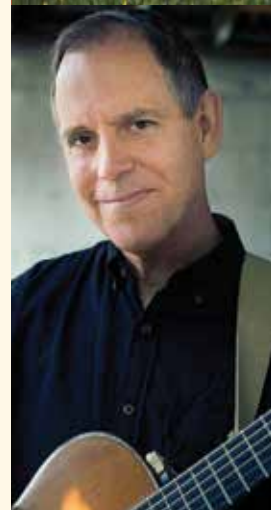
**Special thanks for the generous gifts of Sean Roche for managing our website and Roderick Robertson for designing the Carillon and our print advertising.**

### Volunteers for 2018

Our Volunteer Week roster is full, but we still have a few seminar weeks that have room for volunteer help. If you would like to volunteer during a seminar week, or add your name to the wait list for Volunteer Week, please contact Andy at [andy@ringlake.org](mailto:andy@ringlake.org) or 888.458.5253.



# Ring Lake Ranch 2018 Schedule of Programs



## May 27 - June 2 Volunteer Week

Every year, the Ranch relies on volunteers, both individuals and groups, to clean, do major repair and upkeep projects, open the kitchen, and anything else needed to prepare for guests. Please consider joining us for a week of work, fun, and fellowship!

We also have a few volunteer spaces open during our seminar weeks. Contact Andy Blackmun at [andy@ringlake.org](mailto:andy@ringlake.org) if you are interested in volunteering.



## Scholarships Available

Scholarship assistance is available, particularly for first-time guests to Ring Lake Ranch. Please contact Andy Blackmun at [andy@ringlake.org](mailto:andy@ringlake.org) for more information or to request our simple scholarship application.

### July 1 - July 7 David Wilcox Musical Medicine: Songs That Tell a Better Story

Songs can be good medicine when the right song is sung for the right person at the right time. Our retreat with David will combine his songs with time for conversation, where anyone who wishes can speak to the state of their heart and soul and mind. David will then select and/or spontaneously craft songs that will serve the conversation and the people gathered. Sometimes the songs are funny, but there can also be heart-opening clarity and powerful healing from a song that speaks directly to your situation while also showing it in a surprising and different light. Singer/songwriter David Wilcox has released 18 albums over his thirty-year career. Rolling Stone said that his "ongoing musical journey is compelling and richly deserving of a listen" and Performing Songwriter commented that his "music is a personal compass for finding his way home."

### July 15 - 21 Marianne Borg Days of Awe and Wonder Days of Awe and Wonder

*How to be a Christian in the 21st Century* is a new collection of writings by the late Marcus Borg. Using Marcus' book we will review some of his foundational affirmations and understandings that enabled so many of us to see the person of Jesus anew and discern what is the heart of Christianity. In addition to reviewing Marcus' work, we will reflect on our understandings of Christianity and its place in this complex, questioning and religiously pluralistic world. We will also use the work of a variety of poets and attend to their "eloquent listening" in hopes of helping us see again and hear afresh the hope that calls to us through days of fear and trembling to days of awe and wonder. Marianne Borg is the widow of Marcus Borg. She is a retired Episcopal priest and Founding Chair of the Marcus J. Borg Foundation.



### July 29 - Aug 11 Diana Butler Bass and Brian McLaren Habits of the Heart: Gratitude and Love

Our sacred texts make clear that gratitude and love are at the core of a well-lived life. But while we teach nearly everyone reading, writing, and arithmetic, we assume people will learn these two primary spiritual practices on their own, by accident. Diana Butler Bass and Brian McLaren will guide you in the how-to's of making gratitude and love as natural as breathing and walking. Each evening's presentation will include practices you can incorporate during the next day's activities at the Ranch, so you can return home with new habits of the heart. Diana Butler Bass is an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture. Her books include the bestselling *Grounded and Christianity After Religion*. Brian D. McLaren is an author, speaker, activist, and networker among innovative Christian leaders. His dozen-plus books include *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?* and *The Great Spiritual Migration*. **Session is full; wait list only, please.**



### July 22 - 28 The Wind River Reservation Contemporary Perspectives on Archaeology and Reservation Life

We will explore a variety of topics related to the history and current cultural life on the Wind River Reservation. Career BLM archaeologist Craig Bromley will present how archaeological understandings of the last three decades have changed about the people who inhabited this region over the last 12,000 years. Gina Clingerman, also a BLM Archaeologist, will explore the history of a Fur Trade-era spear point that she discovered in 2015, tracing it from its manufacture in Sheffield, England to its arrival in the University of Wyoming's Archaeological Repository. Jordan Dresser will discuss his role in the film "What Was Ours," a documentary of Arapaho and Shoshone tribal members who travel to the Field Museum in Chicago and begin questioning who owns the material culture of the Wind River Indian Reservation, as well as his work with the Northern Arapaho Experience Cultural Room. Jason Baldes, a member of the Eastern Shoshone tribe, will present the efforts to restore buffalo to the Wind River Indian Reservation. We also hope to have an opportunity to visit the buffalo restoration site on the reservation. **Session is full; wait list only, please.**

### Aug 12 - Aug 18 Rubi Lal What Choice Do I Have? Muslim Women in Beleaguered Worlds

Images of oppressed muslim women are common in the media: Malala Yusufzai nearly killed by the Taliban for wanting to read and write, Parda-clad Saudi women suffering under a patriarchal regime, and others subjected to the brutal violence of honor killings. While the question of violence against women and its discussion in the media is vital, perhaps something has gone missing altogether in the pictures we get. Muslim women negotiate their lives powerfully and, even under oppressive regimes, they employ magical forms of creativity that lie at the heart of being able to live. What does the life of someone like Malala Yusufzai tell us? What about Prophet Muhammad's favorite wife Aisha? And Nur Jahan, the Mughal Empress of India who envisioned the exquisite Taj Mahal? Through texts, films, and art, we will examine the life stories of Muslim women, their own notions of gender, sexuality, desire, leadership, and being in the modern world. Rubi Lal is Professor of South Asian Studies at Emory University. Her fields of study include feminist history and theory, and the question of archive as it relates to writing about Islamic societies in the precolonial and colonial world.

### August 19 - 25 Ellen Davis and Abdullah Antelpi The Things that Make for Peace: The Bible and The Qur'an in Conversation

The increase of religiously motivated violence is a compelling reason for Christians and Muslims to develop a deeper theological understanding of neighboring religious communities and "the things that make for peace" (Luke 19:42). This seminar will explore core values of Islam and Christianity, highlighting points of similarity and difference. We will give special attention to the bases in both the Bible and the Qur'an for interfaith cooperation and respect, as well as to contemporary writings and theological statements. We will consider our own faith practices and the challenges and opportunities of living in a pluralistic culture, as well as how to begin interfaith conversation in local communities. Ellen F. Davis is Amos Ragan Kearns Distinguished Professor of Bible and Practical Theology at Duke University Divinity School. Her research focuses on how biblical interpretation bears on faith communities and their responses to urgent public issues. Abdullah Antelpi is Chief Representative for Muslim Affairs at Duke University. A native of Turkey, Imam Antelpi worked on a variety of faith-based humanitarian and relief projects in Myanmar and Malaysia from 1996 to 2004 and served as Duke University's first Muslim chaplain.



### Aug. 26 - Sept 1 Barbara Rossing The Tree of Life

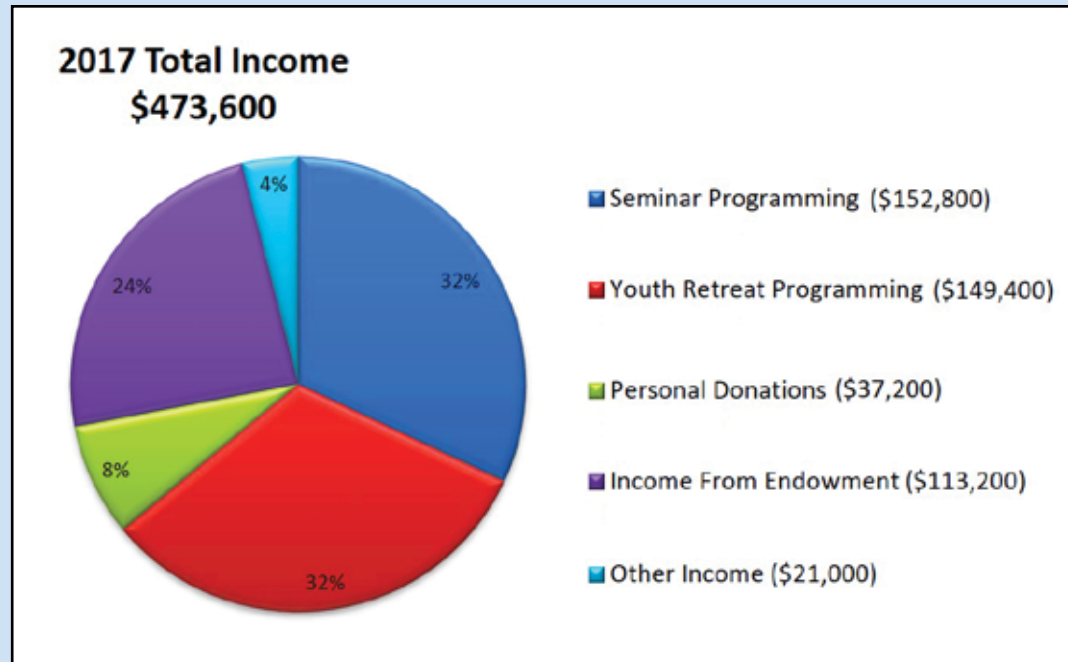
The tree of life is a central image in many religions. The Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden in Hebrew scriptures, the Bodhi Tree at the axis of the world in Buddhist cosmology, the Iroquois tree whose roots hold together the whole world. The Tree of Life also appears in science as a model for understanding biological connection and diversity. We will explore how the biological and religious trees of life can serve us theologically, how they can help envision our future, and strengthen our hope for lasting, faithful life on earth, illuminated by insights from the natural sciences, environmental studies, social sciences, literature, and art. Barbara R. Rossing is professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. She served as pastor of a congregation in Minnesota, Director for Global Mission Interpretation for the American Lutheran Church, pastor at Holden Village Retreat Center, Chelan, Wash., and chaplain at Harvard University Divinity School. Her publications include *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation*.

### Sept 2 - Sept 8 Luther Smith Conflict Transformation: Being Fully Present, Authentic, and Creatively Engaged

Our dreams for nurturing relationships, creative work, and experiencing beloved community are often shattered by situations of conflict. Although "conflict" is blamed for such broken outcomes, more fundamental matters are the real culprits. Avoiding conflict, rushing to resolution, political maneuvering, character assassination, and remaining anxious and silent are just some of the dysfunctional behaviors in disputes. With skills to befriend conflict, even at times to initiate it, we can create transformational opportunities that enact our dreams. Through presentations, discussions, video, and role-play, we will engage concepts and processes that enable us to live faithfully in conflict. Luther Smith is Professor Emeritus of Church and Community at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University. He speaks and writes extensively on Howard Thurman's legacy, spirituality, church practices, and social transformation. Throughout his career Luther has been active with issues of reconciliation, interfaith collaboration, child advocacy, poverty, and people with intellectual disabilities.

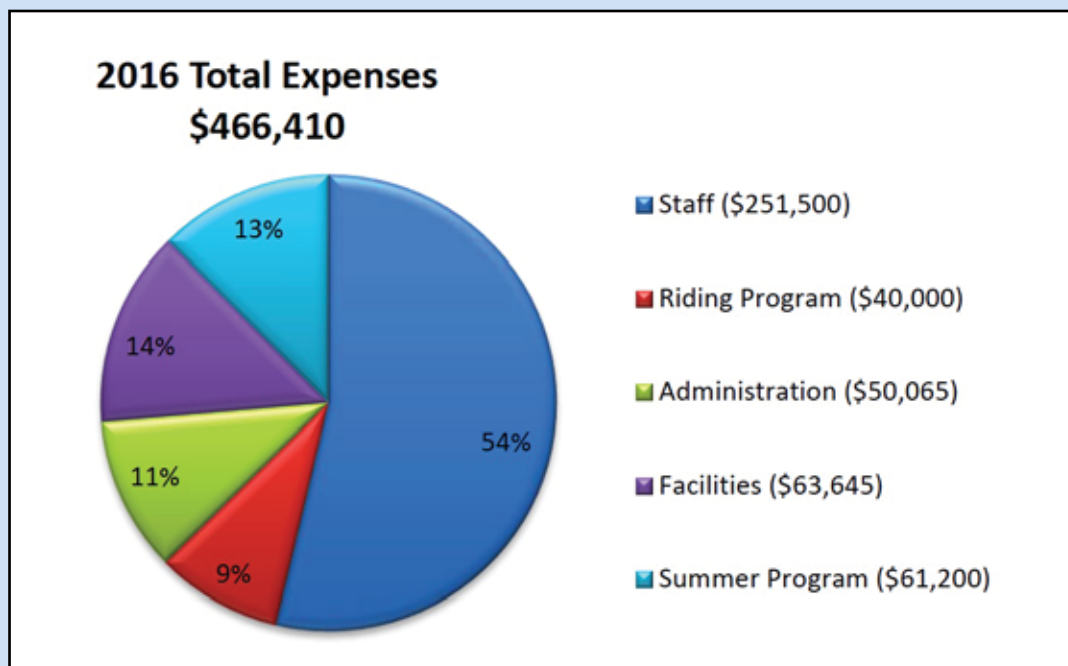
## 2017 Ring Lake Ranch Financial and Program Summary

Through nine seminars, volunteer week, and five youth retreats in 2017, we hosted a total of 442 guests and volunteers, including 221 youth and children. Our seminars had 227 guests, 52 of whom were new to Ring Lake Ranch.



## Welcome to Ken Iha, Steven Koehn, and Ryan Collins!

We are pleased to announce the addition of three new members to the RLR Board of Directors:



## Transportation Fees for 2018

We are happy to pick up guests from the Jackson Hole or Riverton airports by prior arrangement. PLEASE SELECT YOUR FLIGHT TO ARRIVE PRIOR TO 3:00 P.M. Airport transport fees for the summer: \$65 per person one way, maximum \$130 one way per family or group registered together. We want to make getting to the Ranch as convenient as possible, so please let us know your flight schedule well in advance.



**Ken Iha** first came to Ring Lake Ranch in 1992 for a seminar on Thomas Merton. An ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, he is now 80% retired and 20% mischief. He serves as a docent with the East Bay Regional Park District in California, a church deacon, and a volunteer with a Sunday afternoon preschool for immigrant Guatemalan children. He has hiked Arrow and Circle mountains, caught a twopound brown trout at the inlet of Ring Lake and once left the Ranch, unintentionally, with a mouse in his car.



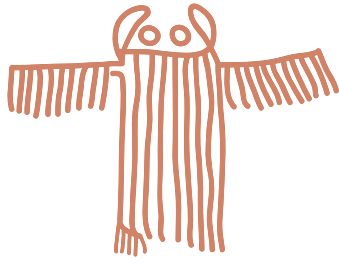
**Ryan Collins** worked as a teacher and counselor in Jefferson County Schools in the Denver area for 30 years. When he retired, he started studying energy work and has worked as a massage therapist and sound therapist and is a certified Spiritual Director. He also works with singing bowls and has played them for sharing times at RLR several times. He is active in two men's groups, Man Kind Project and Illuman. He is also active in his UCC church in Aurora, CO where his wife Kari is one of the co-pastors.



**Dr. Steven Koehn** is the General Manager of UINDY TV5 and teaches broadcast journalism, television production and film techniques at the University of Indianapolis. His teaching background includes both international and national institutions and he specializes in research in the instructional realm. His personal interests are international travel where there are opportunities for surfing, sailing and scuba diving.

We owe great amounts of thanks to Julie Mavity Maddalena, Nate Bachtell, Sean Roche, and Jerry Campbell, all of whom completed their Board terms in 2017. They were instrumental in helping Ring Lake Ranch continue to develop and thrive over the last six years.





RING LAKE RANCH

P.O. Box 806 • Dubois, WY 82513

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage PAID

Permit No. 25

La Crosse, WI

***Come join us at Ring Lake Ranch for “renewal in sacred wilderness.”***



For more information about our programs and the Ranch community, please visit our website: [www.ringlake.org](http://www.ringlake.org)