

# The



# Journal

Summer 2022

## Bittersweet

*Brooke Wright, Communications and Events Coordinator*



The 2022 camp season was a particularly significant one for the Wright Family. Our eldest son, Mac, attended his last year of Bread Camp, while Oliver, our youngest, attended his first year.

Just two weeks after we moved to The Ranch five years ago, we sent our oldest two sons to BREAD camp. We weren't sure how it would go, but two weary parents who had just moved their family of five across the country saw an opportunity to get a little break! Little did we know what it would come to mean to our boys, especially Mac.

When we moved here, Mac was entering eighth grade. He had been at the same school in Cincinnati since he was in preschool. The move here was especially hard on him because we uprooted him just before what would have been his final year at his school, with friends he'd had since he was three years old. He was staring over at a pivotal time in his development.

That first year, as an Adventurer, Mac found a community of friends that anchored him in the

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## Intergenerational Camp New Yet Familiar

*Aaron Wright, Executive Director*



*"I think many of us felt and experienced making something new together in this camp."*

—Donald Schell,  
Family Camp Founder

After decades of hosting both Family Camp and Generations Camp over two separate weeks, this year we hosted a "new yet familiar" week of Intergenerational Camp. The experience of attending Family Camp and Generations has been an integral part of the year for so many that as families and needs changed, we began seeing the opportunity to create something new yet familiar together.

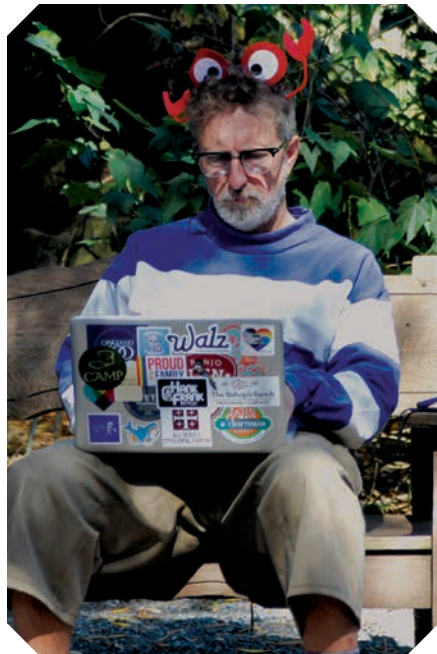
A team of advisors, including leadership from both Generations and Family Camp, alongside Ranch Staff, worked for months to create a unique blend of camp

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# A Perfect Recipe for BREAD Camp

154

Morning Wake Up Songs Played



560

Ranch Meals Served

18  
No-Fire  
Camp Fires

“

*This summer was a deep and meaningful journey where many people of all ages gathered, broke bread, and joined in intentional community building. Let the light created here at the Bishop's Ranch shine brightly on all who need it so that they may know love, understanding, and belonging.*

*James Goff,  
Lead Ranch Hand*

”



12  
Cabin  
Themes



1  
Summer of  
Countless Memories



## Bittersweet...(continued)

best way. Every spring, he'd start planning for summer. His planning always revolved around the one week of the year he's at BREAD camp. Visits to see friends or his grandparents back home? Not the week of camp! College tours? Not the week of camp! Summer job? Not the week of BREAD camp! He and his cabin mates text throughout the year and plan their nightly camp shenanigans weeks - even months - in advance.

*“Camp means a lot of things to me – community, friendship, faith, and happiness....it’s the one week of the year that I always look forward to and can’t wait to meet new people and start new relationships that truly mean something.”*

— Mac Wright

Over the years, Oliver, who was four years old when we came to the Ranch, has asked, “When do I get to go to Camp?” Finally, it was his year — his first overnight camp experience. He’s a kid who likes to stay close to home; he’s never had a sleep over. We had our doubts he would make it through the week even though he’s wanted to walk in his brother’s footsteps for five years.

Though the Ranch has become our home, our family has a rule during camp: “When you are at camp, you don’t live here.” Like any other kid at camp, you can’t run home to grab something; you can’t sit with us at meals or request special treatment. We dreaded enforcing this with Oliver because we knew he’d want to bend the rules. Nope! The only thing he said to either of us the entire week was, “BREAD Camp is Awesome!” as he flew by in a blur on the way to a meal.

It’s bittersweet to know that Mac’s BREAD camp experience has come to a close, but it’s exciting to see how the coming years of camp will undoubtedly shape and impact Oliver as they have so many others. 🍁

## New Yet Familiar...(continued)



experiences that included all the best parts of previous camps and incorporated fresh ideas and new traditions.

*“The new Intergenerational Camp at The Bishop’s Ranch continues decades of success where lives are truly changed for all of those young and old at heart.”*

— Matt Santos,  
Long-time Generations Camper

When asked why they attend camp every year, one long-time camper said, “For reconnection to the Ranch, for the views, the participants, the leaders, the food, the pool, the walks and the talks, the singing, the families, the happy hours, the late night gatherings, the communion, the old friends, the new friends — all of it” All of these aspects of camp remained and grew within this new framework.

Intergenerational Camp sold out, hosting nearly 100 campers, and was deemed a tremendous success by all families who participated. 🍁

*“I have to wait 12 more months before coming back here!”*

— Ren (6), First Time Camper



*special thanks to our...*

# Camp Staff, Volunteers & Chaplains



*thank you*

- Sarah Jane Burke
- Alma Diaz
- Annalise Deal
- David Erickson
- Krista Fregoso
- Tom Fregoso
- Molly Friedrichs
- James Goff
- Liam Goff
- Manual Gonzalez
- Erick Gutierrez
- Kimble Helms
- Ellie Kaye
- Jennifer Johnston
- Tulah Keplinger
- Aaron Klinefelter
- Cloey Klinefelter
- Aech Loar
- Nat Lewis
- Ellie MacLean
- Greta Mesics
- Michelle Nadalin
- Hilary Nelson
- Helen Robinette
- Stephanie Santos
- Frankie Trevor
- Paul Vasile
- Timothee Walters

# READ All About it

Greta Mesics



The brainchild of Rev. Patricia Moore, Healdsburg school district employees, and Healdsburg Elementary Librarian Greta Mesics, READ is a no-cost day camp for local children ages 9-12 for whom English is typically their secondary language. Many, but not all, are from lower-income households.

READ Camp is a week-long day camp starting with a delicious Ranch breakfast followed by Reading Rotations — Nature & Nonfiction, Reader's Theater, Poetry, and Campfire Songs & Stories. Lunch is then served followed by afternoon activities, including free reading time, pool time, games, crafts, and more.

*"I had an awesome time at READ Camp! It was so fun and exciting. I am so glad I got to go this year, and I can't wait to go next year. My favorite part was All of it."*

—READ Camper

READ 2022 hosted close to 50 campers from the Healdsburg area. This year they were divided into family groups named for magical creatures: The Unicorns, The Phoenixes, The Dragons, and The Griffins.

The point of READ Camp is to read in a variety of exciting, curiosity-raising, and joyful ways. There are no tests, benchmarks of academic success, or educational measurements — only the joy of reading!

*"I LOVE READ Camp! I wish it were available for older grades, too. I am sad next summer will be my last year."*

— READ Camper

Our Lead Ranch Hand, James Goff, wrote the following about READ Camp, "Read Camp is a special blend of educational reading, camp games, and pure summer fun. READ Camp takes a deeply powerful and lifelong tool — reading — and presents it in new, exciting, and dynamic ways."

"Campers read and write poetry and learn about the ranch's natural surroundings through hikes and hands-on science tools. They enjoy campfire songs and scary stories at the fire circle.

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Campers present the plays on stage with silly costumes and props on the last day, representing a culmination of hard work and practice. It is a special moment when readers who have struggled with pronunciation, volume, and sentence flow the whole week suddenly bloom with excitement and fervor while reading on stage in front of their peers. Festooned in costumes representing such diverse roles as a coffee bean, John Henry, Sumac, or Pele, the campers brim with excitement that they can partake in all the joys reading has to offer. READ Camp is fun. READ Camp is work. READ Camp is real. And the gift of lifelong reading that these kids join in on is truly special.” 🍁

*“I look forward to READ Camp all year long. It is a rare experience of sharing and JOY in learning together that always exceeds my goals and expectations. READ Camp is truly a moment in community that goes way beyond just summer enrichment or summer fun. It is the blessing of this gorgeous, inspiring, beneficent place presented as an abundant banquet of shared learning where no one sits at the head of the table, and all of us are renewed and refreshed. I am so grateful. Very special thanks to our counselors who serve with gladness and singleness of heart.”*

— Great Mesics, READ Camp Cofounder, Counselor, Mother, Librarian, Farmer, Friend, Neighbor

# TOAST Camp



TOAST is about rediscovering the magic of BREAD camp while also strengthening and expanding the Ranch Community for the future. At TOAST campers catch up with old friends, reconnect with the sacred space of The Ranch and participate in some the same activities that make BREAD Camp so special — Capture the Flag, Campfires, Worship, Service Projects and more. 2022 Marked the 3rd TOAST Camp.



## The Bishop's Ranch

of the Episcopal Diocese of California

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Healdsburg, CA 95448

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# Make a Gift to the Annual Fund Today!

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

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

Donate online or scan the QR code below:  
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Or you can mail in a donation or make a pledge using the enclosed remit envelope.

Transfer stock or other securities;  
see instructions at  
**[bishopsranch.org/stocksandsecurities](https://bishopsranch.org/stocksandsecurities)**



Annual Fund