

# La Foret

CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

Providing sanctuary for all to consider the transcendent issues of life

September 2016

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## End of Summer, What a Bummer...



What an exuberant summer it was here at La Foret! Our summer season came in with a burst!— a burst of happiness, excitement, energy...and sunshine! This summer, we watched family camps engulfed in horseshoe tournaments, archery, and laughter.

Our *Something's Movin' in the Forest!* camp had kids exploring all-ends of the 400 acre La Foret property, with plenty of 'stop and smell the flowers' moments. Bemis Art & Acting camp created hand-made special treasures, while Grandparent & Me camp savored special time with their families. Youth camps, weddings, music festivals, and more, bring vibrance and life to summertime. Unforgettable memories are made every summer at La Foret.

## ...Start to Fall, Let's Have a Ball!

The end of summer brings us back to school, with a chill in the air and a mellow mood. We are excited to host over 10 school groups during September and early October. Schools find La Foret the perfect venue for a new school year kick-off. Students spending time together in this way create bonds that help them throughout the whole year. Most groups take advantage of our ropes course to promote great team building.

This fall season we are getting geared up for another Halloween Festival, on Monday October 31! We host this event as a service to our community offering games, safe trick-or-treating, and a haunted hay ride!

Beginning in December of last year La Foret began hosting a monthly open-to-the-public, social dance evening & lesson on the third Sunday of each month. This is a dance event that offers our community the opportunity to experience our very special Ponderosa Lodge for a few hours every month. We will continue to host these throughout the winter.



Although summer has drawn to an end, we welcome this Autumn season. We at La Foret are happy to provide this quiet, peaceful place for whatever reason your group is meeting. Throughout the year, we are open and running, pleased to keep this space groomed and ready for our "off-season" clientele.

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## Employee Highlight: Summer Employees -- Hospitality Crew

With our bright, exciting, and busy summertime, La Foret gears up by doubling the number of employees on our Hospitality crew. These seasonal employees learn the ins-and-outs of La Foret in a whirlwind - so much to learn in such a short time before the summer is in full swing. By the end of summer, it can be hard to part with workers who dedicated their summer days to La Foret, taking care of the food and lodging needs of our guests.



**Destinee** started at La Foret towards the end of summer, but will continue to work on weekends through the school year. She attends Fountain Ft. Carson High School and wants to be a Nurse.

*"I can't say enough great things about La Foret. It's truly been an amazing experience. La Foret has been my first job and I have been surrounded by great, positive co-workers. I'm actually excited when I have to go to work because of the uplifting work environment. Now that I'm back to school they have been so considerate in making sure I get hours on the weekends when I request them. I'm filled with joy to have the experience of working at La Foret." - Destinee*



**James** started work in the Spring helping the Housekeeping staff deep clean the cabins. He continued on through the summer not only in Housekeeping, but in the Dining Hall as well. James is starting his first year of college at Calvary Chapel Bible College in California with future plans of becoming a youth pastor. He will be returning to La Foret during school breaks and next summer.

*"La Foret blessed me financially and spiritually more than you can imagine. La Foret is a beautiful place with loving staff." - James*





**Kyle** is attending Fountain Fort Carson High School and wants to be a Marine. Kyle plans on returning to La Foret next summer.

*"It was a great experience working at La Foret" - Kyle*



**Tanner** was here for his second summer at La Foret and will return this Spring after school and on weekends. Tanner is attending Pine Creek High School and wants to be a chemical or molecular engineer.

*"I love the staff as well as the atmosphere and freedom." - Tanner*

We recognize the efforts and time our summer crew put in to make La Foret wonderful this summer, and we wish this crew well as they embark on their school year and other jobs. Thank you to the summer staff, for all the work and care you gave this year!

## **Celebrating Rev. Sue Artt**

*Installment Ceremony on August 20*



Wearing bright colors and big smiles, many assembled at Ponderosa Lodge at La Foret in August celebrating Rev. Sue Artt. Powerful words were spoken by UCC General Minister and

President, Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer. He delivered an inspiring message about inclusion and the slow and steady nature of social change. "We're all in this together." And Rev. Sue Artt is dedicated to being a living example of that. After her unanimous election in June, and her recent installment in August, it is clear that Rev. Artt is called with this mission of bringing vitality to the UCC RMC and inspiring our local churches to support our community.

In this meaningful ceremony, Rev. Artt received gifts from various Association Leaders and shared communion with Rev. Dorhauer and others across the national setting. Powerful words were spoken, blessings and deep prayers were offered, the laying of the hands brought tears to eyes, and an unforgettable moment in Rev. Sue Artt's life was

## **'DANCE in the WOODS!' ...every month at La Foret**

Don't forget to mark your calendars for La Foret's monthly swingin' social dance party, hosted by Tasha, at La Foret in our lovely Ponderosa Lodge. As always, this dance starts with a beginner level lesson, followed by great snacks we provide, and you are welcome to BYOB while you enjoy great dancing, music, and mingling. See you there, invite your friends!



*~ Open to the public!  
Invite your friends! ~*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER  
18th, 2016**

celebrated with the UCC family.

The ceremony concluded with joyful singing and taking memorable group photos. This meaningful moment in Rev. Artt's loving career is just the spark that she will pass on to meaningful moments in countless lives.



Deep gratitude and congratulations to our own UCC RMC Conference Minister, Reverend Sue Artt.

## A Letter From Our Director

La Foret is a year-round facility. As you can see from this newsletter, the summer is hectic and dominated with events for young people. Beginning this time of year our pattern changes. While there are school events during the week and fall youth events, adult events predominate on weekends. We welcome spiritual and social events for adults from a broad range of organizations: United Church of Christ, The Disciples of Christ, Methodist, Baha'i, evangelical and more. The often repeated phrase from the UCC applies. "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." We extend our welcome to all.

- Larry

## Our Past Newsletters

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- [February 2016](#)
- [March 2016](#)
- [April 2016](#)
- [May 2016](#)
- [June 2016](#)
- [July 2016](#)
- [August 2016](#)

Beginner \*West Coast Swing

\* Lesson

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Social Dance Practice Party

7:00pm - 9:00pm

\$10 at the door

-- Private and semi-private lessons are also available! Click [HERE](#) for more information! --

Talk to Tasha if you have any questions about the dance this month: [tasha@lafort.org](mailto:tasha@lafort.org)

## YOU can make a difference!

### Volunteer Opportunities

- Wood Splitting for Fire Wood
- Fire Mitigation and Forest Clean-up
- LaForet's Original Antique Furniture needs some repair
- Painting/Staining throughout the camp
- Trail Maintenance

### Wish List

- Cabin Windows throughout camp
- Yurt Doors
- Utility Vehicle, Golf Cart, Mini Van
- Lower Dining Hall waterproof flooring
- Woodcraft items: donation box, signs, benches
- Monetary [DONATION](#)

(Monetary donations can be earmarked for a specific cause and all donations receive a tax deduction letter.)

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