

YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly Staff Alumni Newsletter Spring 2004

2003 Assembly Accomplishments



- Welcomed 45 international staffers.
- BRA had 4 ambassadors, 2 to Brazil, 1 to Sweden and 1 to England
- Elaine Godfrey won a second place award of \$500.00 for a presentation on how Blue Ridge Assembly runs its International program.
- Complete the first of 3 family lodges. The family lodge is self-sufficient and includes meeting space and a full kitchen.

Keeping Up

Chip Smith (70 – 72) - Married 15 years to Amy Hockett Smith with two children, Jordan 6 and Sarah 3. They live in Houston, TX where he serves as Director to an international oil and gas exploration company. Amy is a graphic/computer design artist working at home, when not herding the duo.



Alison Jordan Jackson and sons

Cari Duane Covey's family



J.J. Kindred (88 - 90) writes I'm a county government reporter with "The Mountain Press", which covers Sevierville, Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge. I got my degree in journalism at Middle Tenn. St in Murfreesboro, and got my first full-time job in East Hampton, N.Y. I moved from there to Washington, D.C. where I was an editor and media specialist for U.S. Newswire. Moved back to Tennessee and worked several places before this job.

Ethan Bean (93) writes I am presently moving to Ohio with my wife and son to be a staff psychiatrist at Wright-Patterson AFB.

Carolyn Guyton Kearns ('58) writes I worked for Mrs. Boular in the housekeeping department. I would love to know if anyone has the address for Ann Miller. She is from Clinton, Mississippi. Update on the Kearns. We have only been married 3 1/2 years and have traveled to the Caribbean, Dominican Republic, Ireland, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Czech., France, Austria, Africa, Holland, and are headed to England next month. We have also, gone all over New England, New Orleans, LA, Gulf Shores, AL three years in a row, TN, Myrtle Beach, Florida and to the mountains of NC a few times where they have a cottage.

Laura (Vernon) King (88-93) will be stationed in Seattle Washington for a 3 year tour on the CGC Healy an ice breaking science vessel that breaks ice in the Artic and Antarctic. Her husband, David and their two girls will be

living in Palmer Texas while Laura is underway.

Sheila Kay Brooks Ishee (1976-1978) writes they were great years that I will remember always...with a smile. I live in Virginia now (back then I lived in Alabama) with my 3 children, all practically grown now. I'd love to hear from some of my buddies from that era. I keep up with a few but I can't seem to find many of them. Saralynn Huffman and Forrest Jerkins....where are you??? and Jeff Bogran and Dan Caffrey, you guys have evaporated!!! I'd love to know how y'all are. As for me, my big news is that I'm opening a bakery in Staunton, Virginia in February. Come on over and have a piece of pie with me guys...coffee is on the house!!! My email address is sheila_ishee@hotmail.com

Sheila Marshall Stone would like anyone from 1981 to write her at smscats71852@global.net

Address Changes

Chip Smith (70-72)
310 Litchfield Lane
Houston, TX 77024
713-827-7376 home
713-877-8544 Work
chip_ster@hotmail.com

Carolyn Guyton Kearns -1958
1247 Dovershire Place
High Point, NC 27262
kearns1933@aol.com

Kay Bates
1246 Strada Amore #3, Florence, SC 29501
kbates@florence3.k12.sc.us

Laura (Vernon) King (88-93)
Commanding Officer, USCGC HEALY (WAGB-20)
ATTN: LT Laura King
1519 Alaskan Way South
Seattle, WA 98134

J.J. Kindred
240 Riverwalk Drive, Suite 2209
Sevierville, TN 37862



New Babies:

Amy Dittman-Beasley (90's)
amerdb@earthlink.net

Amy's sons: Caleb, Aidan and Jacob. Jacob Raymond Beasley was born on June 27, 2003 at 8:51 pm. He weighed 8 lbs. 12 oz, 21 1/2 inches long.



Laura (Vernon) King (88-93)
 Laura's daughters: Britney and Sarah. Sarah Elizabeth King was born on October 16, 2003 at 1:34 pm. She weighed 9 lbs. 10 oz and was 20 3/4 inches long.



Sheldon Harmon Bell

Lives in Tennessee with her husband and twin boys. Jacob Bryant and Joshua Barron were born in June 2003 and each weighed 5 lbs 7 oz.

Greg Blevins and his wife Julie had their son the week of April 23rd. His name is Benjamin and he weighed over 9 pounds. (No Picture at this time)

20 Years of Tradition - STAFF GIFT - 2003

The staff alumni presented the current staff a gift of games at the July 2003 reunion. Eight board games and two card games were given along with \$158 cash to buy electronic games of the staff's choosing. Previous gifts have included microwave ovens, Younts fans, portable charcoal grills, TV and VCR for Weatherford and Younts, picnic table, camcorders and tripods, softball gloves, bats, and bags, camping tents and sleeping bags, icemaker for Younts, computers, dart boards, ceiling fans in staff dining room, and mountain bikes. Board games donated in a previous year were nearly all worn out or lost. This year's gift was paid for by a collection taken up during the reunion, which netted \$280. The presentation was made at the Saturday night square dance by alumni treasurer Ted McCoy and accepted for the staff by assembly executive Elaine Godfrey. She thanked the alumni on behalf of the staff and commented that such games will be especially popular among the forty-two staffers from foreign countries who do not go downtown as much in the evenings. The games were purchased during the weekend by alumnae Ann Rabon Hough and Terry Allen. The games given were Twister, Jenga, Scattergories, two Checkers sets, Wood 8 Game, Skip Bo Deluxe, Trivial Pursuit, and two decks of Uno cards. Cash was given for electronic games because the former staffers were not certain which electronic games are now most desired.

Alumni Picture Summer 2003



2003 Summer Reunion Minutes

Ian opened the meeting with a welcome and started introductions around the room. Elaine Godfrey opened that they currently have 87 staff this summer, of which there are 42 internationals (representing 15 different countries). There are 45 collegiate staff.

BRA has newly established a relation with the Hispanic Bible College with Houston, TX. Through them BRA is offering business law for the collegiate class this summer- of which there are 18 participating students/staff. BRA is also offering TOFL classes this summer for international students. Classes are twice a week. BRA currently has 12 staff enrolled and 7 that attend regularly. BRA sent 1 ambassador to Japan this summer. International relations and SARS have cut down international staff and ambassadors. BRA now has 12 local staff that work year round (the local staff now rotate and not work only dining room anymore). BRA has more full-time employees now (especially in supervisory roles). Volunteer roles have increased to include store, maintenance, etc..., for two week intervals. BRA currently has 5 collegiates doing internships through BRA. Staff trips have included- white water rafting, Carowinds, and even Washington, DC (which was done this past Feb.)

3. Roger stated that he/BRA has approached 3 families (Younts, McCarty, and Ware) to build a family lodge. The foundation (which has been laid) is down between Chris Robertson's house and the garage. Half of the lodge will have private baths and half with shared baths; common room which can also be used as a meeting room; full kitchen; front porch; heated and air-conditioned; and year round facility. The lodge will hold 35-50 people comfortably. Anticipated date for completion is 1/1/04. BRA is hoping to get 2 lodges in the same area. Other possible sites mentioned include the lake and also the down road by the playground.
- 1.4 Roger also gave the archives report. Roger states that pictures are being cataloged in Archives by both years and buildings. They are also being put on compact disc for email availability. Archives report also lead to a report on the Centennial coming up. BRA has a budget of \$100,000 for the centennial. BRA is in the works of planning a mural in the large dining room on the west wall of a picnic on Lee Hall (1912-1915). BRA is in the process of selecting pictures now for the centennial. BRA currently has a centennial link on their website. Karen Calhoun has found an old BRA ashtray and sugar bowl on Ebay. The display

for the centennial will be set-up in Lee Hall lobby for self-guided tours. BRA also has a staff alumni link on-line and can register on-line for alumni association and working on gift-giving link for contributions as well (www.blueridgeassembly.org). BRA is hoping to get staff, alumni, board members, youth groups, and the community involved with the centennial celebration.

5. Ted McCoy presented the finance report. The alumni association has 3 funds:
 - a. Work study/ collegiate endowment (goal is to raise \$100,000). We currently are at \$146,000.00.
 - b. Staff alumni association (newsletter, summer staff gift, etc.-- goal is \$30,000). We are currently at \$16,000.00.
 - c. Daily operations/endowment fund. Several have made contributions. We came out of the red as we raised \$1200.00. However, due to the cost of the last newsletter (\$4,000.00) we are now back in the hole \$2764.92. This last newsletter is about 5Xs more than usually due to the glossy paper used.
6. Leslie Dennis provided the website/newsletter update. Leslie stated that Davis Brock is taking all names, addresses, and years and loading them on the website. We will then be able to go to the website link and look up alumni (including email addresses if we have them). Suggestion brought forth was to put the newsletter online (thru BRA link). Leslie stated that the website will be \$25.00/set-up fee and then \$5.00/month to maintain. Laura King and Glenn Vernon have volunteered to help with inputting information for newsletter. Then a postcard could be sent out for everyone to let them know to look at the newsletter online.
7. Ian Luck presented the report regarding the 2003 Alumni Gift. In February we decided on two gifts- either ceiling fans for Weatherford dining room, if we had the money, and if not then board games. Ian recommended that we pursue the board games for the staff gift for this summer. Ian proposed that before we left to make pledges and donations for board games for this year's gift.
8. Leslie Dennis addressed the 2004 meeting dates and centennial ideas. Leslie said that she tried to add a third night to the reunion weekend for next summer, but the only dates available for three nights would be June 11-14 and June 25-28 or we could keep our regular summer date of July 2-4 which is for two nights. There is no availability for a third night for the dates of July 2-4. A vote was brought forth and the majority vote was for June 25-28. Question arose whether we could use a 3-day weekend, but have the option to stay either 2 or 3 nights. Prospective dates for February 2004 are February 13-15 (3-day weekend-can stay till Monday). Only officer's rooms are paid for, rooms are still half-price for staff. Leslie said that she would get back with us as to the cost for February. Leslie proposed the magician for next summer which would cost \$350.00 for an after dinner show. Float trip was also brought up for next summer- float down the Broad River (rafts, canoes, and kayaks). Cost is \$28.00/adult and \$18.00/12-under. Trip times are 12pm, 1pm, and 2pm. Weight limit for children is 35 lbs minimum, which most 3-4 yr olds fit. Reservations will have to be made in advance. Year 2006 (centennial year)- Leslie is shooting for a 3-day weekend as well for that summer. Leslie has asked that all alumni think about ideas that the alumni can do for the centennial year and either let Leslie know or email her.

Blue Ridge Prepares for Centennial Celebration



In 2006, the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly will celebrate its 100th anniversary. A Mural of a picnic on Lee Hall (1912-1915) was painted on the west wall in the large dining room. A tape of Dr. Weatherford and his ideas and goals was found in the archives. Visit the centennial link at www.blueridgeassembly.org. A display for the centennial will be set-up in Lee Hall lobby for self-guided tours. Several doors from Lee Hall have been mounted in BRC with 100 years of pictures displayed in the door panels.

Winter Planning meeting picture was taken in front of Mural in Large Dining Room



Winter Planning Meeting 2-14-04

1. Members present: Amy & Bill Gill, Richard & Leslie Dennis, Glenn Vernon, Laura King, Megan Patterson, Pete Lee, Ted McCoy, Tim McCoy, Elaine Godfrey, Ian Luck, Candy Sabato, Bea Hogan, Jennifer Canipe, Ann Weeks
2. Finance Report:
 - a. Collegiate Work Study Endowment: Covers things such as Chaplin and Summer Staff
 - b. Staff Alumni Association Endowment: Received several contributions this year, this account currently has \$16,530.80. Contributions are encouraged.
 - c. Operating Fund: helps with things such as summer staff gift and the newsletter. There is currently \$0 in the fund. We are spending more than is contributed or raised. Question was brought up about us being in the red. It's believed that our balance should be \$350.00 from the summer of 2003. Blue Ridge Assembly paid for the last newsletter. Elaine will check on our balance for this account. Elaine said Roger Hibbard told her on Thursday that budget is 0, but question still remains from the \$350.00 from the summer.
3. Alumni Gift 2003:

Elaine Godfrey won a second place award of \$500.00 for a presentation on how Blue Ridge Assembly runs the International program at the Assembly. As a part of Elaine's presentation in New York, she put together a booklet with an article along with letters from Blue Ridge's International Staff. Congratulations Elaine. Elaine used her second place award of \$500.00 along with the \$158.00 collected last summer to purchase a 5-45 LB weight set and bench for the staff to use in the weight room center located in Washburn.
4. Alumni Gift 2004:

Ted suggested that we buy ceiling fans for the dining room in Weatherford Hall. Fans are approximately \$50-\$75.00 a piece. Ed Colley said that he would install them at no cost. Total cost should be about \$300.00. Elaine said she too thinks the fans would be a great idea. See Ted to make donations.
5. Summer 2004:
 - a. Dates for the summer reunion are June 25-27, or June 25-28. Alumni have the option of staying 2 or 3 nights this summer. Rates include a \$10 per adult program fee. Questions arose about what we want to do.
 - b. Southern Waterways offers raft and canoe trips. They are float trips that run behind Biltmore. Jennifer asked about time with a staff member in the gym for the kids. Question also arose about time on the tower with staff so that we don't have to take it out of our budget. Elaine said she would look into that. Elaine is also going to check with Burton Fulk who does an animal show for kids.

- c. Leslie Dennis will check on the small dining room for breakfast on Sunday with a devotional. Leslie will also check will Bill Grimsley who is a magician, for if not this summer, then maybe for the summer reunion for 2005 or 2006. Date would be depending on his availability. Approximate cost for the magician is \$350.00.
 - d. A request was also made for a time for the ice cream store to be open in the evening. We don't have winter planning meeting or summer dates yet for 2005.
6. Newsletter & Website:
- a. Laura King is working on our newsletter. Last years newsletter is on the Blue Ridge Assembly website. Plan is to put this years newsletter on the website as well and send postcards out to let everyone know that it is online.
 - b. Davis has been inputting everyone's name, email, and address on the web. All are done except for a small handful including a few with returned addresses. Link is not live yet, but ready to go live, except taking out errors. Davis to talk with Will about going live. Davis can also send mass emails to those on the list. Only info to be live is names of staff, their email addresses, and years worked. Database will also include physical addresses and phone numbers, but this info will not be live. We Currently have two databases, which we hope to eventually combine into one so that we will have one complete file.
 - c. Aiming to get postcards out first week of April to let those know about the newsletter being online.
7. BRA Staff/Facilities Update:
- a. Exciting new update, new family lodge behind Lee Hall. Family lodge is self-sufficient and includes meeting space and a full kitchen. First group scheduled the weekend of March 5th. Lodge will actually be dedicated at the board meeting.
 - b. Ambassador Program is finally taking off again. BRA had 4 Ambassadors this year-2 to Brazil, 1 to Sweden, and 1 to England.
 - c. Staff Recruiting is currently going on. BRA has approximately 45 international staff.
 - d. Roger Hibbard's nephew Brian, painted the mural in the large dining room. Presentation/Dedication will be done at the board meeting in March. Tape with Dr. Weatherford and his ideas and goals for Blue Ridge Assembly will also be included with the board meeting.
 - e. Centennial 2006- We're wanting to have a big celebration for 2006. Roger is looking for the alumni to take part in the celebration at the reunion for 2006. Richard asked what Blue Ridge's Theme was for the Centennial. Elaine will look into it. Jennifer asked for a subcommittee to work on the Centennial Alumni Program. Jennifer volunteered to help as well as Leslie. A list was sent around for those who wish to participate in the planning to sign up.
8. New Business:
- a. Alumni Present at the winter meeting to gather in front of the mural in the dining room to take a picture.
 - b. Pete has a lot of historical pictures to share from the 50's. He has volunteered to scan his pictures and send them to Elaine.
 - c. Ian offered to take interested alumni on a tour of the new family lodge

[Climbing the tower during Summer Staff Alumni Weekend](#)



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STAFF ALUMNI FUNDS

Your financial contributions are welcome for Staff Alumni Association activities. The alumni support two endowment funds. One is the Collegiate Work-Study Endowment that we alumni established about 20 years ago with a goal of \$100,000.

Earnings from its investments pay for the free college credit courses we offer the summer employees. It also pays for the adult director for the summer staff, their activities such as bus trips, and when possible, the summer chaplain. We surpassed the goal and that endowment now has about \$149,000. Further donations are always welcome and would support further junior staff actions.

The other endowment fund is the Staff Alumni Association Endowment that we started in recent years. Its goal is \$30,000 and is intended to make the Alumni Association self-supporting. We have not yet met the goal. At the beginning of 2004 we had \$16,530.80 and are still partly dependent on the Blue Ridge Assembly for financial support.

Earnings from this endowment pay for our newsletter, winter planning meetings, mailings, archives, and summer staff gifts. Gifts have included computers, televisions, mountain bikes, camping gear, fans, and other things meant to make the summer more pleasant.

We very much welcome gifts toward meeting the Alumni endowment goal. Make checks payable to YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly and mail them to the Assembly at 84 Blue Ridge Circle, Black Mountain, NC 28711-9722. On the memo line designate the check for the Staff Alumni Endowment, the Collegiate work-Study Endowment, or any purpose you wish.

Blue Ridge Perspective

If you haven't been receiving the Blue Ridge Perspective newsletter bi-annually and you would like to receive it, please forward your mailing address information to Elaine Godfrey at egodfrey@ymcabra.org.

Tribute to Frank Hogan



Steve Hale - I have to tell you that going to North Carolina in 1974 as a young whippersnapper from Pennsylvania was a stretch for me. Arriving at Blue Ridge Assembly that summer opened a whole new world to this college sophomore. Two of the most memorable men I've ever met were Paul Grist and Frank Hogan; Paul for his irascible good humor and Frank for the optimistic twinkle in his eye. When I think of southern gentlemen, I will always picture Frank. When I think of

the quintessential southern woman, Bea pops into mind. As a couple they made an indelible imprint that corrupted my Yankee character and remains today. I think I'm a more considerate and amiable person for having rubbed shoulders (and gotten my arm squeezed extra hard!) with such truly wonderful role model folks. You don't have to look hard to see where you got your charm and sweet disposition. Frank always had a gentle word, a devilish smile (which us young guys related to back in those days), and a hard squeeze on the upper arm. The latter move was often followed by a prizefighter's pump of his arm to continually prove to us who was the strongest. It's been a privilege and honor to remain on the Hogan "keep in touch list" these years since Blue Ridge days. Bea is one of the few people who write a personalized note every year in with their Christmas card. That's a very personalized practice that's become endangered with these new fangled computers. A touch of character that distinguishes them in my mind as unique and distinctive and worthy of imitation. Reunions do occur in heaven. We have the assurance that we will all meet there. Frank already knows the release from this world and the peace in the hereafter.



Glenn L. Vernon (1958-60) - When I first met Frank Hogan in June of 1958 he was not so sure that he liked me very much since for some reason his eleven month old daughter Candy would come to me when she would not come to him. But that soon changed. We formed a long friendship of some forty plus years and I was on the receiving end of it most of the time. Frank was so real and so honest about his feeling and his opinions. He and Bea were a refreshing influence on my life at Blue Ridge and then continued to be throughout my life. One

Thanksgiving, I believe in 1961, I went to Blue Ridge from UNC at Chapel Hill and got snowed in. I was staying in Lee Hall. The only one there. But after the snow, it was too cold and they invited me over to their home for the two or three days until we were able to get off the mountain. After I married my English wife, Sylvia, Frank and Bea were one of the first couples I wanted to introduce her to and to Blue Ridge. And then in 1988 I brought my daughter Laura to Blue Ridge to serve on the Staff because I knew that Candy and Frank and Bea were still around to see that she would have the same great experience that I had thirty years earlier. Frank taught me how to play Bridge in Lee Hall Lobby. He taught me how to sit and relax and enjoy the view from Lee Hall porch. When I became a director of a camp I was always looking for a Frank Hogan for my maintenance manager but never was able to find one that would measure up to his high standards. My how he is missed!!!!

Laura King (88-93) - I met Frank and Bea the first summer I worked at Blue Ridge. I remember my Dad telling me stories about them when he was at Blue Ridge. I spent so much of my free time with Candy, Mike, Laura, and Sarah that I became part of the family and started calling Frank - Papa and Bea - Granny Bea. They were like a second set of Grandparents to me. Papa used to sit on the porch and smoke his pipe.

2004 Alumni Reunion

June 25-28

(2 or 3 night option)

FRIDAY

- Registration: BRC Lobby, 3-5 PM (Once checked in, congregate on Lee Hall Porch)
- Dinner on your own (Local menus will be available to plan your dining.)

SATURDAY

- 8:00 AM Breakfast
- 9:30 AM Alumni Business Meeting
- 11:30 AM Alumni Picture (this includes all family and friends!)
- 12:30 PM Lunch
- 2:00 PM Alpine Tower Climb/50's group will gather on Lee Hall porch for a rocking session
- 5:30 PM Cookout
- 7:30 PM Animal show with Carleton Burke-"Animals We Love to Hate"

SUNDAY

- 8:00 AM Breakfast/Devotion/Goodbyes to those leaving on Sunday
- The rest of the day is for adventures on your own. Some area attractions are listed with websites & phone numbers to find information and pricing:
 - Southern Waterways (Float trips down the French Broad River)
Make plans early; they stay booked! Phone: 828-232-1970.
 - Nantahala Outdoor Center (Whitewater Rafting) www.noc.com or call 1-800-232-7238
 - Linville Caverns www.linvillecaverns.com or call 1-800-419-0540
 - Chimney Rock www.chimneyrockpark.com or call 828-625-9611
 - Biltmore Estate www.biltmore.com or call 1-800-543-2961
 - Tweetsie Railroad (Great for little ones!) www.tweetsie.com or call 1-800-526-5740
 - Grandfather Mountain www.grandfather.com or call 1-800-468-7325
 - Grove Arcade (This is a public market in Asheville) www.grovearcade.com or call 828-252-7799

MONDAY

- 8:00 AM Breakfast & Goodbye

Schedule Subject To Change At A Moment's Notice!

Reunion Weekend Registration Form
Friday, June 25 – Sunday, June 27, 2004
 Or
Friday, June 25 – Monday, June 28, 2004

Arrival Date: Friday, June 25th
Check-In Time: 3:00 pm
Departure Date: Sunday, June 27 or Monday, June 28
Check-Out Time: 10:00 am

* 2 night packages include Breakfast, Saturday – Breakfast, Sunday. (4 meals) Note: Ages 2 & under are free, Ages 3-12 are considered children

* **3 night packages include all meals on Saturday, plus breakfast & lunch on Sunday. (5 meals)**
 Participants may purchase individual meal tickets for Friday or Sunday suppers and Monday breakfast, if they so desire.

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Step 1: Please print the information requested below

Name: _____ **Spouse:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

What years were you employed on the Blue Ridge Staff? _____

Accommodations Requested (see prices below):

Asheville Hall _____ Blue Ridge Center _____

Lee Hall w/bath _____

Total Number in party _____ Names and ages of children:

- 1) _____ 3) _____
 2) _____ 4) _____

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| BLUE RIDGE CENTER & ASHEVILLE HALL 3 Night Packages, includes 5 Meals | Totals Per Person |
| Single Rate/Per Person | \$144.50 |

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| Double Rate/Per Person | \$ 95.00 |
| Extra Adult (3rd or 4th person) | \$ 62.75 |
| Extra Child (3rd or 4th person) | \$ 35.00 |
| BLUE RIDGE CENTER & ASHEVILLE HALL | |
| 2 Night Packages, includes 4 Meals | |
| Single Rate/Per Person | \$104.00 |
| Double Rate/Per Person | \$ 71.00 |
| Extra Adult (3rd or 4th person) | \$ 49.50 |
| Extra Child (3rd or 4th person) | \$ 25.50 |
| ROBERT E. LEE HALL | |
| 3 Night Package, includes 5 meals | |
| Single Rate/Per Person | \$120.50 |
| Double Rate/Per Person | \$ 83.00 |
| ROBERT E. LEE HALL | |
| 2 Night Package, includes 4 meals | |
| Single Rate/Per Person | \$ 88.00 |
| Double Rate/Per Person | \$ 63.00 |

Please include any other pertinent information below. For example, if you have a roommate preference, if you have special physical needs or if you would like adjoining rooms, please indicate that below.

Return to Leslie Dennis
1856 Seasons Drive
Prattville, AL 36066

Email questions to Leslie @ richardleslieplusfour@charter.net