

June 28, 2009

Dear Drumming Women!

Welcome to Born to Drum 2009! We are looking forward to our beautiful and inspiring week-end drumming, making music, and sharing together.

Besides letting you know how happy we are that you are going to be at camp, this letter is meant to give you practical information to help you prepare for camp.

LOCATION

The camp is located at 1700 Marshall-Petaluma Road • Petaluma, CA 94952. In the event you are lost or have an emergency situation, the office number is (415) 491-6603. The driving directions, which you can download from the web site, give directions from 101 coming either North or South. The web site also has a large-scale map that will help to locate the site in the context of locations familiar to you.

The land on which we are meeting is ancient land of the Coast Miwok people. We are grateful to be here and honor the ancestors on whose land we walk.

ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION AND DEPARTURE TIMES

- Camp dates are July 2, 3, 4, and 5
- Registration will be from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. on Thursday
- Classes begin on Thursday at 2:30 p.m.
- We need to be packed up and leave dormitories and lodges by 10 a.m. on Sunday
- Our last event ends at 4 p.m. on Sunday

REGISTRATION

If you have questions or immediate needs when you arrive at camp, please ask one of our greeters for assistance. They will be available by the registration area.

Before going to registration please sign and date a release form. You may download this form from our website, sign it, and bring it directly to the registration area. Or follow the signs to your **first stop**, where you will find bright pink forms on tables near registration.

If you have registered and paid: You will register outdoors in front of the Visitor Center. The location will be clearly signed. There are three separate lines:

- camping
- Private, semi-private, and day passes
- dormitory

If we do not have your payment (perhaps you mailed it but it didn't arrive yet), we will ask you to go to the Visitors Center for assistance. You will need to leave a check for the camp. If we then receive the check you mailed we will destroy this second check.

If you have not registered or if we have not received your payment: You will register inside the Visitors Center.

If you arrive late: You can go directly to your classes. You will be able to register before dinner at the first table by the main entrance to the dining hall. Please go directly to the registration table before your meal.

If you are arriving on Friday Saturday, or Sunday: registration will be during breakfast. Location will be posted at the Visitors Center and in the dining hall. If you arrive late, you will be able to register during meals in the dining hall. Please go directly to the registration table before your meal.

HOUSING

Please register BEFORE going to or selecting your housing.

Camping: There is information about camping and a map showing designated camping areas at registration. Please let us know which camping area you choose.

Dormitory rooms: Dormitory rooms are first come/first served and may be selected AFTER REGISTRATION. A map showing dormitory locations is at registration. The following dormitories will be available: Coyote, Deer, Bobcat, Redtail, Raccoon, Fox, Owl, Salmon, Condor, and Eagle. **Please do not** use other dormitories unless asked to do so by registration staff.

If you are in a dormitory you will bring your own linens or sleeping bag, pillow, towel, etc. You are welcome to use both a top and bottom bunk so you'll have space to store your items. Please do not use more than one bottom bunk.

If you are in a private or semi-private room: Your room will be pre-assigned. If you requested a specific roommate(s) she will be assigned to the same room as you. Otherwise, for semi-private rooms, Born to Drum will assign a roommate. You will receive your room assignment when you register. Your name will be on the door of the room to which you are assigned.

Semi-private and Private rooms include these items: sheets and pillowcase, blanket, pillow, towel, and washcloth. You may want to bring an extra blanket in case of cold evenings.

Please do not switch rooms as unassigned rooms are assumed to be available for walk-in registrations.

We are using the following lodges for private or semi-private rooms: Willow (Faculty only), Buckeye, Teacher's, and Sequoia.

CHECKOUT AND DEPARTURE

The camp will be over around 4:00 p.m. on Sunday – after closing ceremonies. However, *we need to be out of our rooms by 10:00 on Sunday morning.*

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE WEB SITE

A number of documents are on the Born to Drum web site:
<http://borntodrum.org>

Just select the link for 'documents' on the left hand side of the page. The document will download in .pdf format. You will find these documents

- What to Bring
- Map of the Surrounding area
- Driving Directions
- Release Form
- Schedule
- Class Descriptions
- Class Schedule

All of this information is also available on the website if you prefer not to download the document.

Special note: Bring your bathing suit! There is swimming at Turtle Pond on Friday and Saturday afternoons during the special activities period. A lifeguard must be present when swimming.

CLASSES

We want to make sure that all the women who come to camp have classes that will help them grow in their art. Classes will be available at all levels, from the Basic Skills, to beginning level classes, to classes for intermediate and advanced students.

Teachers will gear their classes to the level identified for the class. You will benefit a great deal from the camp by selecting classes that are at your level or a small stretch.

We are very excited to again provide classes in BASIC SKILLS for women with little or no drumming experience. The Basic Skills classes will provide your first important foundation on the drum, at a relaxed pace.

Beginning classes may review the basic concepts but will move faster than the Basic Skills.

Intermediate and Advanced classes will assume knowledge and experience of basic concepts and will move at a faster pace.

ALTARS

This year our main altar will be in the Spirit Lodge. This is in the ground floor of Sequoia Lodge, across from the Garden.

All campers are invited to bring pictures of loved ones who have made their journey to the spirit world, and who you would like to honor or remember in the ancestral shrine space.

See the Class Descriptions for more information.

There will be a shuttle to the Spirit Lodge for scheduled presentations.

SCHEDULE

The schedule is posted on the web site and paper copies will be available at registration time. Please check the schedule at camp for last-minute changes. If there are any schedule changes during camp, these will be posted in the Dining Room.

GETTING AROUND THE SITE

Walker Creek Ranch has over 1700 acres with many beautiful hiking trails. A large map of the central site is posted at the Visitor Center. Most classes, however, will take place in a central area.

Shuttles There will be a shuttle that drives around the central area. The shuttle will leave the signed area 10 minutes before each class. So, if you have difficulty walking or are carrying extra drums, etc., or just need a lift, this will be available for you. Also, if you need assistance with carrying your drum or your luggage let us know and someone will assist you.

Please remember that the women driving the shuttle are also here to attend their classes. We ask that you respect this by being on time for the shuttle and limiting special requests to emergencies and necessities.

Some of us at camp have limited mobility and we hope we will all help and support one another. So, if you see someone having difficulty please offer your assistance if you can.

BORN TO DRUM T-SHIRTS AND SWEATS AND TEACHER CDS AND DVDS

Our beautiful tee shirts, hoodies, and crew neck sweats are here! The Visitor Center serves as our camp store. You will be able to buy these, as well as Women Drummers International water bottles, at the store.

This is also a great opportunity to take home the music created by our teachers. Many of the teachers will have CDs and DVDs and perhaps other items for sale there as well.

The camp store will be open during registration, before each evening program, and at the end of camp. Hours will be posted at the Visitors Center.

SNACKS AND DRINKS AND THINGS YOU FORGOT TO BRING

Snacks and drinks will be available for a donation in the Visitors Center during camp. Take what you want and leave the requested donation amount in the box provided .

Ice is also available in the dining area. The Walker Creek Ranch store by the dining hall also has items for sale.

Born to Drum has a box with items, such as, toothpaste, earplugs, batteries, in case you forget to bring them. Take what you need from the box. A donation is welcomed but not required.

WATER

We'll be playing and working hard at camp, so please remember to stay hydrated. The water at the Ranch comes from wells and is being pumped out of the ground through the use of solar energy. So leave that plastic bottled water at home and bring your refillable container. You can safely fill your water bottle with good, cold water. (Women Drummers International water bottles will be available for purchase at the camp store.)

MARKETPLACE

The marketplace will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday on the dining room patio. Drums and other instruments, salves, soaps, oils, clothing, jewelry, and other delights will be available for sale. Bodywork and other services will also be available. Come out and support our beautiful artists.

CELLULAR PHONES AND WIRELESS ACCESS

Cellular service is not available.

The Conference Center provides this information about wireless service:

Mac or PC computers with wireless capabilities can attach to any available wireless access. No password is required.

Access points are currently identified as:

WC1

WC2

WCBUFFALOCONF

WCBUFFALOMAPL

OTHER THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW?

If your questions aren't answered here and in the documents and FAQs on our web site, give us a call or send an email and we'll try to answer them.

At camp, Please see Neena, Jackie, or one of the volunteers if there is some way we can assist you during camp. You can always leave a message at the Visitor Center if you don't see us.

Love and Peace,

Jackie and Carolyn
510-464-5902
drumcamp@borntodrum.org