

## After Business Hours

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 10:42 a.m. EDT by Karri Gruner [kgruner@thedailyreporter.com](mailto:kgruner@thedailyreporter.com)

BRONSON—The Coldwater Area Chamber of Commerce and Sturgis Chamber of Commerce came together Tuesday to host an “After Business Hours” event and the newly renovated Ancestral Acres Lodge, located at 1063 Holmes Road, in Bronson.

Owner and lodge manager William Berkman took five years to complete the renovations on the home, which sits on 450 acres of a nature preserve. The residence contains six spacious bedrooms, many with their own fireplaces, and five bathrooms.

The third floor was completely redone and boasts ballroom seating for 75 guests.

Berkman’s family purchased the home in 1968-69. At the time, it had no windows, no furnace and was all boarded up.



An original master piece, preserved in time. This fireplace has pictures of the children from the original owners, on the upper tiles. The Ancestral Acres Lodge, now open for events and lodging, has several fireplaces, six bedrooms and five bathrooms.



A few Chamber of Commerce members chat in on of the parlors during the April Chamber ‘After Hours Event,’ held at the Ancestral Acres Lodge in Bronson.

“When I was younger, we had a pig, not one that ran around and ate feed, but one that was turquoise, and had the words ‘Ancestral Acres’ written on it, my father said, ‘we keep putting money in this piggy bank and someday we can buy a house and fix it up.’ This house was my father’s dream,” Berkman said.

He continued to recall memories of his past, as he spoke in front of a large group of Chamber members.

The Ancestral Acres Lodge is now open for lodge and room rentals, weddings, retreats, private dinners and even has an outdoor event space.

For information on the Ancestral Acres Lodge, visit them on Facebook or on their website at: [www.ancestralacreslodge.com](http://www.ancestralacreslodge.com).

<http://www.thedailyreporter.com/news/20170419/after-business-hours>



Tricia Mayer of Tasteful Kreation Catering looks right at home in the completely renovated kitchen in the Ancestral Acres Lodge, the location of the After Hours Chamber event for the month of April 2017.



William Berkman, far right, owner and lodge manager of Ancestral Acres Lodge, listens to Cathi Garn-Abbs, Executive Director of the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce. The Coldwater and Sturgis Chambers came together for an 'After Hours Event' held at the lodge.