



The Hospitaller

Volume I No. V

THE PRIORY OF THE WESTERN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
SOVEREIGN ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, KNIGHTS HOSPITALLER

September 2005

MESSAGE *from* THE PRIOR

By H.E. Bailiff William E. Peacock, GCSJ

Dear Knights & Dames, Squires & Demoiselles,

Our Sovereign Order's guiding documents, the King Peter II Constitution of 1964 and the 2002 Rules of the Order, provide that the decisions for the raising and distribution of charitable funds resides at the Commandery level. In this connection, our Commanderies are to be wholeheartedly congratulated on their respective efforts to help those in need.

As of last month, Commander Christopher Barnes of the 29-Member Military Commandery reported he has on hand over \$35,000 to distribute to the charities they support as a result of their Armed Forces Charity event last May. Elsewhere in *The Hospitaller* you will read about the fund-raising and charitable distributions planned by The Military Commandery of the Western United States of America, its new official name. The Knights and Dames of this unit of the Sovereign Order are rightfully proud of this record.



Commander Bill Stein's San Francisco Commandery, with 42 Dames and Knights, has a treasury with nearly \$100,000 for distribution to its selected charities. Bill has graciously written a short piece later in *The Hospitaller* detailing these wonderful efforts under his leadership.

Larry Hernandez, Commander of the 99-Member St. Joseph Commandery, consisting of 96 Dames and Knights, one Demoiselle and two Squires, has just completed sending checks amounting to over \$400,000 to its selected charities. A brief description is included for your reading pleasure later in this edition of *The Hospitaller*, now your Priory-wide newsletter.

Brooks Mancini, the first Commander of the new Commandery of the Sierras, is interested in and looking for two opportunities for your participation for his seven-Member Commandery that stretches from Sacramento through the Gold Country and Lake Tahoe to Reno: your suggestions for new Members from that area and any ideas for a starting charity.

It is your personal commitment and dedication to our cause that makes it all work so well for the Poor and Sick in Christ, and on behalf of your elected leadership, I salute and congratulate each and every Member!

Yours in St. John,

Bill

THE HOSPITALLER HAS A NEW LOOK!

Dame Sandra L. Farris, DSJ
Priory Herald & Editor-in-Chief

From this edition forward it will be an all-Priory newsletter, representing the four Commanderies: San Francisco, The Military, the Sierras and St. Joseph. During the summer, Prior Bill Peacock met with Heralds Sandra Farris - San Francisco, Bob Leonard - The Military, Colleen Wilcox - St. Joseph and Joan Thompson - Administrator to fine tune this popular publication.

Within the two issues published yearly, a great deal of important news, information, and pictures is on these pages. It was decided to keep the articles short, the pictures plentiful and the layout pleasing to the eye.

Members have said that *The Hospitaller* has been and is always fun to read. Besides being enjoyable to peruse, *The Hospitaller* is an outstanding way to keep our Membership informed. In addition, *The Hospitaller* is an excellent introduction to prospective Members to show all that the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller (the only official name to be used in reference to our organization although the 'Sovereign Order' or the 'Sovereign Order of St. John' is acceptable) does and represents.



The professionalism of our publication is yet another example of the quality of excellence that our Sovereign Order strives for and accomplishes in all that it does.

Sandra

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THE ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION IN SONOMA

By Chevalier Robert K. Leonard, KSJ



More than one hundred people attended a very elegant weekend long “Armed Forces Day Celebration” on May 21-22, 2005 in Sonoma, California. It was the first major charity fundraiser hosted by The Military Commandery of The Western United States of America (formerly the Commandery of St. Francis). The event honored all veterans, especially those who served during the Second World War.



The weekend festivities began on Saturday evening with a spectacular Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres reception at the beautiful wine country home of Commander Donald Watson Jr. and Suzanne Tognazzini. Then, on Sunday afternoon everyone gathered for a marvelous Armed Forces Day Party under a large festive canopy on the manicured lawn of the Cline Cellars Winery. The party began with the “Posting of the Colors” by an active duty U.S. Marine Corps color guard. Next, everyone enjoyed a delicious gourmet buffet lunch with choice wines from the Cline Cellars Winery. A 5-piece live orchestra entertained everyone during lunch with popular tunes from the 1930s & 1940s (the era of the “Greatest Generation”). Following the luncheon, a successful live charity auction took place. It was led by a professional auctioneer who got high bids for the many wonderful items generously donated by the following people: Merlin Davis & Kelly Shields, Donald Watson, Jr. & Suzanne Tognazzini, Ralph & Susan Cole, Bernard Vash, Terry & Barbara Howell, Bill Peacock and fiancée Nancy, Christopher & Catherine Barnes, Ken & Nola Culverson, Keith Kerr, and John & Virginia Roush. The party concluded with an impressive aerial “flyby” of restored Second World War military aircraft flown by the Vintage Aircraft Company in Sonoma.

Second World War veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces were in attendance at this festive and commemorative event. In particular, U.S. Marine Corps veterans were noticeably represented in abundance. Among the many honored attendees and guests was Bill Peacock, Prior of the Western United States, Donald Watson, Jr., Commander of The Military Commandery of the Western U.S.(formerly, the Commandery of St. Francis), Bill Stein, Commander of the San Francisco Commandery, Larry Hernandez, Commander of the St. Joseph Commandery (San Jose) and Bill Barnsdale, Sr., Commander

Emeritus of the San Francisco Commandery. Robert Leonard, who was greatly assisted by his wife Kathleen, and Merlin Davis, with his wife Kelly Shields, chaired the event.





THE CHANGE OF COMMAND DINNER FOR THE WESTERN MILITARY COMMANDERY

By Chevalier Robert K. Leonard, KSJ



On June 30, 2005 sixty people attended the Change of Command Dinner and Ceremony for The Military Commandery of The Western United States of America (formerly, the Commandery of St. Francis). The elegant event was held at The Marines' Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco.

A formal ceremony followed the dinner in which Bill Peacock, Prior of the Western United States, inducted Chevalier Christopher P.P. Barnes, as the new Commander of The Western Military Commandery. Invested in April 2000, Christopher Barnes is a former British Army officer who has made his home in California since 1985. He lives with his wife, Catherine, in West Marin County.

Following the induction ceremony, Bill Peacock honored Commander Emeritus Donald Watson, Jr., for his outstanding leadership of The Western Military Commandery during the past two and a half years. Specifically, Watson was praised for “breathing new life” into the former Commandery of St. Francis, significantly increasing the number of new Members and successfully launching the Commandery's first major charity fundraiser event. Invested in October 1998, Donald Watson, Jr. is a native Californian who lives in both Sonoma and Foster City. A businessman and entrepreneur, he holds the rank of Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

Bill Peacock then gave a special award to Suzanne Tognazzini who is Donald Watson's long-time companion. She was honored for her many outstanding contributions to The Western Military Commandery and was acknowledged by Bill Peacock “as living proof that behind every great man there is a great woman.”

Commander Emeritus Donald Watson, Jr. concluded the evening by presenting elegant plaques of appreciation to Commander Emeritus William Barnsdale, Jr., Vice Commander Emeritus Joy Barnsdale, Commander Christopher Barnes, Chevalier Kenneth Culverson and Chevalier Bernard Vash for their dedicated service as Commandery officers. He then presented beautiful crystal wine glasses (etched with the appropriate rank, name and military branch of service) to each new Commandery Member invested in 2005.



**THE MILITARY COMMANDERY
OF THE
WESTERN UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA:
*A New Name for
The Commandery of St. Francis***

By Chevalier Robert K. Leonard, KSJ

The Members of the Commandery of St. Francis recently voted to change its name to better differentiate itself from the other Commanderies located within the Grand Priory of the Americas. Based in the San Francisco Bay area, the Commandery draws its Members principally from retired, reserve, active duty or honorably discharged commissioned officers of the Armed Forces. It also gives priority consideration for financial support to regional charities with a military or veteran connection. With this in mind, the following new official Commandery name was adopted: "The Military Commandery of The Western United States of America." The new name will be used for all official correspondence and communication. The shorter version "The Western Military Commandery" will be acceptable for internal use within the Priory. In July 2005, The Grand Prior of the Americas approved the new official name for the Commandery.

"With our active duty service men and women once again deployed in harms way within the Middle East, we now have a new generation of returning veterans - wounded and dying warriors who need our help," said Christopher P.P. Barnes, the new Commander of The Western Military Commandery. " Our focus this year will be on increasing both our membership and our fund raising efforts to support our chosen charities, and we will be looking particularly at ways to support young veterans and their families who are in need."

The next major charity fundraiser event to be hosted by The Western Military Commandery has been set for Saturday, May 13, 2006. The location will be the Marines' Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco. There will be more details to come. Please save this date on your calendar.



OUR NEWEST COMMANDERY: *The New Commandery of the Sierras*

Commander Brooks T. Mancini, KCSJ

The new Commandery of the Sierras is in the organization stages and plans its first meeting soon. The new directory of officers is: Commander Brooks Mancini, KCSJ, Vice Commander Bill Barnsdale, Jr., KCSJ; Treasurer Chevalier Robert Burnett KCSJ; and Secretary Dame Michele Zschau, DSJ. Dame Joy Barnsdale, DCSJ is also a Member.



REPORT FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO COMMANDERY

By Commander William D. Stein, KCJSJ

In order to learn more about the charities we support and to become acquainted with the people who serve these charities, The San Francisco Commandery Council has begun a program of meetings at the facilities for these charities. We began with a luncheon at the Arthur Brown mansion on July 21, graciously and elegantly hosted by Clausen House in the beautiful walled garden. It was a wonderful opportunity for members of the Council and guests to learn about the workings of Clausen House's impressive programs. As Commander, I was presented with a beautifully bound book of photographs of participants in Clausen House Employment programs; the gift commemorates our generous contributions over the past three years. We feel that these kinds of occasions build a closer, more personal relationship with our charities; we will meet in October at the George Mark Children's House.

All attention is now on our most important fundraiser, the Christmas Ball. This year's event will be held on December 3 in the resplendent Gold Room of the Fairmont Hotel.

Jan and I join a star-studded committee including Linda Olinger, Ellen Killebrew, Sandra Farris, the Whites and the McNairs who are going all out to make this favored event an even more special evening. Guests will enjoy the flavor of Czarist Russia: decor, musicians, etc. in an atmosphere of elegance and grandeur. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there!



Clausen House began in 1967 as a single group home for adults with developmental disabilities. Since that time, Clausen House has expanded their services to include three residential homes, an apartment complex, a community center, an employment department and a recreation department. Each of these programs serves adults with developmental disabilities who seek assistance as they become independent and valued members of the community.



The Summer Garden Party

2005



By Dame Colleen B. Wilcox, DGSJ

From the moment guests arrived at the Steve Finn Estate in Los Altos Hills, we were transported back to the Gatsby era, the opulent age of flappers and jazz. Every detail made us believe that F. Scott Fitzgerald might be drinking with Zelda just ahead, around the next corner. Chevalier Steve Finn's incredible 1902 Greek Revival home was the perfect stage for such a lavish event, a party to rival the famous parties thrown by the great Jay Gatsby himself! The grounds and the house had been festively decorated in the art deco style of the Roaring Twenties: a black and white dance floor against the black Astroturf on the tennis court, pink tablecloths lit by the frosted globes of light strung across the court, Steve's own bright yellow Stutz Bearcat in the driveway (one of several antique automobiles parked there), even the music from the '20's and '30's set the mood. Gatsby would have coveted the view of the entire South Bay stretching out in front of us.

None of it would have happened without the hard work of the Committee members who put in countless hours of preparation. Special recognition must go to Party Chairs Chevalier Paul and Nicki Huber and Auction Chairs Chevalier Ken and Diane Price. Our thanks go to each of them, to our Commander Larry Hernandez and his wife, Kristi, and to the many others who did such a magnificent job planning and coordinating the event.

The silent auction featured numerous donations from our Knights and Dames. Fabulous items were also donated for the live auction. Donors even included our magnificent caterer, Donna Eaton!

From everyone's viewpoint, this year's Summer Garden Party was a resounding success; we looked to the past as we partied, and dreamt of the future as we raised funds for our work - truly a Gatsby experience!

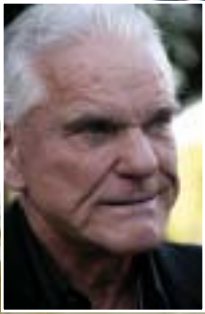


The Summer Garden Party



The Summer Garden Party







The Summer Garden Party





**SAN JUAN BAUTISTA CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER -
SOBRATO CENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT TRAINING**
Joseph & Nicki Parisi House on the Hill
June 23, 2005

By Dame Colleen B. Wilcox, DCSJ

Approximately 50 members and guests of the Sovereign Order of St. John were welcomed by Commander Larry Hernandez at the newly constructed Nicki & Joseph Parisi House on the Hill in south San Jose. Chevalier Joseph Parisi was on hand to assist the very capable staff conduct tours through the residential rooms as well as the kitchen and program areas. Distinctive plaques with the White Cross of Amalfi cross crest had been mounted outside the rooms with donor names. Members and guests of the Sovereign Order talked with the women in residence about their recovery and their plans for the future and played with their babies. Event co-chair Chevalier John DuBois gave a heart rending tribute to the women and the staff and thanked the donors. A “graduate” from the program, who is currently on staff, spoke to us about her life's transformation through this extraordinary program. Target gift certificates were then distributed to the women on behalf of the Sovereign Order.



Event co-chair Dame Colleen Wilcox then led the group north to the Sobrato Center for Employment Training (CET), where they were joined by an additional 20 plus Members and their guests. Chevalier John Sobrato introduced the director of the San Juan Bautista Children's Center, which was added to the CET to serve sick children of those enrolled in the training programs. Guests were toured throughout the training facility and the Children's Center and treated to elegant hors d'oeuvres and cocktails prepared by the CET hospitality and catering students.

The opportunity to witness first hand the results of the Sovereign Order's philanthropic efforts made for a greatly moving and celebratory event.





News Flashes



Dame Gay Crawford received a standing ovation at the American Cancer Society's annual recognition and appreciation event in May when she accepted the Patient Courage Award for courageously battling the disease on all fronts as a volunteer for that Society.

Chevalier Jim Cummeen has left his job as CEO and President of the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce to become a senior governmental affairs executive at Cisco Systems. Good luck, Jim!

Squire Jason Davila was unable to be invested in March as a Knight because his wife, Lani, gave birth to a baby boy, John Christian Davila, on the same day. Congratulations, Davila family!



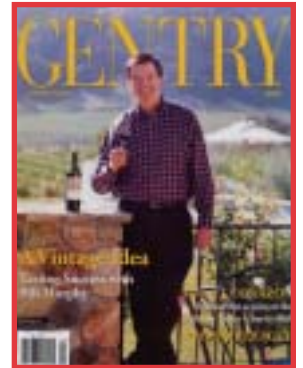
Our two Scots, *Chevaliers Dermot McQuarrie and Colin Macnab*, both became US citizens earlier this year. As a result, we are stronger and better as a country, and we welcome them heartily.

Dame Colleen Wilcox was awarded the YMCA 2005 John D. Crummey Award in May. This is the highest honor in the YMCA organization, recognizing service and leadership. Well done, Colleen!



Chevalier Fernando Zazueta was named Father of the Year for 2005 by the American Diabetes Association. Fernando was founding chairman of the Mexican Heritage Corporation and has served on several boards, continuing to give back to the San Jose community. Well deserved, Fernando!

Chevalier Bill Murphy graced the cover of the April South Valley edition of Gentry magazine. The accompanying article detailed his successful founding of the Clos LaChance winery after a career in the high-tech industry.



Reverend Chevalier John Avery Palmer has just earned a Ph.D. in Public Health & Safety from Sanbourne University, London, and U.C. Berkeley School of Public Health with an outstanding 4.0 GPA. Nicely done, Doctor Palmer!

WEDDING BELLS!

Dame Colleen B. Wilcox, DGSJ

On June 4, 2005 our Prior, Bailiff Bill Peacock, wed his lovely fiancée Nancy, on the Nevada shore of Lake Tahoe under the watchful eye of Chevalier Reverend Ernest Cockrell.

Congratulations from all to the happy couple!



The Hospitaller

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY
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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 23 - 25, 2005
Commandery of New York
Investiture 2005

October 29 - 30, 2006
Commandery of Houston
Investiture 2005

December 3, 2005
San Francisco Commandery
The Christmas Ball

January 14, 2006
Commandery of the West Indies
Investiture 2006

March 11, 2006
Priory of the Western USA
Investiture 2006

May 13, 2006
The Military Commandery
Spring Gala
San Francisco, CA

June 24, 2006
Commandery of the Sierras
Investiture 2006

September 9, 2006
St. Joseph Commandery
Summer Garden Party

September 27-30, 2006
Sovereign Council Meeting 2006
Scotland

October 29 - 30, 2006
Commandery of Houston
Investiture 2005

December 3, 2006
San Francisco Commandery
The Christmas Ball

Members are encouraged to bring guests to major Sovereign Order events, such as the Investitures, the Summer Garden Party, the Christmas Ball, and the Armed Forces Day Spring Gala, in order to introduce possible prospective petitioners to our charitable mission and to meet our fellow Knights and Dames. It should be noted that in order to be considered for Membership in one of our four Commanderies: the Sierras, St. Joseph, San Francisco or The Military Commandery, a prospective petitioner must have attended at least one major Sovereign Order of St. John event.



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