



Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

Interdenominational Volunteers
Making a Difference in This World

July 2014

ALUMNI PICNIC WELL ATTENDED

Every year, Brother Benno's puts on a Program Member Alumni Picnic. This year's event was held in May at Tyson Park on the Strand in Oceanside. It was considered a huge success, prepared for and attended by many staff members, Program Guys, and residents at our Women's Houses. Family members and AA sponsors were there as well. A couple of four-seat bicycles were rented so anyone who wanted to could ride up and down the Strand. An abundance of food made it possible to share with many of our regular Guests who were also at the beach that day.



Harold Kutler enjoying a day of sun and fun

This annual event brings together the men and women who are currently working on their sobriety and those who have already graduated and are now reaching out to others.

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A CHANCE MEETING?

A volunteer, **Jim**, and his wife were visiting Big Sur in Northern California. "It's one of our favorite spots," he said, "and it was also a favorite of a very dear friend of mine who had just passed away."

While his wife hiked nearby, Jim sat on the edge of a cliff, looking down into the valley 2,000 feet below. A breeze touched him, and he was reminded of the Bible verse in 1 Kings that says God is not found in the wind, nor in the earthquake, nor in the fire—but in a gentle breeze; and he said he felt God's presence in his grief.

Another man walked by—someone Jim had said a cheerful Hello to earlier—and he noticed Jim's tears. "Are you OK?" he asked. That simple question led to a discussion about grief and God and what's really important in life.

"I talked about Brother Benno's, too," Jim said, "and how glad I am to have a place where I can make a difference to others." After a while, the man walked over to his car and brought back a book. "This has helped me see that making lots of money—which I've done—isn't really important to me any more. I'd like you to have it." Then he added, "Would you walk me back to my car?"

Jim said he thought it was a strange request, but he complied. The man reached into the car for his checkbook, wrote a check, and handed it to Jim. It was made out to Brother Benno's in the amount of \$500.

"Why are you giving me this?" Jim asked in amazement.

"Because you greeted me so warmly this morning," the man answered. "Everyone else just walked by and ignored me. You didn't."

As he talked about this experience, Jim shook his head in awe. "We just never know," he said. "We just never know."

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EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

Happy Birthday! World War II veteran **Jessie Diaz** celebrated his 89th birthday at Brother Benno's on Saturday, June 7.



Operations Manager **Frank Doherty** learned that Jessie had a number of near-death experiences during the war, and that he was instrumental in saving one of our nation's submarine deployments. Frank said, "The lady who was with him indicated that Jessie was known for always helping others." Volunteer Coordinator **Denise Seymour** reported that Frank sang a "lovely Happy Birthday" to Jessie, and she added, "Thank you, Jessie, for your service to our country." Amen to that!

Shared Talent. Fourteen-year-old twins, **Jamie and Jeanne Noriega**, decided they were ready to bring their musical talents to the public, and they chose Brother Benno's as their first venue. "They've been performing for family for years," said their dad John, "and they asked me if they could play at Brother Benno's." He told them to call and find out, and a week later—Saturday, June 21—they were on stage in our dining room.

Jamie plays guitar and Jeanne flute (Jamie also learned the trumpet so they could both be in their middle school band). Judging by the response from the roomful of Guests, the girls will be wel-

come back any time!



Fruitful Project. Back in February, a small group of volunteers created a "salsa garden" at one of our Women's Houses. They planted tomatoes, peppers, onions, garlic and cilantro. In mid-June, I asked **Elana Bagley**, the Assistant House Manager, how the garden was doing.

"We are just harvesting our first tomatoes, onions, and peppers," she said. "I made the yummiest caprese salad with tomatoes, mozzarella, basil, oil and balsamic vinegar. For dinner I am making a BLT. We have also been sharing our bounty with the guys in the Program." She added that they were able to bring onions to the Center to be used in the meals prepared there.

A Need for Mercy. I was chatting with a few people in the Center dining room one Saturday morning, when a woman walked toward us, obviously wanting to get past. I stepped back, smiled, and said, "Go ahead." She walked by, turned around, and screamed a string of obscenities at me.

In my shock, I glanced around and happened to see a man leaning against the wall. He looked straight at me with the kindest look, seeming to express concern for me. I would not recognize this man if I saw him again, yet his compassionate expression continues to surface in my mind.

A few days later, at home, I picked up a pamphlet from my reading pile titled "Blessed Are the Merciful." It talked about exactly what I had

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PORTRAIT OF A HOMELESS MAN

by Barbara Ladwig

“Ross” has been homeless for seven years, the last two of them in Oceanside. He just started receiving Social Security checks, and he’s trying to decide what that means concerning his current situation. “I really don’t want to spend another winter outside,” he said. “The cold and wet weather is something I can’t deal with anymore.” But the reality is that he’d barely have enough to pay rent, not to mention other necessities.

At the present time, Ross is sleeping in the doorway of a commercial building. The owner knows he’s there, and he has said it’s OK, as long as Ross doesn’t show up before 11 o’clock at night and is gone by 5 the next morning. Ross understands his not wanting anyone to see him, and he knows he’d be reported to the police anyway if a passerby happened to spot him.

Ross heard about Brother Benno’s from a “fellow traveler” when they were both trying to survive in San Diego. “I hear Oceanside is safer than San Diego; I’m headed up that way myself,” the man told him.

For two years, Ross has been eating lunch six days a week at Brother Benno’s. He showers every morning and can get clean used clothing according to a set schedule. “I did have to buy myself a pair of shoes with part of my Social Security money,” he said. “The donated shoes are usually pretty beat up, and they seldom have my size. I have to walk everywhere, so decent shoes are a must.”

When Ross first started coming to Brother Benno’s, he noticed how friendly everyone was. “I’d sit in the entry area for a while and chat with the volunteers who manned the desk. I got to know other volunteers too, as they came and went. And eventually I asked if there was anything I could do for them. Little by little, they started giving me small jobs—like making copies, keeping the children’s books neat on the shelves, folding newsletters, stuff like that. And it gave me a place to ‘be’ for a few hours every day.”

After Ross leaves Brother Benno’s around one o’clock, he spends the rest of the day at fast-

food restaurants, where he orders a little something to eat or drink. “I can’t stay too long at one place,” he said. “I’d be reported for loitering.” And sometimes he finds a park where he can take a nap. “I don’t sleep very well at night,” he said. “Once you fall asleep, you’re vulnerable. Guys get a brick in the head or a knife in the chest, just for a few measly possessions.”

Ross is interested in philosophy and science, and he’s doing research in order to write essays. Somebody gave him a Tablet, so he can get on the Internet if he finds a place that has Wifi, but he’d really like to go to the library. “It’s too far to walk, even if I take a bus part-way,” he said. “Besides, they won’t let me take my cart on the bus, and that’s how I carry all my stuff.”

Harold Kutler looked at **Mother Teresa** as the person who understood best how to treat those in need. She said that the need to feel human and worthwhile far exceeds the physical need for food and shelter. He also follows **Jesus**’ example when He fed the multitudes with the miracle of the loaves and fishes. “He didn’t tell His disciples to screen the people first,” Harold said. “Being ripped off or taken advantage of didn’t concern Him. Anyone who appeared to be an opportunist was needy in some way. He had come to heal those who were hurting for whatever reason.” *

It’s obvious that Ross needs Brother Benno’s. It also seems to me that we need Ross. His gentle demeanor and his desire to help are examples to all of us who might pat ourselves on the back once in a while for “doing good work.” Every single person in the world has worth, whether or not they wear the official badge of HELPER.

** (from Harold’s book, **Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno’s Life -Changing Soup Kitchen**, pages 32-35.)*

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Vera Bayliss

Our next fund-raising event will be the Outback Steakhouse lunch in Oceanside on Wednesday, July 30. **Judy Calegari** and **Carol Sanford**, Chairs, are ready to sell you tickets at our meeting on July 23.

Save September 28 for the Vista Broadway Theater's play, "Shaken Not Stirred."

Of course, our Annual Luncheon will be on Saturday, November 1, so please mark your calendars. Our Chairs will need lots of help. It's so important to sell tickets for this, our biggest fund-raiser, so mention it to your friends and relatives now. If you have coupons for Michael's and will not use them, please save them for us to buy materials for table decorations.

See you all at our meeting on Wednesday, July 23.

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experienced when the man showed me his compassion with a simple look. I was also able to decide it was probably mental illness that caused the woman's outburst. (*This pamphlet can be obtained free from The Christophers: mail@christophers.org. Ask for Christopher News Note 565.*)

Information & Online donations:
brotherbenno.org

Follow Brother Bennos online:



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Twitter.com/BrotherBennos

PRESERVING THE EARTH

By a Volunteer

Brother Benno's has contributed toward helping our Earth by having a very active recycling program for the past four years. Not only does it help our environment, but it also raises money for the Foundation, averaging about \$300 per month. Cans, bottles, scrap metal, and cardboard are picked up on a regular basis by Full On Recycling.

Somewhere along the way, the paper waste generated by Brother Benno's just got put in with the general trash. Well, we've rejoined the party! With the help of **Adam**, who provided a bin just for paper; **Robert**, who got the official blue recycling trash cans; the cooperation of the cleaning staff, overseen by **Kyle**; and the enthusiasm of all the staff and volunteers, we are Earth Children Once Again!

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Your donation enables us to do all the wonderful things we do

My enclosed tax-deductible gift is: \$ _____
(make payable to: Brother Benno Foundation)

In memory of: _____

Please send a card to:

(name) _____

(address) _____

For a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.): _____

Send a card to: (name) _____

(address) _____

Or, donate online at <http://brotherbenno.org>

Soup...Soap...Hugs...Hope:

The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen

This book is offered as a gift to donors who contribute whatever their budget allows...The important thing... is that you have one...

Name _____

Donation \$ _____

Address _____

Number of copies _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Memorials

Brother Benno	Ron Alexander	Helen Lucas	William & Vennita
Pope John Paul II	Mary Peterson	Bill & Joan Maloney	Flanagan
Mother Teresa	Frank Barnet	Dora Ramirez	Mary & Joseph
Kay Kutler	Frank S. Dolley	Dick & Terry Riley	Opatkiewicz
Ann Sauer	Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bill Buckner	Jennifer Kalekas
Joe & Ida Friend	Monty Nares	Mary Shankle	Bernie Weiler
Mary Nordstrom	Margaret Rossini	Walter Ulloa	Thomas Chak
Myron Eichen	Dorothy M. Donahue	Fred Williamson	kanakuzhi
Alice Jordan	Mary Teresa Carr	Carole Kutler	Zeferino & Dancy
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Will Skinner	Nares
Richard Farhquar	Elizabeth Holms	Fr. Abbot Claude	Nysewander Family
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Edith Blaiser	Ehringer, OSB	Squirrel Family
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Ben Kouns	Fr. Luke Dougherty	Larry & Joan Lieux
Catherine L. Quinlan	Bill Lakoff	Naomi Shelton	Gilbert Brown
Kathryn D. Pent	Bernice, Samuel &	Rosemary Tucker	Mary Jernegan
Mary Pullman	Milton Silver	Ben E. Lewis	Sr. Constance Marie,
Joan Boyd	Anita H. Donahue	Roland Bond	CSJ
Agnus Boyd	Margaret Stephan	Anna Correia	
Harold Thompson	Bill Boster	Geraldine Howard	IN HONOR OF
Bud & Blanche Ogle	Louise Foussat	Helene McGill	
Bob Gleason	Tom Hayward	Andrea Boersma	William Ford, Sr.
Jane Pfau	Richard Kurtz	Ben Osgrove	Jon Fredricks

Needs

Gently used furniture
 Razors...disposable
 Water bottles for individual drinking
 Tarps...9x12 is our usual size but appreciate all

Coffee...regular grind not instant
 Men's Boxer Shorts, sizes 32 to 38
 Women's personal hygiene items

Diapers
 Bags of rice and beans

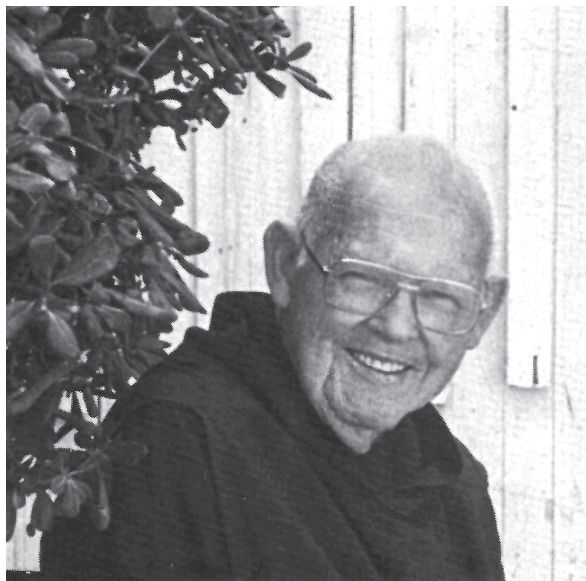
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July		1 St. John The Evangelist	2 Brother Benno's Auxiliary	3 Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	4 San Luis Rey Mission	5 St. Thomas More
2014	7 St. Elizabeth Seton #1	8 Hawkes Home	9 Stew's Crew	10 Oceanside Civitans	11 St. Patrick's	12 3 MAW Medical
Monthly	14 North Coast Methodist	15 Christ the King Lutheran	16 Grace Anglican	17 Carlsbad Rotary	18 St. Elizabeth Seton #2	19 Girlfriend's Care
Serving	21 Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	22 St. Mark's San Marcos	23 San Luis Rey Methodist	24 Pilgrim Creek	25 Sonrise Christian Fellowship	26 Catholic Daughters
Team	28 Christ Church & Zion Lutheran	29 Welk Resort	30 Soroptimist International	31 Grace Anglican		
Schedule						

Furniture Sales at the Center

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside 760-967-2742 **Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**
 We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-439-1244 ext.115 for free pickup.

Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Oceanside, California
PERMIT NO. 166



Brother Benno's Thrift Shop

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

3955 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation. If you are viewing this online you can donate by going to brotherbenno.org and click on Donations. This will allow you to make a secure donation using PayPal or a Credit Card.

Your donation is used each month at our main center and eight operational houses to provide: meals, clothing, personal hygiene items, blankets, showers, laundry facilities, bus vouchers, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, Social Security, and veterans' issues, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, rent and utility assistance when funds are available. We thank you for your continued support. 100% of your contribution goes directly to assist those we serve. Our modest administration costs are paid for by our Thrift Store revenues.

www.brotherbenno.org



Brother Benno's Services:

	May 2014	Our 30th Year		May 2014	Our 30th Year
Meals	13,222	3,580,168	Loads of laundry	37	26,757
Nights of lodging	1,064	250,516	Food packs	2,120	254,327
Articles of clothing	5,165	1,063,197	Blankets	132	36,647
Showers	1,121	192,350	Prescriptions	7	7,222
Haircuts	157	17,060	ID Vouchers	13	8,563
Bus passes	69	78,046	HUGS	2,250	874,444