

**Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation**

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, case-worker support, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, food packs, shelter for women and small children, men's drug and alcohol recovery program, shelter for women in recovery, and assistance with rent, jobs, Social Security, and veterans' issues. 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](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



3260 PRODUCTION AVE.  
OCEANSIDE, CA 92058  
(760)439-1244

# Brother Benno's Newsletter

"Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve"

March 2011



## WEDDINGS, eBay, AND FURNITURE

It's **wedding time** at Brother Benno's Thrift Shop. On Saturday, March 5, the shop will feature dresses for brides, bridesmaids, and mothers of the bride and groom, plus accessories. Wedding guests can also find gifts like crystal, picture frames, silver items, and collectibles (which are always available).

"This event is to help brides on a budget", said Manager **Michelle Hoppe**. "And we'll be serving wedding punch and cupcakes, too," she added.

A new twist has been added to the Thrift Shop—**eBay!** Valuable donations that would not bring in much money if sold in the shop are now being auctioned on eBay. Volunteer **Diane May** is coordinating this project, which in just two weeks has brought in more than \$400.

Michelle mentioned one sale in particular that made her very happy. "We had a 1955 Arthur Godfrey ukelele, still in it's original box," she said. "It sold for \$180." Apparently, somebody out there knew who Arthur Godfrey was and wanted his uke.

An area in the back of the Thrift Shop that customers don't see has been dubbed "The Man Corner." It's where volunteers **Tom** and **Hector** test items before they're put on the floor for sale—things like TV's, radios, lamps, and electronics. "They reorganized the space to make it more usable," Michelle said, "and it's easier now for them to work there."

If you've never been to the Thrift Shop, maybe now's the time! Drop off stuff you don't need around the back, then walk through the front door and find other stuff you can't live without.

**continued on page 4....**

## BROTHER BENNO'S BRINGS LOVE TO SPECIAL GUESTS

Some people in need are not able to get to the Brother Benno Center for various reasons, but that hasn't stopped our staff members and volunteers from reaching out. The most recent outreach project serves an unlikely group—men and women in long-term health facilities.

This idea actually started years ago, when a volunteer noticed all the flowers that came in with the food donated by local markets. "She asked if she could take some of the flowers to a nursing home," **Harold Kutler** said, "and that one request became a regular visit for this woman for several years."

When the woman reported back to Harold, she told him that one resident in particular was very touched by receiving the flowers. She said she never had any visitors, and to get flowers was a very precious gift indeed. "We just sat there and cried together," the volunteer said.

Now, a small group of volunteers has rekindled the flowers project—again, with donated flowers. So far, two nursing homes—one in Vista and the other in Oceanside—are the recipients.

"We asked the Activities Director at one place to give us the names of residents who never have any visitors," said **Dennis Pinnick**, a Servant of the Poor, "and the Director said sadly, 'That would be just about everybody here.'"

Dennis sees this project as one of touching the lives of those they visit in a meaningful way. The volunteers ask the residents if there's anything special they need, like lotion or a book; but the real reason they're there is to show care and concern. He said it's a good thing to give money and to

**continued on page 4....**

### Brother Benno's Services:

	January 2011	Our 28th Year		January 2011	Our 28th Year
Meals	12,350	3,058,189	Loads of laundry	30	25,653
Nights of lodging	1,249	207,284	Food packs	2,411	154,846
Articles of clothing	4,268	852,650	Blankets	120	31,418
Showers	993	153,579	Prescriptions	47	6,272
Haircuts	96	12,172	ID Vouchers	10	8,093
Bus passes	164	73,982	HUGS	2,250	796,594

*Our services are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability.*

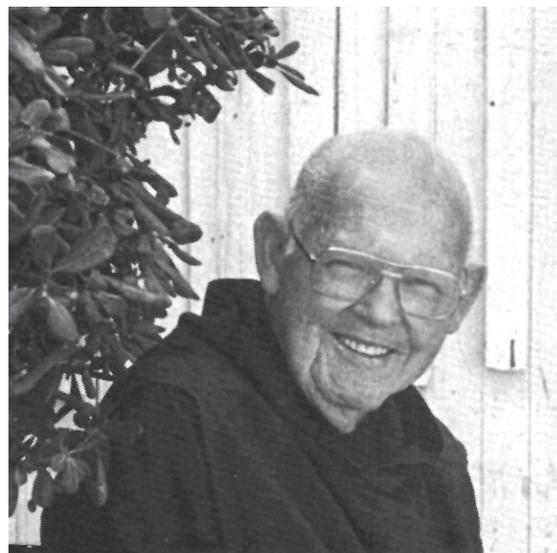
### The Thrift Shop

3965 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505

Shop open Mon-Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- Stop by to check out our Special of the Week Sales!!

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

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## EXPERIENCING THE BROTHER BENNO SCENE

by Barbara Ladwig

**Gratitude.** Last fall, Servant of the Poor **Denise Seymour** came up with the idea of a Gratitude Tree. She put a sheet of paper on a section of the dining room wall at the Brother Benno Center and drew a huge bare-branched tree on it. Volunteers cut out a stack of fall-colored leaves, then everyone—guests, volunteers, Program Members, visitors—were invited to write their reasons for being grateful.

One by one, the leaves “grew” on the tree. Besides the traditional thankful comments like God, family, and friends, some made me pause and reflect on how their gratitude touches my own life. And a few made me smile.

“I am so grateful to the lady that brought in the bag of men’s socks for the Clothing Room.”

“The chance to get my life back.”

“I am grateful that I have so many people in my life that care about my future and what happens to me.”

“I am thankful for the sunshine.”

“Some of God’s gifts are unanswered prayers. For that I am grateful.”

“I’m thankful for pumpkin pie.”

**Cuppa Joe.** **Tom von Betticher** reports that Brother Benno’s commercial coffee machine has “bit the dust.” A new one will cost \$3,000. “A hot cup of coffee on a cold morning is so important to our Guests,” he said. “Can anyone out there help with all or part of the cost?”

Please call Tom (760-439-1244, ext. 105).

**Thanks for Cans.** The Center continues to be a drop-off place for aluminum cans for recycling. A few cans here and there from many people adds up to precious money for our services. Just drive around to the back, on the right side of the building, Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or Saturday, 8:15 to 12:30. Someone will be there to help you unload your car if necessary, and you’ll get a thank-you and a big smile as well.

**Kindness Remembered.** Several months ago, a letter arrived at Brother Benno’s from a grateful father in New Jersey. He addressed it “*To the Staff of Brother Benno’s*:

*“Many years ago, you were kind to my (two) sons when they were in need. Since then, my son M. III passed away due to health complications from years of alcohol use. However, I am happy to report that . . . he was saved and accepted the Lord as his Savior.*

*“I can’t thank all of you enough for your kindness and help to my sons, and I would consider it a privilege to be able to contribute to your ongoing ministry in my son’s name.*

*“Enclosed is my check . . . and more will follow on a regular basis in praise to the love of our Lord Jesus and appreciation of His saving blood. Thank you, M.M. Jr.”*

**Our Inspiration.** **Brother Benno Garrity** would have celebrated his 101st birthday in February, had he lived that long. But even though he died in 1992, his spirit continues to permeate everything at the Foundation named in his honor. In his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story of Brother Benno’s Life-Changing Soup Kitchen*, **Harold Kutler** wrote that Brother Benno baked bread at St. Charles Priory in Oceanside (now called Prince of Peace Abbey); and that he gave his bread to the poor, and also to people he thought could help him with his passion—feeding the poor.

*“As I learned more about this charming monk,” Harold wrote, “I began to see him as a modern-day Robin Hood, except that he didn’t have to rob anyone. Brother simply gave his bread to those of us who could afford it, and we in turn gave him something for his beloved poor. He didn’t need a bow and arrow; he just hit us over the head with his ‘Wonder Bread.’”*

Haven’t read the book yet? Look for the handy order form on page 4.

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## Memorials

Brother Benno  
Pope John Paul II  
Mother Teresa  
Ann Sauer  
Joe & Ida Friend  
Mary Nordstrom  
Myron Eichen  
Alice Jordan  
Roseanne Dreibelbis  
Richard Farhquar  
Deacon Art & Mary Carr  
Don & Dorothea Daybell  
Catherine L. Quinlan  
Kathryn D. Pent  
Mary Pullman  
Joan Boyd  
Agnus Boyd  
Harold Thompson  
Bud & Blanche Ogle  
Bob Gleason  
Jane Pfau  
Ron Alexander

Mary Peterson  
Frank Barnet  
Frank S. Dolley  
Phyllis H. Dierlam  
Monty Nares  
Margaret Rossini  
Dorothy M. Donahue  
Mary Teresa Carr  
Ruth Hazel Pierson  
Elizabeth Holms  
Edith Blaiser  
Ben Kouns  
Bill Lakoff  
Bernice, Samuel & Milton Silver  
Anita H. Donahue  
Margaret Stephan  
Bill Boster  
Louise Foussat  
Tom Hayward  
Richard Kurtz  
Helen Lucas

Bill & Joan Maloney  
Dora Ramirez  
Dick & Terry Riley  
Bill Buckner  
Mary Shankle  
Walter Ulloa  
Fred Williamson  
Carole Kutler  
Will Skinner  
Fr. Abbot Claude Ehringer, OSB  
Fr. Luke Dougherty  
Naomi Shelton  
Hartley Lowe  
Zeferino & Dancy Nares  
Lucille Moore  
Bill Foran  
Josephine & Charles Campbell  
Brother Kelly  
Agatha Johnson

Andy Wotkyns  
Stanley LaMonte  
Margaret Zachan  
Oscar Hermsmeyer  
Ann Witherow  
Thomas Witherow  
Floyd & Rose Caldwell  
William Flanagan  
Bill Severy  
Merle Stokes  
Roger Diot  
Evelyn Malee  
Leo & Grace Hutter  
Troncoso Family

## Birthdays

Brooke Ali Ryan  
Robert Dye

## Needs

Peanut butter, Beans, Rice, Soup, Pasta  
Volunteers to sand furniture  
Men’s clothing, jackets, socks

Aluminum cans for Recycling  
Volunteers to assist in moving furniture  
Motel-size hygiene items

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March</b>		<b>1</b> St. John The Evangelist	<b>2</b> Brother Benno’s Auxiliary	<b>3</b> Oceanside Pacific Kiwanis	<b>4</b> San Luis Rey Mission	<b>5</b> St. Thomas More
<b>2011</b>	<b>7</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #1	<b>8</b> Friends from Vista	<b>9</b> Naval Hospital	<b>10</b> Oceanside Civitans	<b>11</b> St. Patrick’s	<b>12</b>
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>14</b> North Coast Methodist	<b>15</b> Christ the King Lutheran	<b>16</b> Grace Anglican	<b>17</b> Carlsbad Rotary	<b>18</b> St. Elizabeth Seton #2	<b>19</b> Girlfriend’s Care
<b>Serving</b>	<b>21</b> Sunrise Kiwanis of Vista	<b>22</b> St. Mark’s San Marcos	<b>23</b> San Luis Rey Methodist	<b>24</b> Pilgrim Creek	<b>25</b> Fallbrook Presbyterian	<b>26</b> Catholic Daughters
<b>Team</b>	<b>28</b> 5/11 Marines	<b>29</b> Vista Community Clinic	<b>30</b> Soroptomists International	<b>31</b> Grace Anglican		
<b>Schedule</b>						

## Brother Benno’s Furniture Sales

3242-B Production Ave., Oceanside (next to Center) 760-967-2742 **Open Mon. - Sat. 9 am to Noon**

To view photos of our wonderful used furniture: go to [brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org), click on Thrift Store, then click on the 3 >>> above Thrift Store, scroll down to view photos.

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call for free pickup

## HE'S A VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

**Harold Pirlot** is known as the “go-to” man in his 55-and-older mobile home park when it comes to donating to Brother Benno's. He and his wife **Lois** live at Pilgrim Creek Estates in Oceanside, and his neighbors never hesitate to let him know when they have a bag of clothing or household items for him to take to the Center.

“They even tell me when their fruit trees are loaded with fruit,” he said. “I go over and pick the fruit—oranges and tangerines mostly—and bring it to the Center when I'm volunteering.”

Harold's volunteer duties have varied over the years, but now he makes sandwiches for bag lunches on Thursdays and cuts hair on Mondays.



When asked if he was a professional barber, Harold laughed. “No, I learned by cutting my two boys' hair,” he said. “Also, my neighbor had a barber chair in his basement, and every week we'd cut each other's hair and then play cards.”

About ten years ago, a call went out for someone to volunteer as a barber at Brother Benno's. Harold was already helping in the kitchen, but he talked to **Kay Kutler** and told her he wasn't really a barber, but he'd be happy to help out if he could. “Kay handed me a set of clippers,” he said, “and I just got my sixth set.”

Harold had to cut back on his volunteer time recently because of Lois's serious health problems. “I've become more of a caregiver,” he said, “but I still get to the Center most Mondays and Thursdays.” He said it's always interesting in the barber shop. “I hear some stories,” he said. “People sometimes have very different views of things.”

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## UNIQUE WAY TO GIVE

In December of 2010, the parents of a young man who died at the age of 36 came up with a unique way of honoring what would have been their son's 50th birthday, and contributing to Brother Benno's at the same time.

They asked family and friends to join them at a BBQ potluck. “One of **Bob's** favorite things was giving,” they said in their invitation. “We are going to gather some things to donate to Brother Benno's. If you would like to contribute, please bring gently used clothing, non-perishable food, and Christmas gifts for homeless children. It will be donated in Bob's name to this great cause.”

**Denise Seymour** reported that they donated a van-full of food and clothes.

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Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much.

~Helen Keller

## 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>

## AUXILIARY NEWS



BROTHER BENNO'S AUXILIARY  
 FLAPJACK BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER  
 APPLEBEE'S OCEANSIDE  
 2146 VISTA WAY, OCEANSIDE

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011  
 FROM 8:00AM – 9:30AM

TICKETS - \$10 PER PERSON

Includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausages,  
 pancakes, coffee, milk, juice

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION,  
 CALL JUDY HARRIS, 760-724-0227

### Information & Online donations

**brotherbenno.org**

### ....Weddings continued from page 1

Clothes for every age, size, and taste; lots of books, hardcover and paperbacks; kitchen and bath items; linens; collectibles; videos and CD's; and some very nice furniture.

Speaking of **furniture**, most of our furniture is displayed and sold in the building next to the Center on Production Avenue in Oceanside. Many pieces of wood furniture have been beautifully refinished, and couches and chairs steam-cleaned. The quality is top-notch, and prices are rock-bottom.

The Thrift Shop is located in Oceanside at 3965 Mission Avenue, east of Albertson's, open Monday through Saturday, 10 to 4.

The Furniture Warehouse is next door to the Center, at 3260 Production Avenue, open Monday through Saturday, 9 to noon.

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### ....Love continued from page 1

donate things, but what these people really need is someone to care about them, to listen to them, to be present to them. A staff member at one of the facilities phoned the Center to thank the man who delivered flowers there. "People I've never seen smile before are smiling now," she said.

If you feel that this is something you'd like to be involved with, please contact **Heather**, who is coordinating the visits. She can be reached at heathertpine.@yahoo.com or 760-433-8623. Oh, and one of the facilities asked for a special favor: Do we know anyone who would like to provide Irish entertainment on March 17, St. Patrick's Day—singers, dancers, or anything else Irish. Heather can set you up for that, too.

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### 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 \_\_\_\_\_