



Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

February 2021



BROTHER BENNO'S LOSES LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER AND FRIEND

John Jarvie, long-time Brother Benno volunteer, died on December 28, 2020, at the age of 96. Providentially, we had featured him in our December newsletter, so he was able to know how much he was appreciated by everyone who knew him.

If you missed the article, you can go to brotherbenno.org and click on Newsletters to learn what a remarkable man John was. In the obituary published in the San Diego Union-Tribune, it was noted that “John never retired from Brother Benno’s; he worked there until November 2020, when he became ill.”

Harold Kutler wrote about John in his book, *Soup Soap Hugs Hope, the Story about Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen* in a chapter about the Golden Years. He tells about being introduced to John by a mutual friend, who told Harold that John was a “master of the building trades” who could build anything. After redoing the serving line at the Center, Harold asked John if he could convert one of the small rooms adjacent to the dining room into a chapel, where the staff could come together every morning “to remember our deceased benefactors and to offer prayers of petition.” That room has now been dedicated to John.

(Please see the article on page 3.)

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WOMAN REACHES OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO HELP OTHERS

by Kathleen Diehlmann

Mary Ellen Reese, who lives in Oceanside, wanted to help people who are having trouble paying their rent or utilities. She knew she would be receiving a stimulus check from the government soon. She also knew she was one of the fortunate ones who didn't need the extra money. How could she help fellow Oceanside residents who were in danger of losing their homes due to an inability to make these payments?

Mary Ellen ultimately connected with The Brother Benno Foundation. She found out she could make a donation either by check or at brotherbenno.org, but she needed to specify it was for rent or utility assistance—and that's what she did.

Then she thought, what if others wanted to do this, too? She reached on Nextdoor, a social media application, and wrote the following: “Many of us, particularly my fellow senior retirees, will be getting a \$600 check that we don't need. That money won't change our lives at all. I am going to donate mine to Brother Benno's rental and utilities assistance program and designate that the money go to Oceanside residents who are being threatened with eviction. I invite you to do the same! Money that won't make a difference to us might keep some neighbors from becoming homeless.”

Thank you, Mary Ellen. You are making a difference in others' lives.

Stay tuned for a status update on the support Brother Benno's received and distributed for rental and utility assistance in a future newsletter.

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SPOTLIGHT: MEET MARY HOLGUIN

by Frank Doherty

Humble and quiet, Mary is responsible for case work at Brother Benno's. She is responsible for helping with some of the most difficult problems our Guests face, and she does it with love and understanding. A boon to Brother Benno's, she is fluent in Spanish, which enables her to communicate with a wide range of Guests.



Mary interviews the Guests, and when appropriate, helps them pay rent and utility bills when they have nowhere else to turn. She also provides them with other needs such as bus passes, hotel vouchers, gas for their vehicles, and medicines. In addition, she can refer them to other sources of help, such as finding housing and exploring other sources of financial assistance, including Social Security Disability.

There has been an incredible surge in requests for help due to COVID-19, and Mary works tirelessly to provide resources, help, and support. At this time, so many people need so much help. Mary especially focuses on keeping families with

children off the street.

If you ask Mary why she has volunteered at Brother Benno's over the past 20 years, she will tell you that she loves the poor. She says it did not take her long to realize that "there but for the grace of God go I." Her best friends have come from the poor she serves, as well as other volunteers she works with at Brother Benno's. She stays because of the joy she gets out of serving others.

Mary originally came to Brother Benno's 20 years ago with a carload of clothing to donate when her husband passed away. **Mary Robinson**, **Harold Kutler's** assistant, helped her unload her car and suggested that Mary might want to become a volunteer. She decided to do it, working at different times as a receptionist, helping Volunteer Coordinator **Dixie Bales**, and working in the Accounting Office. Now, in addition to being responsible for case work, she is also a member of the Brother Benno Foundation Board, where she is able to communicate the most immediate needs of the poor and homeless we serve.

Mary was born in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and her family relocated to Los Angeles when she was 13. She has two daughters, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild!

Little did Mary know that dropping off donations 20 years ago would lead her to become an important, integral, and significant part of Brother Benno's.

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Please consider contributing to the Brother Benno Foundation by way of your Will, Living Trust, Designated Beneficiary Account, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds, or Real Estate. For more information, contact Suzy Martinek, 760-941-1876 or smartinek@miracosta.edu

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHAPEL

by Father Charles Wright O.S.B.

It has been said that **John Jarvie** would be the first to raise an objection to a chapel (of all things) being dedicated in his honor. And the whole idea seems strange because John, although he made the chapel, seldom entered it.



So where to start?

I recently read some quotes of children who wrote to God. One said, "Dear God, I think of you even when I'm not praying." God, or what we choose to call the Creator and Sustainer of all life, is everywhere. But to dedicate a particular space for communicating with that Creator fulfills an unspoken need that is burning in each of us. That communication is nothing other than prayer.

Our dear **Harold and Kay Kutler** were deeply prayerful. They realized that to minister to those in need means to be sensitive to what the needs are, no matter how subtle. So to encourage others to pray is to either introduce them to God or offer a safe and quiet place to those who have already discovered the joy and need of praying.

The Holy Rule of St. Benedict, by which we Benedictine monks live, begins with the word "Listen." And we know that true listening to another is a rare commodity these days, if not a dying art. But Benedict goes a step further by saying, "Listen with the ears of your heart." So prayer is a two-way street—listening and talking in the heart. And we Christians believe that God is speaking to us every minute of the day. The more sincere the heart, the more open to God's invitation, even if we are not consciously aware of it. John responded to that

inner prompting because he was a good listener. He heard well the call for generosity, compassion, and dedication.

So that is why we here at Brother Benno's have no hesitation in dedicating our chapel in honor of John Jarvie, the Good Listener and the Good Responder. May all who enter this sacred space listen intently to God speaking in their hearts and respond in the same manner that made John the living model of what we are all called to be. Children of God.

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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>

AUXILIARY NEWS

by Joyce Cerimele

We are ramping things up this month at the Auxiliary. The 2021 calendar is being planned with—we hope—some interesting events, some of which will be online. If the COVID closures are over by June, we'll probably be able to have our Luau Dinner. And of course, our "Pay It Back" golf event will be going ahead again this year. The 2020 event was a huge success, and we are hoping for the same this year. More information will be forthcoming.

In spite of the lack of our usual fundraisers in 2020, those we did have (mainly the golf event) raised enough money to enable us to give \$30,000 to the Brother Benno Foundation! We consider that an amazingly good thing, and the reason is the generosity of all you wonderful people who sponsor and support us.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have our new and returning membership brunch in February as we've had for many years. But if you are not a member and would like to be, contact Doris at Dnyman5@cox.net or 760-941-1737.

Our next Auxiliary Zoom meeting will be on February 24 at 1:30 p.m. If you would like to be a guest at that meeting, contact Joyce at jcerimele11@gmail.com at least a day ahead and you'll be Zoomed in.

Again, we hope you are all staying safe, and we will meet those of you who become members in the near future at one of our regular monthly meetings. Be well.

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If We Missed It We Want to Fix It

We've discovered that some names that should have been on page 5 in the newsletter were inadvertently left off during 2020. If you're aware that a name you sent in with your donation during that time was not acknowledged, please send it now as follows:

Email the name(s) to brotherbenno@yahoo.com

Subject: B.L.

In Memory of (name)


or

In Honor of (name)

Your name

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Brother Benno Foundation
Recovery Program for Men and Women
 760 439 1244 ext. 101
 Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps
 of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Information & Online donations:
brotherbenno.org
Follow Brother Bennos online:
 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)

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 _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____

Donation \$ _____
Number of copies _____

Memorials

Ron Alexander	Carole Kutler	Mike Stendahl	Beau, Helen, & Watt
Dixie & Lou Bales	Harold & Kay Kutler	Margaret Stephan	McEwen
Frank Barnet	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Joseph & Catherine
Brother Benno	Ben E. Lewis	Harold Thompson	Martina
Edith Blaiser	Helen Lucas	Carol & Herb	Ronald Turner
Andrea Boersma	Bill & Joan Maloney	Thornberg	Joseph Schubert
Roland Bond	Helene McGill	Rosemary Tucker	Barbara LaMothe
Bill Boster	Michael & Monty	Walter Ulloa	James Paolozzi
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Nares	June Williams	George & Adelina
Bill Buckner	Zeferino & Dancy	Fred Williamson	Craig
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Nares	Ron Beckman	Tom, Harry, Margaret
Anna Correia	Mary Nordstrom	Ted Novis	Dawson
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Nysewander Family	John, Helen, Matt	Jule & Ray Kelly
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Hagen	Marta Birello
Frank S. Dolley	Ben Osgrove	Marie Atkinson	Dorothy & Walter
Anita H. Donahue	Kathryn D. Pent	Agatha Johnson	Jellig
Dorothy M. Donahue	Mary Peterson	Jim Severino	Lael Dewhurst
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Jane Pfau	David Mitchell	Hugh Murphy
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Peg & Dick Wilson	Michael Chapa
Fr. Abbot Claude	Alan Port	Patrick Gorman	Toyota Avalon
Ehringer, OSB	Mary Pullman	Marilyn Kracalik	Gordon Wood
Myron Eichen	Catherine L. Quinlan	Albert Garcia	Elaine Sauter
Richard Farhquar	Dora Ramirez	Wayne McCoy	Patricia Day
William & Vennita	Dick & Terry Riley	Ruth Johnson	
Flanagan	Margaret Rossini	Joel Heiser	
Louise Foussat	Ann Sauer	Timothy Diem	
Joe & Ida Friend	Nick Sauer	Dancy & Zeferino	
Mary Gerrity	Mary Shankle	Nares	
Bob Gleason	Naomi Shelton	Linda Harder	
Chance Hales	Bernice, Samuel &	Mary Louise	
Tom & Louise	Milton Silver	Wisniewski	
Hayward	Will Skinner	Bernie Weiler	
Elizabeth Holms	Ann Grier Smith	Joe Carver	
Alice Jordan	Alva & Frances	Eileen Smith	
Ben Kouns	Snider	Bill Mulligan	
Richard Kurtz	Squirrell Family	Robert DiCario	

Happy Birthday

JoAnne Shlemmer

In Honor Of

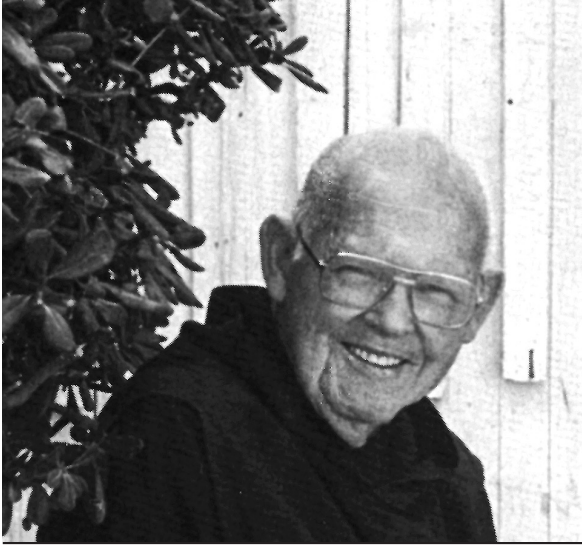
Peter Ring
Jan Roberts
Barbara Driscoll
Grace Carlos

NEEDS

small bags of chips
fruit cups
protein bars
crackers
bottled water
small juices
Gatorade

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

Store Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tuesday-Friday 10-4, Saturdays 10-2

We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-967-7507 for free pick up

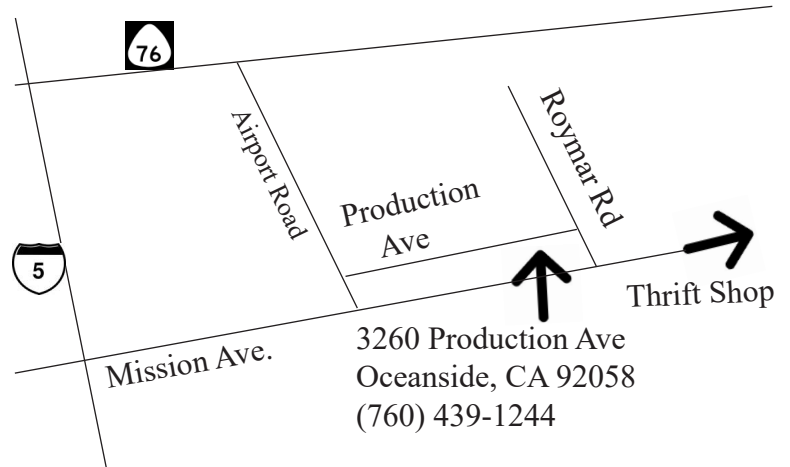
Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!

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, men and women's drug and alcohol recovery program, 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:

	December 2020	Our 37th Year		December 2020	Our 37th Year
Meals	10,805	4,575,683	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	825	324,490	Food packs	399	357,847
Articles of clothing	3,108	1,430,490	Blankets	157	49,098
Showers	0	271,036	Tarps	37	6,228
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	24	10,022
Bus passes	15	86,099	HUGS	0	1,011,244