



Sovereign Order Of
ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM
Knights Hospitaller c.1048



The Vancouver Commandery NEWSLETTER

Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum
For Faith, For Service to Humanity

Spring 2021



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Our Sovereign Order is dedicated to St. John the Baptist

There are many saints named John in the New Testament. Our Sovereign Order is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, because, in 1050, the Benedictine hospice for pilgrims in Jerusalem was named for John, the Baptist.

John is one of the oddest characters in the New Testament. According to Luke's gospel, John was Jesus's cousin. Unlike his cousin Jesus, John the Baptist lived the solitary life of an ascetic. John was a preacher who called upon people to examine their lives, be baptized and amend their ways. According to the scriptures, people flocked to his teaching and baptism. All four gospels agree that John baptized Jesus at the River Jordan. The gospels of Matthew and Mark detail his beheading at the hands of King Herod.

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" was John's message. Here we can find a particular relevance for the work of our Order. Episcopal priest Cynthia Bourgeault reminds us that the word 'repent' is a translation of the Greek word 'metanoia'. She writes, "the art of metanoia is going into the larger mind."

Going into the larger mind means to develop a broader perspective on life. The Sovereign Order's motto of Pro Fide, Pro Utilitate Hominum: For Faith, For Service to Humanity. This is a clarion call to see the world in a broader perspective. It commends the practice of faith in God and service to humanity. Faith and service are characteristic of a life changed, a larger mind, a shift in consciousness from simply caring about ourselves to serve the world that God loves.

In Luke's gospel, John's father, the priest Zechariah sings a hymn after John is born. It has become known as the Benedictus, and its concluding lines are, "Through the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Members of the Ecclesiastical Council join me in commending that on the Feast Day of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, observed every year on June 24th, members of the Order give thanks for the life and witness of St. John the Baptist and pray that our Sovereign Order might live ever more fully into our motto—For Faith, For Service to Humanity—so that through our work, God's light might shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Very Reverend Peter G. Elliott KJSJ

St. John The Baptist Day Celebration

On or close to the Feast Day of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, observed every year on June 24, members of the Vancouver Commandery will henceforth, annually (if possible), give thanks for the life and witness of St. John the Baptist in and pray that our Sovereign Order might live ever more fully into our motto – For Faith, For Service to Humanity. So that through our work, God’s light might shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Very Reverend Peter G. Elliott KJSJ

The Spiritual Component will be coordinated by our Chaplain, The Venerable John Bailey. Upon completion of the Service, Dame Robyn Woodward has graciously agreed to provide a presentation on St. John the Baptist and how he is reflected in the art of the Order, especially in the St. John’s Cathedral in Malta that was built by the Order between 1572 and 1577.

The Knights were patrons of the arts and even Knighted the great painter Caravaggio when he fled to Malta after being accused of murder during a brawl. In thanksgiving, he painted the Beheading of St. John the Baptist as well as portraits of the Grand Master and various other Knights.



Date: Thursday June 24, 2021 Time: 7:00 pm to approximately 9:00 pm Location: Virtually by ZOOM



April 15 to May 15, 2021

Register on line on the SOSJ Vancouver website:

- Go to upcoming events at sosjvancouver.org
- There you will see how to participate
- Then just click on the link to access to entry form
- Send an email to various family, friends and colleagues to support you by donating to your activity using the link on your page in the Canada Helps website
- A tax receipt will be sent to those donors who donate \$25 or more
- Complete your chosen activity between April 15th and May 15th

And, we'll send you a medal for participating. Have fun!

HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR HOSPICE

Get out your runners, hiking boots, swimming suits, track shoes, roller skates, ice skates, unicycles, bicycles, tricycles, push scooters, skipping ropes, roller blades and any other mode of self-propulsion to attract sponsors to raise much needed funds for our St John Hospice at UBC.

April 15 through May 15, 2021, the Vancouver Commandery will host our first VIRTUAL Hike for Hospice.

The goal is to raise \$20,000 (or more!). We are well on our way as Bill and Jana Maclagan have donated \$2,000 towards the event.

You will be participating, with COVID-19 safety in mind, in your chosen activity within your own bubble and you will be doing your part to support our wonderful Hospice and all the good work it does. You will be encouraged to send in videos or great pics of your individual or group activity.

You will be joining hundreds of Canadians coming together to raise funds and awareness in their community for Hospice Palliative Care. While all funds raised by the Vancouver Commandery will go to the St. John Hospice, we are part of the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association which is holding its Hike for Hospice event (on May 2) as they promote these walks around the country.

(There are no administration fees paid to the Canadian Parent Organization.)

Commander's Report

Despite being locked in a prolonged and deadly COVID-19 Pandemic, our Commandery remains vigorous while we engage members in a number of very worthwhile activities. It is gratifying to see the SOSJ's mandate being carried out energetically even though almost all of our activities are virtual.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER TO:

- Grand Prior Stewart Johnson and Prior Anne Rowland who have been elevated to rank of Bailiff.
- Chevalier, The Venerable John Bailey, is joining the Commandery Council as our Chaplain. His role is to provide spiritual direction to the Council, advice to the Commander, and pastoral care where it may be needed within our membership.
- Chevalier Dan Tidball, former Judge at Arms for the International SOSJ, who has been asked to join the Commandery Council as a Member-at-Large. He is very knowledgeable regarding our history and traditions from the Order's earliest times. He has been a past Chair of Commandery Committees and has been a significant contributor in service and philanthropy to the Commandery and the community.
- The Very Reverend Peter Elliott and The Venerable John Bailey for nominating four, very experienced, outstanding clergy from diverse backgrounds who will enhance our Order and Commandery
- All the members of the Vancouver Commandery for a very successful Christmas Cheer for Charity fundraiser. \$45,000 was raised in just six weeks. Cheques for \$15,000 each, were presented to the Salvation Army Boundless Food Program, the Greater Vancouver Food Bank, and the Union Gospel Mission. We received a very warm welcome from each organization and were given tours of their facilities. They all expressed their deepest appreciation for our generosity.

STAY INFORMED!

All members are strongly encouraged to register on line in order to access the 'members only' section of the Vancouver Commandery website and the International SOSJ website. There you will find out what is happening, when and where it is happening, and stay connected with the work of our Order.

So far, only 50% of our members have registered.

The Process to Register on the International Site

1. Go to the SOSJ International website, (<https://sosjinternational.org>).
2. Click on Member Registration. This will inform Richard Earthy, our webmaster, of your desire to register for access.
3. Once your registration is accepted, you will receive notification by email, along with your password for access.

Note: Once registered you will not have to reregister. If you are having difficulties, please contact Richard at rearthy@telus.net

To Access the Vancouver Commandery Website

1. Go to the International website as above
2. Click on Commanderies
3. Click on The Vancouver Commandery

On the subject of websites, it should be noted work has commenced to amalgamate the International and Vancouver Commandery websites. This way, members have only to go to the International site and then navigate to the Vancouver Commandery section. Upon successful completion of this integration, the plan is to do the same for other Commandery websites so that all appear under the International website address.

MEMBERSHIP

In year 2020, the Vancouver Commandery ten aspirants were scheduled for their June Investiture. Like so many of our events, their investiture was postponed until a time when deemed appropriate and safe for all to attend. There is a tentative target date for an investiture on September, 11th, 2021.

I am also pleased to welcome Chevalier George Higgins as new lead of the Vancouver Commandery Membership Committee.

In addition to his commitment to the SCM 2022 Planning Committee, George still manages to dedicate time to his day job as a communications and stakeholder relations professional specializing in community relations, government relations, media relations, and stakeholder management.

In spite of the impositions of personal contact in the age of COVID-19, George and his membership team are producing a great many new Aspirant candidates for our Commandery. The Membership Committee under his leadership has vetted five new Aspirants

(Continued on p.4)

From Our Commander (cont.)

for the 2021 Class. As our clerical ranks have become quite thin, The Very Reverend Peter Elliott and The Venerable John Bailey have nominated four clergy with exceptional but varied credentials. The Commandery is very pleased to welcome all five Aspirants.

HOSPITALLER

The Hospitaller Committee, under the leadership of Interim Chair Commander David Hunt, are delighted with the Commandery response to the Christmas Cheer for Charity event and are already planning to put on the same event this December. The Lead for this event is Vice Chair Chevalier Charlie Kiers.

With the help of the Social Committee, we are very actively planning for the first annual 'Hike for Hospice'. The lead for this event is Dame Heather Hamilton with Deputy Lead, Dame Diana Barkley.

We are looking into other opportunities to provide our volunteer help such as preparing dinner meals for the 90 parents and children at Ronald McDonald House. It is hoped that in the near future our trained Hospice Volunteers will be allowed to support patients and their families at our St John Hospice at UBC.

MARSHAL

Dame Teresa Mitchell-Banks has recently assumed the leadership for the Marshal Committee from Chevalier Sir John Cave-Brown Cave. The Commandery is most appreciative of the dedicated and effective organization and work of Sir John over the past several years. We thank him immensely for a job very well done.

Dame Mitchell-Banks and her Deputy, Chevalier Don Foster are well into planning our 2021 Investiture and are holding meetings every two weeks with support from other Council members. If you want to have a detail person running an event, always pick a senior prosecutor! Dame Mitchell-Banks, with Sir John's assistance, has hit the ground running.

The Marshal Committee hopes to attract volunteers from across the Commandery to get involved, in a short time commitment role making this a special Investiture for all involved. If you are not able to attend the Gala, all the more reason to help at the Investiture and renew your own commitment to lending a helping hand.

If you are interested in helping please contact: Dame Teresa Mitchell-Banks at 604-353 7135, or email- tmitchellbanks@gmail.com and Chevalier Don Foster at 604 809 6242, email-dbroker@telus.net

GOVERNANCE

Leadership of the Governance Committee is provided by our Solicitor General, Chevalier John Norton. At present, he is a committee of one. While Chevalier Norton keeps a low profile, he is constantly providing experienced and very competent advice to the Commander on a variety of Commandery initiatives.

We are most fortunate to have Chevalier Norton's ongoing commitment to both our Commandery and the International SOSJ MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying)

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING (MAiD)

A report, with an introduction and summary written primarily by Co-Chair Dame Valerie Jenkinson, was delivered to the members of the Commandery Council. The report included the unedited contributions of our expert panel, composed of panellists who support MAiD and panellists who do not support MAiD.

Unanimously, Vancouver Council Members offered their congratulations on the professional, in depth, and fair minded coverage of the document, especially given the complexity of the topic, and the wide range of psychological, emotional, and spiritual responses it invokes.

Council will deliberate on how and when this report can best be used.

IN CONCLUSION

As I have mentioned in earlier newsletter reports, it is imperative at this time of COVID-19 lockdown and isolation, to make a special effort to reach out to family members, fellow Commandery members, friends and neighbours, who may be having a particularly difficult time emotionally, physically, and/or financially.

We know that COVID-19 is having stressful effects on individuals and families and that nerves can become frayed. It is particularly hard on children of all ages. It is particularly important to be patient with one another at this time. As it is said.... "Charity begins at home." This applies to everyone of us.

Here is the Commander's prescription for surviving the Pandemic in the best possible way with your relationships intact:

- Keep moving - yes, some form of regular exercise every day.
- Eat for your brain - go with a Mediterranean Diet; heavy on the greens, vegetables, nuts, berries, fish and poultry and light on refined sugar, red meat and alcohol.
- Stay sharp - keep learning and read anything you can get your hands on.
- Stay socially connected, by phone, ZOOM, Skype, letter, emails, fax, pony express, even smoke signals.
- Practice fifteen minutes of relaxation daily, if possible.
- Yes, vaccination for all Canadians is in the near future but we have many months to go before this program will be completed.



*Yours in St. John,
Commander David Hunt
KJSJ*

In the words of Dr. Bonnie Henry
"Be Kind. Be Calm. Be Safe"

TWO IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Our Annual General Meeting is set for Thursday April 22, 2021. As was the case last year, the AGM will be virtual. It will be followed by the General Chapter Meeting. Information on the agendas of both meetings will be forthcoming. All members including New Members from the Aspirant Class of 2020 and Aspirants from the Class of 2021 are encouraged to attend both meetings.

The other date, not to be missed, is the Vancouver Commandery's 35th Anniversary, Monday October 25, 2021. Planning is underway involving all the Commandery Committees to engage our members old and new in celebrating our colourful past. So stand by. This is going to be a great celebration!



SCM 2022 Update

With just 18 months until Vancouver Commandery hosts SCM in 2022, an update seems timely.

As you know, the Sovereign Council met via ZOOM to complete their agenda and its significant and welcomed policy changes. The Committee worked diligently immediately following the decision to postpone the event, unwind existing contracts and arrangements and commit anew to facilities and activities two years out. The investment of time in conceiving, arranging and organizing facilities and activities involved a large number of enthusiastic volunteers over the past four years (for a few it was even longer). Many of those same members continue at the heart of re-positioning activities to host SCM 2022. For the guidance and industry of all who have been and are now involved, I am very grateful.

While the world is still being challenged with

COVID-19, I hope you and your loved ones have avoided infection and will continue to do so until the vaccines have beneficial impact. The vaccines seem to be a miracle having been created, tested, determined safe, highly effective, and distributed in a little over a year after the onset of the virus.

When the restrictions ease, we will be informing the entire membership of the 2022 program dates, itinerary and registration information. It is intended to start marketing and registration this fall, likely mid-to-end September.

With the promise of a COVID-19 free world by 2022, it will be a time when we can embrace the opportunity to gather and to celebrate the important work that is done by the Sovereign Order of St. John, Knights Hospitaller on three continents.



*Yours in St. John,
Chevalier Jack McGee
CD, KCJSJ*

On The Social Scene and Upcoming Activities

Even with the challenges of social distancing, your Social Committee continues to be as active as ever.

Scotch Tasting Event

Our scotch tasting event in February was fun, informative, and engaging! Even better because we did not have to drive and were in the safety of our own homes. Thank you technology! In total we had eight members from the Victoria Commandery join our 17 members from Vancouver.

Many members had their spouses attend as well. Lavish Liquids organized the blind tasting of six premium single malt scotches, along with tasting charts and flavour wheels to help us swirl, smell and taste while trying to identify the different scotches, and in which casks they were matured in. Our instructor, Reece Simms, was definitely an excellent and educated scotch Sommelier. She was very knowledgeable and kept us on track while we tasted throughout the evening although it got a little harder for her as the evening progressed!

Thank you to Bill Maclagan on the Social Committee who initially came up with the idea of the tasting event and donated a lovely bottle of scotch for the draw at the end of the evening. Also, many thanks to John Ormiston, Susan Scott Gabe and Tim Wyman who helped me with deliveries of the tasting kits. Cheers for more events like this one!



Future Events on our Social Calendar:

Presentation on Vaccines in the World of COVID-19

A planned presentation in March from an Infectious Disease Expert and Virologist at BC Children's Hospital had to be cancelled because of the understandable workload on this individual. However, for members who are interested in knowing more about vaccines, I would direct you to a prerecorded online one hour lecture by a renowned specialist on Vaccines, Dr Leslie Fang, a Professor at Harvard Medical School.

To access this presentation, go to the Vancouver Commandery website Events section and click on the link.

2021 Christmas Lunch

Get out your calendar and pencil and note Wednesday, December 8, 2021 for our Vancouver Commandery Annual Christmas Lunch. The event is again planned to be held at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. Hopefully, this will be the year COVID-19 is put to an end and we can begin to resume a sense of normalcy in planning our social events and celebrations.

Cheers for Charity 2021

Regarding forward planning, our second Annual Christmas Cheer for Charity Celebration of Christmas Fundraiser is being contemplated for a December date so stayed tuned.

Sovereign Sippers Event

SOSJ Commanderies across the country remain diligent in their effort to remain cohesive and connected with their respective members during the challenges of COVID-19. Recently, Vancouver Commandery members were invited by the Victoria Commandery to join them for their monthly Sovereign Sippers event where members meet virtually with an exotic beverage (usually containing alcohol) and have a great social hour. It is a mini fund raiser, as all participants donate the bar or restaurant cost of the beverage being consumed. Consequently, cocktails such as daiquiris, grasshoppers, old fashioned, dark and stormys, and more, averaging \$15-\$20 per drink, go into a fund benefitting one of Victoria Commandery's charitable causes.



Yours in St. John, Dame Heather Hamilton DGSJ, seen here doubling as a delivery elf for the Cheers For Charity event.



The 2020 Christmas Cheer for Charity event raised \$45,000 with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank, The Salvation Army Food Distribution Division and Union Gospel Mission, each receiving \$15,000.

These organizations all have proven track records. They have low administrative costs because they function, to a large extent, through volunteerism. Consequently, almost all of the money we raised and donated from this evening went to the people who need it most – putting food in the cupboards and on tables that are otherwise bare and by providing thousands of hot meals for those in need.



The pandemic created a challenge for the Salvation Army Boundless Vancouver causing them to pivot from serving nutritious hot meals to building food hampers for distribution in a COVID-19 safe way. So the Nourishing Hope Hamper program was created. This change required finding a significantly larger base of volunteers to help sort and package food hampers for those in need.

We greatly admire their community work and were very happy to be their partners over Christmas in serving the Lord's sick, poor, isolated and marginalized.

On the left are Jonathan Evans, Ministry Leader, Boundless Vancouver and Commander David Hunt.



We were told that the Greater Vancouver Food Bank can at least double every dollar they receive so our financial support will go a long way in helping to feed people across our community.

The Food Bank is always looking for volunteers to help in either their sort or distribution teams. It's a fantastic way to get even more understanding of how our Food Bank works and the impact volunteers have on making it all happen.

From left to right: Greg Douglas, Director of Development for the Food Bank, Dame Diana Barkley, Chevalier Charlie Kiers, Cynthia Boulter, Chief Operating Officer and Commander David Hunt.



Today, the Union Gospel Mission serves over 3,500 meals at its annual Christmas dinner, and over 320,000 meals annually. We've expanded our programs and services significantly and grown to fill seven locations throughout Metro Vancouver and the city of Mission. With dedicated, visionary leadership and a united faith in God's provision, UGM helps transform communities by overcoming poverty, homelessness, and addiction—one life at a time.

From left to right Chevalier Charlie Kiers, Mr. Bill Moller, President of the Union Gospel Mission, Dame Jane Macdonald and Commander David Hunt

Getting To Know Chevalier John Jennings

This is the third in a series of interviews with members of your Vancouver Commandery Council. Herald, Chevalier Stephen Simpson and Aspirant Hans-Christian Behm sat down with Chevalier John Jennings, co-chair of our Almoner Committee via a Zoom call.



SS: I saw that you graduated from the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario. Were you born there?

JJ: No, I was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland. My dad was a Presbyterian minister who was concerned about the Troubles, so he moved us within months after my birth to Southern Ontario. We moved a few times, ending up in London by the time I was seven, in part because my father wanted to raise us in a university town.

SS: What was your major at university?

JJ: I did two years of chemistry and realized that I actually didn't like chemistry. So I decided to take a year off and, through a whole series of coincidences, ended up in the Northwest Territories in a silver mine, as the lab chemist. Within a few months, I moved to become a labourer, working 12 on and 12 off every day, because that's where the real money was.

That experience really opened my eyes and a year later I was back at Western to complete my degree. I was a course short so took Business 10, and that's where I found my passion. That one course turned it around. I excelled in it and realized this was another world.

SS: So that was the fork in the road for you? From science to career in business?

JJ: Not quite, there was a woman involved. While I was back in London, I reconnected with a girl I had met in first year. We were friends but she decided to start the romance, and that was that. Christine is now my wife of thirty-eight years. She was doing her MBA in Toronto, so I left the mine, moved to Toronto and quickly realized there's no underground mining there. I had to figure something else out and talked my way into being a Bay St. mining securities analyst.

After Christine finished her MBA, we decided that I needed to get one too and moved to England so that I could attend London Business School. It was two wonderful years there as a student, although I was working too hard and she wasn't working at all, so she loved it.

After graduating, I joined Lehman Brothers in London, and had a great time there until our first daughter was born four years later, then we decided it was time to come back to Canada.

SS: That's quite the journey, from working in a mine to the eagle's nest of the boardrooms of London, England. How did Vancouver come into your view?

JJ: Working in the City was definitely exciting, but I saw the toll it took on families. When Caitlin was born, I realized that it was time to put family first and that's what prompted the move. Our decision was between Toronto and Vancouver, which we had only visited. Being MBA's, we analyzed our options and decided to move to Vancouver for lifestyle, recognizing that it would limit my career options. In fact, my career has been far more fulfilling than expected. In hindsight, moving to Vancouver was a great decision and one I would make again in a heartbeat.

SS: So you have two daughters? Was that part of the master plan?

JJ: Correct, Caitlin and Megan.

When talk turns to getting married you ask about having kids. How many? Boys or girls? Christine said, "Well, on the whole, I'd rather have girls". And I said, "Well, I don't care as long as they have red hair". When Caitlin, and then Megan, both came out with red hair, we knew to stop then and there.

Caitlin is 31 and has built her career around sports management. She's worked for a big sports agency and then the CFL and Vancouver Whitecaps. She was part of a soccer academy start-up until COVID hit, so she's currently a free agent looking for her next thing.

Megan is 17 months younger than Caitlin and has spent the last ten years in the local tech industry, first with Vision Critical and for the past five years, Unbounce. She is currently doing her MBA part-time at Sauder and also teaches fitness classes.

It's great to have both of them in Vancouver, especially during this past year of living with the pandemic.

SS: Tell us about your wife, Christine.

JJ: She was born in Oshawa. One hundred percent Ukrainian. I actually proposed in Ukrainian so that her grandmother would understand what I was saying. She's a wonderfully talented artist. Megan's nickname for her is the 'Beautifier' because everything Christine touches gets more beautiful as a result of her involvement. I think that's a great term for her.

SS: And that brings us to you, Mr. Jennings. You're an executive search practitioner?

JJ: Yes. I'm fortunate enough to work primarily with boards of directors and the people that report into them in the 'C' Suite. I get a front row seat to putting executives into some of the most important organizations in our province. It is a challenge, but I think it helps keep moving the world forward because of transformative change. So I'm really happy for the opportunity.

SS: How did you become a member in the Sovereign Order?

JJ: Poul Hanson and Kevin Mahon invited Terry Holland and me to lunch at the Terminal City Club in early 2007. I truly had no idea about the Order, but if Poul and Kevin were inviting me to join, I was going to do so. Poul is someone I can't say no to.

SS: What roles have you had in the Vancouver Commandery?

JJ: I was put to work very quickly by Poul. My first role was Herald, which of course puts you on Council where you quickly learn about how the Vancouver Commandery functions. After several years, I stepped back for a bit until being invited to breakfast by Judith Trowbridge, Anne Rowland and Susan Scott Gabe, Chair of the Almoner Committee. Anne is also someone I can't say no to, so they had me dead to rights.

Susan is a subject matter expert on what we do in the Almoner Committee, being a health care professional. What Anne and Judith wanted was a partner for Susan who would bring an investment kind of mentality to the table. Having two acting as joint chairs would make it work. And in spite of having never met Susan, until we became Almoner co-chairs, we became not only good business partners, but good friends.

The Almoner Committee's work is so gratifying and so exciting. We're making investments in what could happen, the potential, the future, and it's exciting to see some of those things come to light. We're almost venture capitalists when it comes right down to it, because we make investments that turn ideas into something.

You have to have the ability, as they say, of giving time, treasure, and talent. I think the fact that my father was a minister, I was always in the spirit of service, recognizing how well off we are. We have an obligation, in an honourable sense, to help others who don't have those same benefits. And I hope, to the extent that I can, I have given all of the above and, in particular, time. It's probably the thing that I value the most.

We will continue the 'Getting To Know' series next month with another member of the Vancouver Commandery Council.

Almoner Update

Our Provincial Profile in Hospice Continues To Grow

The BC Provincial Hospice Working Group (BCHPCA) is a collective of non-profit organizations who took the initiative to coordinate the development of a path forward to improve access to high quality, fully integrated, and sustained hospice care for all British Columbians.



The founding members of the Working Group are the British Columbia Centre for Palliative Care, British Columbia Hospice Palliative Care Association, Victoria Hospice, Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices, and the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller.

Our Commander, David Hunt, is also a member of the board. The BCHPCA recently published a working paper on hospice palliative care protocols entitled Hospice Care in British Columbia: The Path Forward.

Since then, our Almoner Committee has remained very active in the continued work of the BC Provincial Hospice Working Group and has significantly raised the SOSJ profile in our continued commitment to the needs of Hospice Palliative care in our province.

The BCHPCA Fundraising Expo Series

In December 2020, the BCHPCA hosted a virtual fundraising expo with leading fundraising speakers on solutions designed to achieve virtual (and non-virtual) fundraising goals.

Attendees left this expo having engaged with fundraising peers, gaining an understanding of how to lead from where you stand, tactics to ensure new year giving expectations, and improving their ability to secure larger gifts from donors.

Our Almoner Committee was part of the presenter list, speaking on the work of the Vancouver Commandery. The presentation also focused on our 2021 Hospice Palliative Care Small Grant Program and other funding opportunities we make available.



The BC Patient Safety & Quality Council

The BC Patient Safety and Quality Council provides system-wide leadership to efforts designed to improve the quality of health care in British Columbia. Through collaborative partnerships with health authorities, patients, and those working within the health care system, they promote and inform a provincially coordinated, patient-centred approach to quality.



As a member of the BCHPCA our Sovereign Order again was represented in this recent workshop series, held virtually. ZOOM technology was used to present to the council workshop attendees, the working paper on hospice palliative care protocols entitled Hospice Care in British Columbia: The Path Forward.



Yours in St. John,
Dame Susan Scott Gabe
DCSJ



Yours in St. John,
Chevalier John Jennings
KCSJ



**Mark your calendars for the
2020 Provincial SOSJ Grant
Recipient Webinar,
May 13, 2021 from 1-2:30pm**

A Love Letter From the House That Love Built



Dear Susan (and your Almoner Committee);

On behalf of everyone at Cowichan Hospice, we hope that you and your loved ones are all faring well during these difficult days.

You haven't heard from us in a while. That's because we have been working hard with everyone involved in the final stages of finishing and furnishing Cowichan Hospice House, while preparing to welcome patients.

Whole-person care requires a whole care team, so over the past two weeks nursing staff, family physicians Cowichan Hospice staff and volunteers have been busy participating in orientation and training.

Thanks to your generosity, Cowichan Hospice House is nearly complete and has already welcomed the first patient for care.

The House that Love Built is beautiful, full of light, and so welcoming.

Thank you for making this house a reality.

In the coming weeks, you will receive a link for a virtual Open House where we'll take you inside the furnished Cowichan Hospice House with a video tour! We hope you will join us to see what your gifts have made possible.

We would not be at this exciting moment without your inspiring contributions. Thank you.

Sincerely

Gretchen Hartley
Executive Director
Cowichan Hospice



Artist Glen Spicer working on a panel of stained glass for the Sacred Space at Cowichan Hospice House.





2020 Provincial SOSJ Grant Recipient Webinar, May 13, 2021 from 1:00 - 2:30pm

Upcoming Events, Vancouver, Victoria & Okanagan

April 15 - May 15, 2021
Virtual Hike For Hospice

April 22, 2021
Vancouver Commandery Annual General Meetings

June 24, 2021 7:00 - 9:00PM
St. John The Baptist Day Celebration
Zoom Presentation 7 - 9PM

May 13, 2021
2020 Provincial SOSJ Grant Recipient Webinar
From 1:00 - 2:30pm

September 11, 2021
Vancouver Commandery Investiture (tentative)

October 21, 2021
Vancouver Commandery's 35th Anniversary

December 8, 2021
Vancouver Commandery Christmas Luncheon

Christmas Cheer For Charity 2021
Date to be determined

Available online on our website (under Events)
Presentation on Vaccines in the World of Covid-19

Upcoming Events, Worldwide

April 10, 2021
St. Joseph Commandery Investiture - POSTPONED

June 19, 2021
Commandery of the Sierras Investiture

September 10, 2021 - September 11, 2021
Vancouver Commandery Investiture

September 17, 2021 - September 19, 2021
Dagmar Commandery of Denmark Inaugural Investiture

September 24, 2021 - September 26, 2021
Grand Priory of St. Henrik, Finland Investiture

October 2, 2021
Glasgow and London Commanderies Investiture

October 16, 2021
Victoria Commandery Investiture

Vancouver Commandery Council

Commander

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