



# St. Joseph Commandery News

FEBRUARY 2017

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ISSUE TWENTY-THREE

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Commander Brian Rauschhuber KCSJ

Dear St. Joseph Members;

The heart of our Commandery and Mission of our Order is our charitable giving. For this time of year, we look forward to receiving your Application for a worthy charity from within the community. It could be one you're working with now or in the past or one you've recently come across that could really use some assistance. We value all opportunities which reflect our mission of serving the sick and poor in Christ, see Page 3 for more information and your early submission.

Things are lining up for the April 8 Investiture to be held at the historic Mission Santa Clara de Asis at Santa Clara University. You can review more information from the "Message from the Prior" see pages 5, 6 for Prior Colleen Wilcox's message.

In total there will be eleven Aspirants, 5 from San Francisco, 1 from Sierra's and 5 from St. Joseph. Please welcome our Aspirants; Suzzane Allen, Wayne Dippel, Kristie Hernandez, Mark Keirstead, and Khanh Russo. We should also welcome Donald "Hank" Julian - a Sierra's Aspirant and Suzanna Cody, Shelly Paiva, Eric Metoyer, Michael Knapstad and Kathleen Leonard all Aspirants with San Francisco Commandery. I know we're all looking forward to getting to know them all better.

I also want to extend a congratulations to Commanders - Elect Chevalier Chris Citti KGSJ, and Dame Diane Mancini DJSJ both will be elevated to Commander of St. Joseph and Sierra's respectively during the Investiture April 8.

Looking way ahead, save the date of June 12 for the St. Joseph Commandery Third Annual Invitational Golf Tournament. More information to come, stay tuned.

Yours in St. John,  
Brian

## COMMANDERY MEETINGS

February 21, 2017 @6pm  
Dame Kathy Wiley DGSJ  
2816 Glen Firth Drive  
San Jose, CA 95113

March 14, 2017 @6pm\*  
\*Aspirant greeting @7pm  
Dame Kelly Dippel  
1080 Micro Ct  
San Jose, CA 95120



**St. Joseph Commandery Council:** Commander Brian J. Rauschhuber KCSJ, Vice Commander Chevalier Evan Baker KJSJ, Receiver General Chevalier Christopher Worrall KJSJ, Almoner Chevalier Francis J Harvey KCSJ, Goodwill Liaison Dame Kelly Dippel DSJ, Secretary Dame Kathy Wiley DGSJ, Recruitment Chevalier John Wayne Dubois KCJSJ, Hospitaller Chevalier Ken Price KJSJ, Caregiver Dame Valerie Burniece DGSJ, Quartermaster Squire Christopher Carroll, Herald-Vacant. Council members at large:, Chevalier Jeff Strawn KCSJ, Chevalier Dick Garrett KCSJ, Chevalier Larry Hernandez KCJSJ, Chevalier Ray Mendoza KSJ, Tom Bakewell KSJ

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*MEMBER SPOTLIGHT*  
Chevalier Jeff Strawn KCJS



Our featured member, Chevalier Jeff Strawn, joined the Order in the class of March 28, 2009. Since that time, Jeff has been an active member of the Order, serving continually on the Commandery Council including a term as Vice-Commander and as Summer Garden Party co-Chair. Jeff joined the Knights through his introduction by Chevalier John DuBois. Both Jeff and John were both serving as non-profit board members for the Silicon Valley Arts Counsel. Both Jeff and his wife Elizabeth were impressed with the warm and welcoming nature of the members and saw the ability to build new friendships and sink deeper roots into the community. Jeff was impressed with the Knights and the amazing support they provide to benefit the sick and poor in Christ (including veteran focused projects).

Jeff recently celebrated his 15 year anniversary with Silicon Valley Bank. As a Sr. Credit Officer where he oversees the bank's northwest technology portfolios and Palo Alto financial technology practice. Jeff also serves as the global subject matter expert on credit related to payments, foreign exchange, interest rate derivatives, global transaction banking, and trade finance. He feels very fortunate to have held multiple positions in the bank as he previously managed lending teams, trade finance, global loan operations, and founded SVB's financial institutional relationship management practice. Prior to joining Silicon Valley Bank, Jeff worked for several years at San Jose National Bank.

Jeff earned an MBA in 1990 from the American Graduate School of International Management with a language focus in Mandarin Chinese. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Chico State University in 1988. While attending Chico State Jeff worked for the University Center for Economic Development. After graduate school, he served in the Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Economic Development.

For the last eight years, Hospice of the Valley has been the focus of Jeff's time and giving, aside from the Knights. Jeff has had the privilege of serving on the board and recently served as Board Chair in 2015 prior to the merger with Sutter Health. Jeff was introduced to HOV by several of our Knights that served on the board through the years. "Though there are many compelling charities; I find hospice to have a special place in my heart for improving the quality of life of those in their final days." Prior to HOV, Jeff served on the board of Arts Council Silicon Valley, a regional non-profit arts organization that supports funding, grants, marketing support, and arts education.

Jeff married his wife Elizabeth in 1993 and has been a resident of Los Gatos for the past 9 years and has lived in Northern California for the last 20. He was born and raised in Tarzana a suburb of Los Angeles. Both Elizabeth and Jeff are blessed with their 20 year old son Carter, who is on break from college and about to take off to Israel for his own international adventure.



*Member Spotlight-Strawn Continued;*



Amongst other interests, Jeff and Elizabeth have developed a fondness for travel, cuisine and wine. They attempt often to combine these, as in 2015, after celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, Jeff, Elizabeth and Carter spent two weeks in northern Italy on a culinary vacation. His passion for travel and exploration started after high school when he spent the summer with German cousins in Frankfurt. Jeff found, as many experience, this first international trip changed his outlook in profound ways. During and after graduate school, Jeff spent many months in Asia, living in Taiwan, and trekking through jungles and islands of Thailand.

Jeff is an outstanding member of the St. Joseph Commandery, we look forward to his continued involvement!

### *CHARITABLE SELECTION NOMINATIONS*

The St. Joseph Commandery has a wonderful giving history, let me thank everyone for your past and continued generosity as we reached the \$3,000,000 mark for funds raised by this Commandery!

**This is the time of year we begin the process of identifying charities.**

If you have a charity in mind, please send in the “**Charity Funding Application**” by **no later than February 15, 2017**. We sent out an email on January 18 with the application. If you do not have this and need an application please contact either Almoner-Fran Harvey, at [fjharvey@comcast.net](mailto:fjharvey@comcast.net) or Commander Brian Rauschhuber [brian@synacity.com](mailto:brian@synacity.com) Should you have any other questions direct them to Fran at 408-656-1165.

Charities submitted should reflect our mission of serving the sick and poor in Christ. We are always looking for great causes to help in our local community. The charity should be small enough that the organization values our gift, but significant enough that it is making an impact on the community it serves. Our gifts are not utilized for operating costs of an organization, but all other needs are considered and evaluated on their merit and fit toward our mission. Over the past few years gifts to charities selected have ranged from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

We look forward to understanding from you, our members, how we can support an organization from within the community.

Yours in St. John,  
Brian and Chris,

Brian Rauschhuber KCSJ-Commander,  
Chris Citti KGSJ-Commander – Elect



**CHARITY UPDATE**

*Respite & Research for Alzheimer's Disease: Alzheimer's Activity Center*

The Board, staff and clients of Respite and Research for Alzheimer's Disease thank you for your generous support of our organization. It is through your consistent support that we have been able to provide quality service to 218 clients and caregivers in the past year and, since our inception in 1986, we have provided services to over 6,000 clients and caregivers. Our building, more widely known as the Alzheimer's Activity Center, was designed to be a safe and caring home away from home for persons with Alzheimer's Disease and dementia and is critical to the quality care for our clients.



The kitchen is the heart of every home where activities take place to nourish the body and connect with family and friends. Our kitchen at the Alzheimer's Activity Center serves the same purpose for our clients and the children of our child care center. It is where we ensure that all our clients get nutritious meals on a daily basis as well as a place for clients to participate in cooking and socializing with each other, the children and staff. The AAC kitchen, designed to accommodate serving a large capacity of clients while still maintaining a cozy, homelike ambience, is used for food preparation as well as a cooking center for planned and supervised cooking activities for clients and combined activities with clients and the children of our Rosa Elena Childcare Center.



After 25 years of constant use our kitchen desperately needed a complete renovation. Thanks to the Sovereign Order of St. John's generous donation of \$60,000 we were able to get our project underway. Our contractor Lyte Construction provided a plan that gave us a kitchen that functions as an activity center for our clients as well as provides the variety of nutritional needs for the individuals we serve. Lyte Construction also provided over 25k in in-kind goods and services for our kitchen.



We now have a kitchen with customized activity space for our seniors and children, a pantry for food for our special diets; sinks that meet code for community care licensing; a tech area where staff can update client data; floors that are not a tripping or slipping hazard; lighting and ducting that allow us to have a safe and healthy environment and a working stove and oven. We are still waiting for our new dishwasher that had to be special ordered to meet licensing code, but we are happily using the kitchen.

Thank you so much for helping us continue to nourish the body and spirit of our clients!

Maria Nicolacoudis, Executive Director  
Respite and Research for Alzheimer's Disease



***Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller***

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Confirmed by the Royal Charter and Constitution of H.M. King Peter II of Yugoslavia  
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Dear Dames, Knights and Squires,

I hope all is going well and you have been keeping warm, dry and productive. A lot has been happening in our Priory and I wanted to keep you all up to date on what to expect in the next couple months.

1st

**Our 2017 Investiture**

If you don't yet have your calendars marked for April 7th and 8th please be sure to do so. You will be receiving a save-the-date card shortly and official invitations should arrive in approximately 3 weeks.

Our Aspirant Reception will be held at the Capital Club in San Jose on Friday evening, April 7th (6:00 pm)

Our Investiture Ceremony will be at the Santa Clara Mission at Santa Clara University, April 8th (5:30 pm)

Cocktail reception and our Gala dinner will be held at the beautiful San Jose Rotunda, April 8th (7:30 pm)

We anticipate a significant attendance from our international colleagues and I hope that each of you will make a special effort to attend.

2nd

**New Members**

We are fortunate to have 11 new members who will be invested on April 8th: one with The Sierra Commandery, five with the San Francisco Commandery and five with the St. Joseph's Commandery. Special thanks to our sponsors who worked hard to get all the paperwork complete and in on time.

3rd

**New Leadership**

Nominating committees have been formed and have either selected or are in the process of selecting their new Commanders. You will be receiving more information on the two that have been finalized but I wanted you to know that Chevalier Chris Citti will be invested as the new Commander of the St. Joseph's Commandery and Dame Diane Mancini will be invested as the new Commander of the The Sierra Commandery. Both will be installed at the April Investiture. You will read more about them in our next Priory Newsletter.

The international nominating committee for the selection of our Grand Master has recommended our very own Chevalier William Stein to serve in that capacity. A 2/3s vote of

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the Sovereign Council is required and we are hopeful that the votes will be secured. Naturally I will keep you posted.

4th

### **Hotel Arrangements**

If you are planning to stay in downtown San Jose for the investiture weekend, Hospitalier Caroline Macnab has secured a special rate of \$169/night at the Fairmont in San Jose. You will be hearing from her as soon as a special link is established for reservations.

5th

### **Transportation**

As some of our venues will require transportation we will provide complimentary buses from and to the Fairmont and all other venues as long as you sign up in advance. Once you receive your invitations you will be able to sign up.

Wishing each of you a wonderful February where kindness and tolerance for other's opinions abound.

Yours in St. John,

**Colleen B. Wilcox, DJSJ**  
**Prior, Priory of the Western USA**  
**Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller**  
59 College Avenue  
Los Gatos, CA 95030  
H: 408-345-8017  
C: 408-348-7022

**SAVE THE DATE JUNE 12**



*St. Joseph Commandery*

**Third Annual Invitational Golf Tournament**



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