



April 2004

H.I.S. House News



Invitations to “Wines Around the World” Are Out!!

By Ken Kleckner



Sample wines from around the world at the Nixon Library this summer! A large selection of vintages will be available for tasting, and delightful tidbits prepared by Dinner at Eight Productions will help clear your palate.

Attendees will be entertained with more music and tempted with a much larger selection of silent auction items to bid on than at last year’s event. All the guests will be invited to view the Library and hear trained docents explain the exhibits. Be among the first to view the Library’s newly designed reception hall, an exact copy of the White House East Wing. Souvenir glasses will again be your special memento for the evening.

This invitation-only affair will be held on the evening of August 27. The ticket price is \$50 per person and cocktail attire will be the dress standard.

If you want an invitation for yourself or for your friends, please send an e-mail with the information to kkleckner@hishouseplacentia.org. ♦

Seventh Annual English Tea & Fashion Show

By Jane Seymour



Once again this year’s tea and fashion show was a successful community event, making approximately \$3,500 for HIS House. Several ladies who were first-time hostesses thoroughly enjoyed being able to show off their favorite china and table linens.

Penny Wojcik, a member of the Placentia Round Table, explained that most of her china came from her grandmother, but that she had collected the antique water glasses over the years.

Linda Schaal, also from the Placentia Round Table, set her table with her Franciscan Apple tea set. These were given to her 45 years ago as a wedding gift. Some other pieces were handed down from various relatives.

Carolyn Gaffney, a member of Eastside Christian Church in Fullerton, holds the record for using the oldest tea set. These beautiful dishes belonged to her great-great-grandmother and are probably more than 120 years old.

Key Center was transformed
Continued on pg. 2

Circle of Maintenance Remains Unbroken Despite Vacation Absences

Roy Buck, Director of Maintenance and HIS House Board member, reports that work on the house went on as usual during his recent vacation. He entrusted care for the structure to the able hands of Jim Gaffney.

According to the treasurer’s records, over the last three months locking covers for the temperature controls have been installed, screens and mini blinds have been purchased, the air conditioner was repaired, the TV antenna replaced, windows repaired, electricity in the laundry room was fixed, and soil and mulch were purchased.

Since Roy’s return, he has replaced four screens on the house

and all the batteries in the smoke detectors. To improve efficiency, the filters on the air conditioner were cleaned.

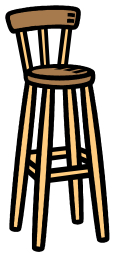


Normal wear and tear on the house is multiplied by so many different individuals moving in and out so often and so regularly. Little idiosyncrasies that every home develops

remain a mystery to the newer and younger residents and as a result, accidental damage happens. This fact of life makes Roy and Jim confident that they will never run out of things to do at HIS House. ♦

Upcoming Events

Wine Tasting	Aug. 27
Heritage Days	Oct. 9
Auction	Nov. 6



A VIEW FROM THE CORNER “CHAIR”

By John Marshall

Financially the shelter is doing well through June. We are currently running 7% ahead of plan on revenues, and our expenses are only 97% of budget for the same period.

Hats off to Jane Seymour and Marion Hetherington! They ran another successful tea and fashion show in May raising almost \$3500.

While more of our day-to-day activities are being done by our professional staff, volunteers are still critical to our longterm success. Have you ever thought about volunteering? There are many ways in which you could help.:

(1) We are always looking for people to help answer phones. This may be 2-4 hours per week or even every other week.

(2) Do you have interviewing skills? We interview candidates on Tuesday mornings, whenever there are vacancies.

(3) Do you have an interest in running or working on one of the 5-6 fundraisers we do each year? As an example, our auction held in November is looking for people to help solicit donations, pick up donations, and group items.

(4) Our Board of Directors is

always looking for new people to get involved in this ministry. If you have a professional skill or management experience, this might be a fit for you. The Board meets once a month for 2-3 hours in the evening.

(5) Purchasing Manager— We always seem to be fixing, repairing or purchasing something new for the shelter. We could use someone to help get quotes on these various projects/products. This might work out to 2-4 hours/week plus a Board seat.

(6) Assistant Treasurer— While we have an excellent treasurer in Betty Orr, she does like to travel, and we could use someone to spell her when she is on her trips.

This is just a sample of some of our needs. If you are retired or just plain tired, this may add some excitement to your life and at the same time help others.

To get involved give me a call at 714-993-2407 or feel free to express an interest to one of our other Board members or call the shelter at 714-993-5774. ♦

MISSING LINK

His House reporter Robert “Hutch” Hutchinson who regularly researches stories and provides text for the newsletter was consumed with work and other commitments at press time for this quarter’s newsletter. He was replaced by stalwart Board Members who stepped up to the plate and provided information and articles. Thanks to all who helped compose this issue.

Kathy Frazee, editor



At a Glance —

✧ Eagle Scout candidate Mike Rossi is ready to begin his project and has elected to develop a meditation garden for residents of HIS House. Another Eagle Scout, Scott Bergert, is still looking for a project but hopes to make a contribution to the House.

✧ Five adults, one child, and two staff went Deep Sea Fishing in July on an outing arranged by Chuck Wheeler. The crew brought home fourteen fish.

✧ Much packing and moving takes place in August as several residents graduate. In addition to the money they have saved, they are able to take start-up items from the Shelter’s stored donations for their new homes.

✧ Director Teri Niebuhr was assisted by staff and volunteers in submitting an extensive grant application to HUD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development in July.

✧ Auction Committee is looking for friendly faces to solicit contributions for the auction.

✧ The Board has ordered a new sign that will span the city street on Chapman Avenue to advertise the Auction and the Spring Concert. It will replace the one that was damaged last spring by high winds.

✧ The Board is asking City officials to renew the lease at 913 Bradford so we can continue to offer the Second Step Program.

English Tea from pg. 1

into an English Tea Room that afternoon, with many home-made quilts hanging on the walls. What a treat for everyone to be able to enjoy all these treasures.

We want to thank all the ladies who set such beautiful tables and shared their table settings. I’m sure there is a story that goes with each table. The HIS House Board would like to thank all who attended the event, and give special thanks to those who worked so hard to make this day such a success. ♦

WHO ARE THE HOMELESS?

Who applies for shelter at HIS House?

By Elaine Van Deventer



Come and meet some of the 13 adult applicants (and their 14 children) who recently applied to HIS House for shelter on an "Interview Tuesday." Coming available would be one bed for a single woman and a room for a small family of 2 or 3. Waiting before applications were even distributed were 5 adults, accompanied by their 4 children. Here are some of their stories.

A single woman, mid-20s, a work-study student at a local college. Since graduation from high school, she has worked at several office positions, with her maximum earnings at about \$10 an hour. She is convinced that her only chance for advancement is to earn her A.A. degree and then her Bachelor's degree. She has applied for and received student grants and loans and will face paying back her grants (which she has needed for expenses and rent) after graduation. She has no family support; her family believes that adults should work and does not support the idea of higher education. In the summers the work-study program does not provide any income and temp agencies this summer have had no work available. She is out of funds and her last day at a short-term shelter is this week. Would you help her?

A young woman, married, with 2 small children with her. Her husband is currently incarcerated for a driving violation. She describes her family as financially doing well until his legal problem, saving for a house, able to enjoy family vacations, with

no real money problems. But suddenly there was no income, inability to pay rent, immediate family unable to help, a need to sell jewelry and other possessions, and other ongoing financial obligations which must be met. She knows she

She knows she needs to go back to work but needs to find child support before this can occur. She acknowledges a need to learn better spending habits—quickly.

needs to go back to work, but needs to find child support before this can occur. She acknowledges a need to learn better spending habits—quickly. Is she the one we should help? A woman who has had a drug problem for more than a dozen years, but now has been sober and drug free for 13 months, after incarceration. She states she received no counseling after jail, no support group, no mental health assistance. She is receiving no welfare and has returned to living with a family member, which she describes as disastrous. What can we do for her?

A newly emancipated minor, just graduated from high school with highest honors but now out of the foster care county system. She was a victim of parental abuse as a child and has lived with foster care families until recently. She did not do well at a hotel for women (mostly older) and hopes to go to college to work on a career in animal care. She has re-established contact with one parent and would like to return to parental living. She has some long-term health problems. How can we help her?

A (young!) grandmother with a

4-year-old granddaughter for whom she has assumed care, since the mother of the child has a drug problem and cannot care for her. She has an A. A. degree, is bilingual, has had several very responsible county-funded jobs which are no longer available, and is currently living with a relative who has children also. Another adult daughter is also living in this home. She currently describes her situation as desperate, since she is also newly divorced, unemployed, and homeless. Can we help her?

And there were so many more, each with a personal story. Whether homelessness is based on bad luck, poor judgment, health problems, each story is tragic in its own way. Who can we help? What can we do? How can we best carry out the mission of HIS House? ♦

★ WISH LIST ★

Our long-standing source for pillows is no longer available. It is the policy of the Shelter to give each entering resident a new pillow when they start the program (for health reasons) and they take them with them when they graduate. So pillows will be a perennial item our supporters can provide as a donation.

Paper towels and toilet tissue are constantly needed. There are also several items in the kitchen that are always running out: aluminum foil, Baggies, both sandwich size and storage size, Gladware and coffee. We would really appreciate silverware and gift certificates to Target, Savon, or Walmart.

There is always a need for volunteers to participate as mentors (RSVP) or to follow-up on graduates (STAR). ♦

Hot Dog!!

HJS House Goes to Community Concerts

By Cynthia Marshall

On July 8 and 15, members of the HIS House board set up a booth at Tri-City Park for the annual summer concerts on Thursday evenings. We sold hot dogs, chips, sodas, and candy to members of the audience.

Cooks were John Raymond and Gary Goff. Other helpers included Betty Escobosa, Kathy and Charlie Frazee, Ken Kleckner, Marion and Lisa Hetherington, John and Cynthia Marshall, and Jane Seymour.

We made approximately \$400.00 for the two evenings. More importantly this was a good opportunity to make ourselves better known in the local community.

Several people stopped by to ask about this mission. ♣



Jane and Betty welcome customers.



John Raymond in action.



Marion and Cynthia take a break



Notes from the Director —

The house is buzzing with activity as it is full, 17 adults and 18 children. Many of the children are enjoying their summer at Boys and Girls Clubs of Placentia and Fullerton.

A typical day at HIS House is much like a day in your household, it's just that, here, you live with (in the main house 21 people and the side house 13 people). For the most part, harmony prevails, and an example of this was last week when all the kids went to bed, and the ladies sat down together and enjoyed brownies and milk. I am told that chocolate does wonders for instilling happiness and togetherness.

In August a family of five and a single woman will be graduating from our shelter program. They have secured permanent housing in the cities of Fullerton and Placentia. We are happy to see them gain self-sufficiency, but sad they are leaving us because they all are very special. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they, again, become productive members of those communities.

Teri Niebuhr, Director

You too can say yes!-- Dinner and Auction 2004

By Cathy Farris

As we head into the latter part of summer and all enjoy our moments in the sun, some thoughts of fall intrude into our playfulness. Some will think of the beginning of school – “oh no” say the kids and “oh yes” say the parents. Some will think of football – again some say “oh no” and some say “yes.” Some will think of the fall colors and the changing season, some will think of the parade of holidays.

This year will be the 12th auction and dinner fundraiser for HIS House. It has become a tradition for your first Saturday in November. Many have supported the auction over the years with countless hours of preparation and dedication. Shari Lenz and myself are new this year as co-chairs. We were the first to say “yes” this year and hope you, too, will say “yes”.

There are many ways to say “yes” and we hope to make it easy for you. Many of you say “yes” all the time and are over committed, at home, at work, and at church. Many of you shy away from saying “yes” because you are fearful of over committing. Let me show you just some of the ways that you will be able to say “yes” and reassure you how easy it will be.

DONATIONS: Say “yes” by making a donation to the silent or live auction that can be used by itself or included in a grouping.

1. Make a handmade item.
2. Purchase an item – something that is unique or useful.
3. Make a cash contribution for items to be purchased by the auction committee.
4. Make available a vacation home.
5. Put together a fun event and host it.
6. Teach a class or donate services.

DINNER TICKETS: Say “yes” by purchasing dinner tickets for the evening of the auction. Key Center will be adorned with fine linen and dishes. Park Place Catering (recommended by the Round Table) is catering the following meal for you: Sirloin Tips of Beef, served with Burgundy Wine sauce, sautéed onions and mushrooms; Red rose potatoes; Green Beans Almondine with Julienne Carrots; Tossed Green Salad with choice of three dressings; Fresh Fruit Salad; Assorted Rolls and Butter; Coffee and Fruit Juice Beverage
Dinner tickets : \$25/per person (\$15 for dinner/\$10 donation)

LIMITED BUDGET/GREAT CAUSE: Say “yes” by volunteering to help with the event. We have pre-event jobs and day of jobs. Let us know your availability and interests and call Cathy Farris at 714/692-1599.

PRE-AUCTION OPPORTUNITY DRAWING: Say “yes” by purchasing tickets to our opportunity drawing for (oops – it’s a surprise). This pre-auction item is a really easy way to say “yes.” Just \$1.00 will have you saying “yes”.

AUCTION ATTENDANCE: Say “yes” by attending the auction on November 6th and participating in the silent auction and the live auction. The following new timetable has been set out for our evening.

6:00pm	Sneak Peek
6:30 – 7:30pm	Dinner
7:30 – 8:50pm	Silent Auction and Opportunity Drawings
9:00 – 11:00pm	Live Auction

(Can’t make dinner? No problem – say “yes” by joining us for the auction)

We are looking to involve all the churches and community in the dinner auction, so don’t think of this as just a PPC event. HIS House is just that: GOD’S HOUSE. This is a wonderful time and opportunity to say “yes” to God and raise the funds needed to carry this ministry into the future. Join us in this time of fun and fellowship and FUND-RAISING. We are looking forward to hearing your “yes” and welcoming you aboard. ♠

Placentia Presbyterian Church

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There is no better exercise than
reaching down and
lifting people up

**Family-to-Family
Program**

Family-to-family is our community challenge gift-giving program where one family supports another. This program is based on an annual contribution of at least \$50.00 per family. Participants this past quarter include:

Frank and Jackie Campbell
John Marshall
Barbara and Gary Goff



Jerry and Nancy Keating
Marilyn Crow
Ralph and Carole Steffen

Thank you for your special gift
and for being part of our family. ♣

Yes, we want to join the Family-to-Family Program. Our family promises to donate at least \$50 for the support of a H.I.S. House family this year and succeeding years so long as we have sufficient income. Our check is enclosed for 2004.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

**Find HIS House
On the Web**

For the latest information on
HIS House go to

www.hishouseplacentia.org

Our webmaster, Eric Schreiner, has created a user-friendly website for the Shelter. You can sign up to obtain future newsletters from the website and save HIS House the cost of postage. Use the sign up page to register your email address. You can also contact any of the listed Board members through the hot links found there. Eric welcomes friendly suggestions for making the website "slicker" or more user-friendly. Please visit our website today. ♣