

Carillon

St Barnabas Episcopal Church



Our Mission: To Share the Love of Christ / Compartir el amor de Cristo

Borrego Springs, California

November 2007

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Reflections from the Desert

Thank You!!

Thanksgiving is my favorite civil holiday. In Greek, the word is translated as Eucharist.

Every day we are invited to remember God's abundant blessings, and give thanks.

Last month our parish prayer and monetary response was to the double tragedy of the fire at Camp Stevens and at the home of the Cahill family. The Vestry chose to designate the non-pledge portion of the collection from the first Sunday of October to Camp Stevens and the same arrangement from the first Sunday of November to the Cahill family. Even though both were insured, anyone who has ever suffered a similar loss knows that the insurance does not pay the full monetary loss. It is not too late to contribute to either or both losses. You can send your check directly or through St. Barnabas by indicating the recipient in the memo field of your check. Today we received a moving thank you letter from Camp Director Canon Peter Bergstrom for our check of \$208.

This week, almost four years to the very day, we experienced the greatest losses to fire in the history

of San Diego County. Sunday, October 21st at 1 pm, the Rev. Leland Jones, vicar of Ramona, had barely enough time to rush his wife, Sheila, and their dogs into the family car and evacuate their home. The next day they learned that their house had burned to the ground. So too did the houses of five other congregants.

Bishop Jim called for a 45 minute conference call with his clergy on Monday at 5 pm. It was informative and assuring as we listened to a brief description of the fires and their effects on communities and parishioners from the northernmost part of the County to the Mexican border.

**So many of you have
supported the mission. . .
We thank you.**

Voices from Riverside, Imperial and Yuma Counties also chimed in. We also heard from Richard Ohlsen, the Episcopal Relief and Development's (ERD) director of domestic disaster response and preparedness, coming here to assess the immediate and long term needs which includes psycho-social counseling for those suffering and Leslie Keller, Executive Director of Episcopal Community Services (ECS). After the phone call, at the suggestion of several

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Blessings Galore Celebrated at St. Barnabas!

The second annual blessing of the animals was a big hit with the dogs and cats that attended as well as their owners. This special occasion reminds us that our four-legged and other animal friends minister to us in many ways and are gifts to us from God.

In even bigger news, Evelyn Parks prepares to celebrate her 95th birthday on November 22nd. She is pictured below with her four sons. Clockwise from top left are: Bob, Marty, Alan, Evelyn, Bill..



Photo by Richard Bye



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will begin their study of the Gospel of John on Tuesday Nov. 13 in the Parish Room at 4 in the afternoon. All women are welcome and bring a friend. Bring your favorite Bible and commentaries you find helpful.

We will consider these four questions.

- ◆ What does the Scripture passage say?
- ◆ What does it mean?
- ◆ What does the passage mean to me?
- ◆ What am I going to do about it?

That is the challenge.

--Bonnie Walker

Exploring Our World and Ourselves at Camp Stevens

Thanks to a scholarship from the Women of St. Barnabas, Juan Rocha spent a week at Camp Stevens last summer, along with a group of 39 Japanese students. The campers built up trust and confidence by working together to conquer a ropes course and other team building activities.



Vestry Highlights

by Nancy Bye

This last Monday in October was overcast and humid, the air still somewhat smoky. Alex+ addressed the tragedy that had befallen southern California and asked us to consider what we have to be thankful for as the season approaches. Some had personal gifts to acknowledge, for most it was gratitude for the community and companionship we share. “Thank God for stopping the wind,” pleaded L.Louise.

There are always comings and goings in this group. Alex+ and Nancy+ are off for two days of crisis intervention training with others in our diocese and then Nancy+ flies off to Pocatello for her twice yearly prison ministry with mentally ill women. We eagerly welcomed Sue Dolkas as our new vestry clerk. Sorrowfully, we accepted the resignation of

Jill Bennett from the vestry. Ill health precludes these long early morning meetings for her. Happily she will continue to schedule our lectors. Jill was responsible for getting us on the road to a more formalized pastoral care program which we will all work to perpetuate, perhaps with her occasional advice.

Lynnis presented the financials—looking good for the end of summer! A generous unexpected monetary gift actually put us in the black. The visit from SmithBarney rep Gayle Pate has been rescheduled for November 15. Shirley Vialpando has agreed to coordinate the new Spanish-English language skills sessions this summer. Back by popular demand—Bill Walker’s popular “Younger Next Year” workshops. We need hosts and hostesses for our Holy Happy Coffee Hours after the 9:30 services. We need ushers and coordinators of ushers. Please step up to the plate, we really need you!

José M Mendez 1933-2007

José Mendez was happiest when in full motion. He was a man who loved people and was loved by them in return for his charisma and clear pleasure at their company. He was an athlete who enjoyed jogging, and even ran a half marathon. In his youth, he rode horses and played polo, and later in life grew to love sailing.

He was a forward-looking man who was unafraid to try new things and whose life reads as one grand adventure after another.

He was originally trained as a lawyer in Argentina where he spent his formative years. He worked as a young man for the Argentine judiciary through 1962 but then, tiring of the profession, and in reaction to the Peronista government, which he saw as arbitrary and dictatorial, he emigrated to the United States.

Starting afresh in San Francisco, he moved away from the legal profession and sought opportunities elsewhere. He was a manager in the computer operations and analyst field in various companies including Levi-Strauss, IBM and in the insurance industry.

In 1972, he met his future wife, Cynthia. It was a blind-date and they spent it over a lunch of stuffed cabbage at the late Paoli's Corner in downtown San Francisco. The lunch turned out to be a romantic exchange. It led to his sending a bouquet of red roses the following day. On the third day, he told her he loved her and said he was going to marry her.

Six years after they exchanged marriage vows, in 1978, he and Cynthia, moved to the Mt Shasta community of Dunsmuir, an old railroad town. There they put down roots and José worked in a lumber mill. Eventually he and Cynthia bought a business, a milk delivery service, which catered to wholesale and retail trades. Working as a team they grew the business to the point, after six years, where they were able to sell it and travel onwards to another adventure.

They moved to San Diego in 1978 where José worked in several jobs, until he settled down working for the FedEx Corporation, from which he retired in 1992 at age 59. In 1996, after many earlier visits to the area, he and Cynthia came to live permanently in the Borrego Springs neighborhood of Sun & Shadows.

Following the move, José trained at the Anza Borrego Desert State Park in Borrego where worked as a volunteer archaeologist with the Colorado Desert District Archaeological Society.

A memorial service will be held at St Barnabas Episcopal Church at 11:30 A.M. on Saturday, November 3, 2007. The service is expected to be attended by family members, friends from Northern California, Borrego and San Diego.

Friends from St. Barnabas are especially invited to attend the service and the celebration of José's life at our Friendship Circle following, the service.

My heartfelt thanks to Victor Levine in preparing this biography of Jose,

November 3, 2007 --Cynthia Mendez

.....
•
• **Go then** II
• I
• **Go then into light** Soon you will
• **Now the night has fallen** waken
• **And you are beyond** into that dawn
•
• **Recalling** of becoming
• **how once** and know
• **You were blessed** You
•
• **But now have left** Are close
• **your age and fled** Held In
• **The dark night** A fuerte abrazo
•
• © 2007 valevine
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Dear Friends— Dick and Olga Linkroum

By Nancy Bye

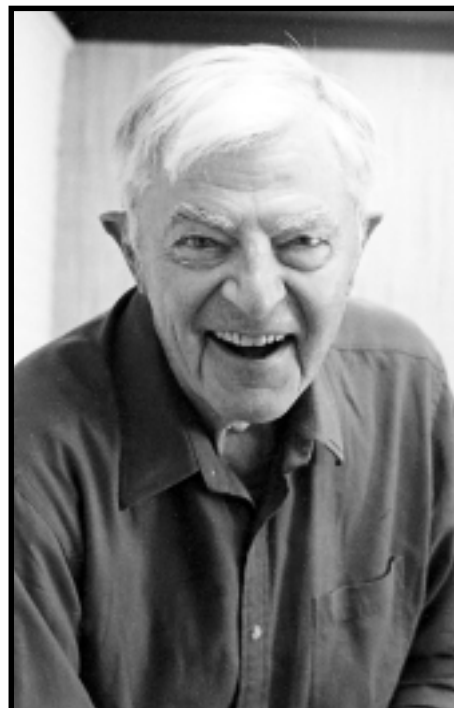
Perhaps Dick and Olga came to our valley from another planet. They certainly danced to a different drummer! He was tall, quiet, always smiling. She was short, noisy, tearing off in various directions.

Olga wrote scripts for many TV shows, “Cheers” among them. She also wrote a very credible novel about Greek-Americans that made the rounds of important New York publishers, but with no success. She was proud of her Greek heritage.

And who will forget, when she had been quite ill for several weeks, that the vicar wanted to pay a call with oil, prayers, etc. When we called to let her know about the visit, her answer was, “Thanks, but no thanks. I’m going shopping in Palm Springs tomorrow.” Olga was passionate about her charity of choice, a secluded home in Julian for abused women.

Dick had filtered down out of a really fabulous career as a mogul in New York. The first producer of the Today show, and then on through Broadway and Los Angeles on stage, movies and TV. He loved our desert, and learned it. Many remember his vivid VW camper, the Yellow Submarine, and the won-

derful days spent exploring with him. Our gift from him was really “Borrego Sings” (ever the producer!) which he started here. After Olga died he moved to Arizona to My Father’s Ranch, and seemed content there. Thanks to



some wonderful folks here, he came back to Borrego Springs to enjoy the 20th anniversary of “Borrego Sings” and visited with many of us. He died this summer at the age of 92.

When we say, “in loving memory of those who shared the cup and walked with us a while” we think of Dick and Olga. They broke the mold.

photo courtesy of the Borrego Sun

SCRAMBLED?

Like a freshly cracked egg,
the center is whole, the smooth white shell
broken into two pieces—
the 7 o’clockers and the 9:30s.

We became a fairly intact group this summer.
Laughing and singing, pondering and praying.
Faithfully following Father Alex
in his soft Saharan sandals.

*We will be together again.
Hold the thought,*

Nancy Bye

PICK A PECK O’ PICKLED PEPPERS

**Have your jams, jellies, cookies,
mini-cakes and pies and pickles
ready for our December 14
event at Christmas Circle!**

Yum, yum!

No Less Than Honorary Mention!

*The October 4, 2007 issue of the **San Diego Weekly Reader**, (p. 50ff) published some of the winning articles about neighborhoods in the San Diego County. Our own Leslie Bellab received Honorary Mention and her entry was published! No small feat to be chosen - there were over 600 entries! Here it is in its entirety, and congratulations, Leslie:*



Borrego Springs, 92004

Sure it was 117 degrees a few days ago and we have to drive more than an hour to buy organic vegetables or underwear. We don't have a movie theater or a Thai restaurant and the summer population is less than the number of students in most high schools but there is something about Borrego Springs.

Maybe it's the way the sunrise turns the mountains to a rosy glow, or maybe it's all those stars sprinkled across the enormous night sky. Maybe it's the coyotes' songs in early mornings, or the sound of quail calling each other as they scurry through the brush. Or maybe it's the people. Although we're spread across the valley, we meet daily at the post office and at the market. Our homes aren't close, but we are. People wave as they drive past each other. There is a sense of and responsibility for each other.

We have extremely varied economic levels, diverse degrees of education, and our population ranges

from newborn babies to the elderly. Some of us work, some of us are retired and some of us volunteer. We are golfers, hikers, bicyclists, and some of us are inactive. Not all of us speak English, but we still smile and nod because we're neighbors.

We are proud and defensive of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Our homes are completely surrounded by it and its presence guarantees that we will never grow as other desert communities have - covering fragile lands with buildings and destroying unending views. We are defensive of our dry lakes our ocotillo forest, our sand dunes, and our wildlife. We find amazing beauty and serenity in this harsh landscape.

When we have disasters, state park rangers work side by side with sheriff's deputies and California Highway Patrolmen - and we know them all by name. Maybe it's our isolation from the rest of the county and our uniqueness that make us feel this connection to each other. We do have our differences and we bicker and argue, but, as in real families, we gather round to defend and protect each other if one of us is threatened or needs help.

There is the man who when he hears of a family having hard times, has groceries delivered to the home with no message or card. The same man spends his Sunday placing bottles of water in the desert for people who may need it.

Our mechanics stop and help if someone is having car trouble in a parking lot or on the road. One of them stopped his work for a woman who was on her way to see her husband in the hospital. He fixed her car quickly and sent her on her way with a hug and good wishes for her husband, no charge.

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A man on his way back to work after lunch saw smoke, called 911, raced to the neighbor's house, and fought the fire until the fire department arrived. A Borrego couple had a flat tire in Ramona. A man driving by stopped to see if they needed help; he didn't know them, but recognized the car from home.

When we had a tragic accident that cost the life of one of our teenagers, the churches immediately gathered and held a candlelight service in our little park - Christmas Circle - the center of our neighborhood. In line at the grocery store, a man realized he had forgotten his wallet. A woman handed him the money he needed.

A woman whose husband needed medicine arrived at the post office after the window was closed. She looked through her post office box and saw legs walking back and forth. She called, explaining there was a package of medicine she needed. The employee opened the window and gave her the package of medicine with a smile and said she hoped the woman's husband would be better soon.

Festivals, parades and wild flowers bring thousands of tourists to Borrego, but the Cinco de Mayo celebration is ours. We lounge on the grass at Christmas Circle and listen to music. We eat too much food, sing with the bands, and visit with our neighbors. Grandparents snuggle on the dance floor, children dressed in their finest go home dirty and smiling after an exciting time. It's a day of laughter and sharing and closeness.

It's an hour to the closest hospital. Many businesses close in the summer. Radio reception is iffy. Cellular phones don't work in all areas. Most of us don't have mail delivery. It's cold in the winter and so hot in summer that the cold water is as hot as the water that comes from the hot water faucet.

But there's something about Borrego...something more than the spectacular views, rose-colored mountains, and star-filled skies — it's our neighbors. -
Leslie Bellab

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clergy, +Jim went to Qualcomm stadium to visit those who had been displaced from their homes.

As four years ago, Borrego Springs High School was designated a Red Cross Evacuation Center. The 400+ evacuees who enjoyed lunch there on Wednesday came from every near by community. Our parish, our community and Red Cross staffers from as far away as Utah, Minnesota, Nebraska and Pennsylvania were here to help. Help we did. So many of us; in so many ways. Our visitors could not get over our genuine caring and helping them to feel at home. Bishop Jim scheduled a second 45 minute conference call with his clergy on Thursday at 4pm.

He again heard an orderly update beginning at the northern part of the diocese and working his way down to the border.

He told us that the Presiding Bishop had called him as well as the bishops of Jerusalem, El Salvador and Mesina North. Although +Katharine was in the middle of an Executive Council meeting, she chose to leave them and speak words of concern to us. You may have read that the Archbishop of Canterbury also offered prayers for Southern California and commended churches' response to wildfires in a message to L.A. and San Diego bishops.

+Jim concluded by asking us to continue to check the diocesan website (www.edsd.org) for updates and we agreed to a two day Pastoral Crisis Intervention Training, October 29-30 from 9 am to 4:30 pm at the Cathedral. You can see the curriculum at www.icisf.org/training/classes/getclass.asp?id=34 Thanksgiving: what we live as we recognize God's abundance in our lives. So many of you have supported the mission of St. Barnabas throughout the years. We thank you. Many of you continue to support us even though you are not returning to Borrego. We thank you. Many of you are returning to build on the good of the past and respond generously to God's grace. We thank you.

Sincerely,
Alex+/Nancy+

Mark Your Calendar

NOVEMBER

November 3:

Saturday, Memorial Service for Jose Mendez at 11:30am.

Before you go to bed, turn your clock BACK one hour.

November 4:

Sunday morning Holy Eucharists through April 27th at 7am and 9:30am.

Reception for newly married Gilbert Rule and Alison Royle after 9:30am service.

November 6, 13 and 20: Tuesday, Breakfast, The Men of St. Barnabas at 7:30am at Kendall's

November 7: Wednesday, Women of St. Barnabas, noon, at Sue Dolkas'

November 13, 20, 27: Tuesday, Women's Bible Study at 4pm.

November 15: Thursday, Annual Parish potluck at the RoadRunner Club House at 5pm.

November 21: Wednesday, Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service at St. Barnabas, 7pm.

November 22: Thursday, Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist, 8:30am.

November 28: Wednesday, Sarah's Circle and The Men's Group at 6pm.

November 29: Thursday, Younger Next Year, at 4pm.

St. Barnabas Carillon

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