



SACRED HEART MEN'S CLUB

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- SERVICE TO CHURCH AND SCHOOL
- FELLOWSHIP
- COMMUNITY

13718 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070
<http://www.sacredheartsaratoga.org/parishLife/mensClub.html>

Message from the President

Hello Everyone,

We are off to a very fast start this year; Poker Night, the Back to School Coffee, the Parish Festival, and the Taj Mahal/Bonnie Raitt show at the Mountain Winery. Our Bottling and BBQ event is this upcoming Saturday, October 17th, one of our most popular and well attended events of the year. The bottling begins at 9AM with the Men, and the Spouses and Children and others invited to join us for a BBQ at 1PM. Please don't forget to

UPCOMING EVENTS

October (Dinner) Meeting	October 15
Vineyard Bottling BBQ	October 17
MLB World Series Viewing Party	October 29
Jon Nakamatsu/Jon Manasse Duo Concert	November 20
Regular meetings held at the Men's Club Room, Upstairs Parish Center	

sign-up and pay your dues. Membership is required and we can help you out with paperwork the day of the event.

Francis Reed -President, SHMC

Membership Spotlight: Bruce Hodgkin

The Membership Spotlight is a monthly column that allows the membership and broader community an opportunity to get up close and personal with a SHMC member. This month, we catch up with former SHMC President Bruce Hodgkin, the driving force of Sacred Heart's Concert Series.



principal if I could run a fundraiser to replace the old sprinklers with retractable plastic ones. I got the green light. The fundraiser was a success. We not only completed that project, but at the same time installed a totally new playground, and the par course out back.

And when was that?

That was in the summer of 1987.

This was done through the Club?

No, those projects were completed by a large number of Sacred Heart School dads, but I was soon introduced to Carl Inserra. He was President of the Men's Club at that time and he asked me to attend an SH Parish Council meeting. He had a long laundry lists of things that needed to be done in the school buildings. For instance, in the 60's, when the school was built, they only installed one electrical outlet in each room. The classrooms didn't have TV's in those days, so the single outlet was right by the teacher's desk and that didn't come close to meeting the needs of the classroom. In the 80's, Apple donated several computers to the school. Having no room to put the computers

Many of us associate you with the Concert Series, we see you at the lectern plugging the shows, but when did your connection with the Men's Club first begin?

Well, back in the late '80's when my children attended Sacred Heart. At the time, the Men's Club was unknown to me. My son was Involved in after school sports. One day I received an emergency call from the school; my son had broken his arm out on the playing field. When I arrived at the school and walked out there on the grass where the accident happened, one of the things I noticed was the steel sprinkler heads projecting 4 inches above the playing field. My son was lying next to one and I assumed that's how his arm was broken. After my son was taken care of, I asked the

in and no outlets to plug them into, they were all placed in the hallway, with lots of extension cords running back to the copy machine/storage room. Clearly, there was a need to update the electrical system and many other things; and so it all began. With the help of Paul Conrado and many others, the New Men's Club came into being, intent on being a resource for the school and parish.

That is very funny. Certainly a far cry from the electricity now needed. How about the shows, when did they begin?

Those began in 1996. My wife dragged me to see a speaker at a Bellarmine Mother's Club meeting featuring speaker/singer Renee Bondi. I didn't know who Renee was. Through a freak accident she became a quadriplegic, confined to a wheelchair for the rest of her life. The accident happened the night after her fiancé presented her with an engagement ring, when she was 29. At first, she could only speak in a whisper, but through her faith, she improved her condition to where she could sing again - with an amazing voice. I was floored by the voice, and especially by her story. The funny thing is, when I first joined Sacred Heart in 1978, my first thought on seeing the church layout was, "what a great place for a concert!" The day after Renee's presentation, I asked Fr. Al Larkin if I could bring Renee and her inspirational message to Sacred Heart. He said yes but cautioned that we would be lucky to have 200 to 300 people show up.

How many showed up?

Between 600-700. We used the net proceeds to make the church more handicap accessible, putting in ramps for wheelchair, etc.

Who came next?

"Nuns for Fun". This was an outfit based in Los Angeles that included Fr. Murphy and the Boys in Black, and the Monks of Funk. Again it was a great show filling every pew and many chairs set behind the pews. That same night after the show, not being able to sleep, I was watching PBS and saw Judy Collins doing her Christmas show. I thought "Let's bring her to Sacred Heart!" When I found

out her fee was eight times the fee for Nuns for Fun, I knew we would have to wait a while, but in December 2002, "Christmas with Judy Collins" came to Sacred Heart, performing to a full house. We are now in our 13th year, 20 productions.

Most stressful show?

Last year's Kiev Symphony Orchestra & Choir. We had 158 performers, with 80 host families involved. They were on a whirlwind tour, all over the US. The show was set for 7:30PM Friday. At around 5:30PM they were just crossing the Golden Gate Bridge, and informing me of a stop to see Golden Gate Park. Needless to say, I was pulling my hair out. They actually lost one fellow in the park and asked if I could have someone drive to San Francisco and bring him down.

How about next month's show with Jon Nakamatsu and Jon Manasse, how did that come about?

Jon Nakamatsu is well known in the Bay Area, having grown up here, attending Stanford and going on to teach German at St. Francis High School. He excelled in piano, and in 1997 became one of the few American winners of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. I've been a fan for years. He'll be joined by Jon Manasse, a clarinetist of equivalent talent. I guarantee a great show. When Nakamatsu performed at Sacred Heart in spring of 2002 he had 8 standing ovations, delivering 4 encore pieces.

How can we get tickets?

Look for me and the Men's Club volunteers outside church after Mass once a month or call the ticket line number, 408-370-9030.

You've had some great experiences. Thanks for all the good work, and for speaking with us.

It was my pleasure.

***INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF THIS
FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION?***

CONTACT SHMC PRESIDENT FRANCIS REED AT
FPREED@GMAIL.COM OR 408-867-4100.

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