



This Is *Whispering Winds*

WHISPERING WINDS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CENTER

FALL 2004

Whispering Winds Comes Alive at Summer Festival 2004

On Sunday, August 29, under bright sunny skies, spirits were high as nearly 1,000 enthusiastic people came out to the camp to celebrate the rebirth of Whispering Winds at Summer Festival 2004.

Mass was celebrated by Fr. Jim Poulsen with an inspirational homily and beautiful music. This was followed by a complimentary BBQ lunch, old-fashioned ice cream, pony rides, air jumps, face painting, fire engine rides, kids' games, ping pong, pool tables, air hockey, tennis, basketball, slip-n-slide, hiking, archery, treehouse slide, and awesome live concerts by the Bob Murphy Band and the Whispy Chix. There was definitely something fun for everyone!

Also, a 24-foot Pledge Wall was introduced (see Page 7 for current status), allowing supporters to write their names and pledges under future projects. Thank you all for your generous support!

Summer Festival 2004 showed that Whispering Winds is truly alive and on the way to a very bright future!



Everyone had a great time at Summer Festival 2004!

'Thank you' to all our volunteers, co-chairs John Sperrazzo and Glenn Wilhite and the Summer Festival 2004 Planning Committee: Jen Bedison, Marjorie Bialk, Marianna Braden, Marie Cizek, Andy Crabtree, Linda Crabtree, Dennis Dahm, Brian Denny, Terry Donovan, Anne Fishburne, Don Kojis, Maureen Kojis, Rosie Lopresti, Bernice Mascari, Frank Mascari, Letty Peck, Cathy Sperrazzo, Christine Sperrazzo, John Sperrazzo, Chris Villalobos, Beverly Wight, Glenn Wilhite, Susann Wilhite, Donna Wilkins and Vicki Youngers; and our cooks: Mark Malovic, Tony Pota, Bob and Monica Wiley, John and Julia Gabbard, John Sawaya, Andy Wilhite, Allison Wilhite and Brian Wight. Your hard work is truly appreciated.

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Fr. Jim Poulsen celebrates Mass for an overflow crowd

Whispering Winds Prepares for the Future

In an effort to assist Don Kojis in the future growth and development of the Camp, the Board of Directors has made a commitment to increase its staff and marketing efforts. In August, John Sperrazzo joined Whispering Winds as Executive Director. "We're excited about the talents, energy and passion that John brings to the Camp," said incoming Board President Steve Spooner. "John has served on the Board of Directors since 2003 playing a role in the Camp's crisis communications strategy, master planning/building efforts, Mama Ghio's Kitchen fundraiser, sales and marketing efforts and Summer Festival 2004."

"Don's legacy and his life's work at Whispering Winds are what drew me and my family to this ministry," said John. "We are truly humbled by the commitment of this community." A native San Diegan and pastoral musician, John has served on ministry teams which include



Don Kojis and John Sperrazzo: "NBA + MBA"

Awakenings, Teens Encounter Christ, Tijuana Housebuilding Project and Evenings for the Engaged. John holds an undergraduate degree from the University of San Diego and an MBA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His wife, Cathy, currently serves on the Women's Auxiliary Board. John and Cathy reside in San Diego with their four children: Jessica, John Paul, Luke and James, and feel honored to serve the Whispering Winds community in this capacity.

Our "Triangle Offense"

Executive Director

John Sperrazzo

- Oversee health of ministry and business
- Manage business P&L
- Define program offerings (spiritual and activity-based)
- Define and lead ministry team
- Present camp's vision to major donors
- Outline all WW job descriptions
- Negotiate business contracts, salaries, stipends
- Report to the board monthly
- Responsible for sales and marketing of camp
- Partner with board members on business plan, master building plan, renderings and charitable remainder trusts
- Establish, recruit and present to advisory board
- Facilitate event planning: Summer Festival, Youth Day, etc.



Operations Director / Co-Founder

Don Kojis

- Oversee camp operations, facilities and maintenance
- Manage office and facilities personnel
- Assess and prioritize maintenance needs
- Maintain high visibility
- Speaking opportunities
- Continue major donor networking
- Oversee dinner/dance event
- Manage facility contracts
- Coordinate annual phone-a-thon
- Manage Thanksgiving dinner
- Donated automobiles and trucks
- Insurance policies review
- Private and public solicitation of funds

Board of Directors

Staff

- Zoraida Gudino** *Office Manager*
- Brian Denny** *Camp Administrator*
- Jen Bedison** *Program Director*
- Andy Crabtree** *Designer / Webmaster*

- Steve Spooner** *President*
- Glenn Wilhite** *V.P. / Treasurer*
- Jimmy Villalobos** *Secretary*
- Msgr. Mark Campbell**
- Lynn Campbell**
- Dennis Dahm**
- Brad Denny**
- Damon Braden**

Women's Auxiliary

- Mo Kojis** *President*

Volunteers



Honoring 15 Years of Service: Thank You, Emmett Durnan!



Outgoing President Emmett Durnan and new President Steve Spooner

Emmett On How He Became Involved with Whispering Winds...

I was asked recently how I began my involvement with Whispering Winds. When I retired from the Navy in late 1988, Chris and I decided to move our family of six from New Jersey to the San Diego area and try West Coast living. I had no job and our friends in NJ thought we were either gutsy or nuts. But we felt that we were drawn to the West Coast and there would be something spiritual there for us. We moved to Carlsbad and in early 1989 I went to a Men's Breakfast at St. Patrick's in order to meet some other men in the parish. Don Kojis was the guest speaker and made a presentation about Whispering Winds. In 1987, our young family had gone on a family retreat in Massachusetts and had a great time. When I heard about Whispering Winds that day, I said this could be it. The next day we packed up our four kids and went up to the camp to see what it was all about. We jumped over the fence and walked through the camp and I really felt drawn to get involved. I called Don the next week and that was the start of my involvement. I first volunteered with the Dinner Dance and then that summer was asked by Rudy Regalado and Marge O'Neill if I would be interested in joining the Board. The rest is history. Over these 15 years Don and Mo Kojis, and the host of that Men's Breakfast, Gerry Samaniego and his wife Suzanna, have become very close personal friends of Chris and mine. The Lord works in wonderful ways!

A Time for Every Purpose Under Heaven

Many of you may recall the above line from The Byrds famous musical rendition of what I think is one of the best passages in the Bible. After 15 years on the Whispering Winds Board of Directors, including the last 6 years as President, my purpose is done and it is the time for me to move on. I have been honored and humbled by my time on the board. Honored to have served as President, and humbled by the faith, commitment, hard work, and wisdom of those who went before me and those with whom I served. Each of us has our own story of how we started our commitment to Whispering Winds, and in all of them is the spirit and spirituality we experienced at the camp itself and from the people there. It is truly holy ground where miracles have happened and continue to happen.

We are on the brink of great things. Steve Spooner has taken over the President's position, having served as Vice President for the last six years. Steve and Val have been great supporters of the camp for many years, and Steve was a key force in obtaining the new temporary buildings to get the camp up and running again after the fire. His leadership and wisdom will serve the camp very well.

We have reorganized the staff leadership of the camp, with Co-Founder Don Kojis concentrating on operations and fundraising as the Operations Director, and newly hired John Sperrazzo concentrating on management and development as Executive Director. Their combined energy and commitment will be awesome! Don's energy is legendary, and John is exemplified by his spearheading of the Summer Festival in August where over 900 people enjoyed the camp.

Words just cannot express the emotion and gratitude that I feel to all you supporters for all of your prayers and your contributions of time, talent and treasure to the camp over the 26 years of its existence. The hand of the Lord is in this camp and will continue to guide its leaders and volunteers as the camp continues to grow and serve our faith community. May God bless you all and continue to bless Whispering Winds.

- Emmett Durnan

Our next newsletter will have more on our new Board President, Steve Spooner...



A Fresh Face for Whispering Winds



WHISPERING WINDS
CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CENTER

The New Whispering Winds Logo

The Whispering Winds community has shown great determination and resilience in the wake of the devastation of the Cedar Fire. Many people have been lovingly working for the rebirth of the camp, and an exciting new vision of Whispering Winds is coming alive, as Summer Festival 2004 showed.

Whispering Winds has a fresh face—a new logo—created to reflect that vibrant spirit. The logo, pictured above, represents significant symbols of the camp. If you trace the tops each of the mountain peaks, you'll find they form two W's, Whispering Winds' initials. In the center of the two green mountains is a cross, showing the faith in Jesus Christ that is at the heart of Whispering Winds. The curved line on the mountainside represents the road that we follow both to the mountain and to the cross.

The logo was created by Andy Crabtree, Whispering Winds' new designer and webmaster. The Board of Directors embraced this design, voting to adopt it as the camp's new official logo. They also voted that the design with the tree and superimposed cross would remain and serve as the Women's Auxiliary logo (shown at right). To accompany the new logo, Andy has incorporated the fresh design theme into the newsletter and a variety of other materials, including a new brochure. Available through the office, the brochure is a great tool for promoting all that Whispering Winds has to offer.

Save the Date!

Whispering Winds' 23rd Annual Dinner Dance will be held Saturday, April 30, 2005, at the Doubletree Hotel in Mission Valley. Come early and take advantage of Silent and Live Auction bargains with fabulous cruises, dinners and gifts.

Women's Auxiliary Lights a Path



Greetings from Mo Kojis, President of the Whispering Winds Women's Auxiliary

Fall is here. We are once again changing our clocks back, wearing warmer clothing, carving pumpkins, trick-or-treating with our kids or grandkids and replanting vegetable gardens, and praying for RAIN. And Thanksgiving will follow right after. When I think of this time of year, I also think about all the many blessings that God has given to each of us. 'Thank you' Lord for all you give us daily. You are our "LIGHT."

Live in the light! Light is the symbol for everything that is good in our lives. God knows we can't live without light, and therefore the first word He uttered when He, in the beginning, created heaven and earth was, "Let there be light." And there was light. And God saw that the light was good (Genesis 1:3-4). We see for ourselves that the light is good. That is why we seek it out whenever we can. Yes, the light is there; it offers itself to anyone who is open to receive.

Mark your calendars with this date: Wednesday, November 17th. Our Annual Advent Mini Retreat. This years retreat will be held at St. Therese Parish Social Center, 6010 Camino Rico, San Diego. Registration is at 6:30pm, and our program starts at 7:00pm. Our wonderful speaker this year is Dr. Kathleen Schinhofen, CSJ. Her theme for this evening is entitled, "Reflections of Light." The cost is \$10.00 pre-registered/\$12 at the door. For more information, contact Cathy Sperrazzo at (858) 565-9100.

For information about the Women's Auxiliary, visit their newly updated web page at www.whisperingwinds.org or call Mo Kojis at (619) 582-6300.

Women's Auxiliary Events

- November 17** Advent Mini Retreat at St. Therese Parish
- April 2** Spring General Meeting at the Catamaran Resort
- May 13-15** Women's Retreat at Whispering Winds



Thanksgiving *at Whispering Winds*



November 25, 2004

*Whispering Winds Camp
Mealtime: 12 noon - 3 p.m.
Cost: Adults: \$10
Children under 10: \$5
Under 2: Free*

This Thanksgiving, forget the cooking and cleaning and come up to Whispering Winds for a relaxing, fun-filled day with friends and family. Our chief cook, Mark Sperrazzo, will prepare a traditional Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings and dessert too! The price is right for this wonderful feast, so come join us. Revisit the camp and have fun! The fresh mountain air and beautiful scenery await you!



Reservations are required and space is limited, so call the Whispering Winds office as soon as possible at (619) 464-1479. Meals can be paid for at the door.



The meal will start at 12:00 noon and will be served until 3:00 p.m. You may arrive anytime after 10:00 a.m. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes and bring a sweater or jacket. Our new Recreation Room with pool tables, ping pong tables, foosball & air hockey games is open for your enjoyment. Also, the kids can have fun with a pumpkin patch, fire engine rides and family crafts. Come and enjoy a fun turkey day with us up on the mountain.

About Our Chief Cook: Mark Sperrazzo has over 20 years experience cooking for YMCA family camps in the Sequoia National Forest. Although his day job is as Assistant Principal of University of San Diego High School / Cathedral High School, he is a renowned baker specializing in wedding cakes. He returns to us after cooking for the Women's Auxiliary Retreat in May 2003. Mark lives in Spring Valley with his two daughters, all of whom are parishioners at Santa Sophia.



Volunteers Needed: The Chief Cook needs three other volunteer cooks to help him with the prep work on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday. We also need volunteers to help as table servers and bussers. Overnight accommodations will be provided for volunteers. Families are welcome to participate in the work. To volunteer, please call our office at (619) 464-1479.

Location

Whispering Winds Camp
17606 Harrison Park Road
Julian, California 92036
(760) 765-1600



Activities

- Air Jump
- Fire Engine Rides
- Recreation room
- Children's playground
- Treehouse and slide
- Tennis court
- Volleyball court
- Basketball courts
- Hiking trails

Great Times Ahead at 2005 Summer Parish Family Camp

We have such an incredible weekend planned for your Parish Family!

Since rebuilding in May, Whispering Winds currently holds up to 240 overnight guests in our 2 state-of-the-art lodges, bunkhouse and *NEW* Tipi Village. Other facilities include a chapel, *NEW* dining hall, *NEW* kitchen, *NEW* recreation room (with ping pong, air hockey & pool tables), *NEW* meeting hall, tennis & basketball courts, archery, batting cages, scenic hikes and more! Plans are underway for a Chapel, Swimming Pool, Another 12-Room Lodge, Children's Nursery, Ropes Course, Climbing Wall, Campfire/Amphitheater and more!

Open Enrollment

This year, campers will have the option of selecting their Parish Family Weekend or any other weekend date of their choice. For those parishioners unable to attend their Parish Weekend due to scheduling conflicts, we will be happy to place them on a weekend that meets their scheduling needs. Also, in the event that a parish exceeds the maximum capacity of the Camp, we will assist in placing overflow demand or waiting list families on the second weekend of their choice.

2005 Parish Family Camp Weekends

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Σ May 27-29 | Σ July 1-3 |
| Σ June 3-5 | Σ July 8-10 |
| Σ June 10-12 | Σ July 15-17 |
| Σ June 17-19 | Σ July 22-24 |
| Σ June 24-26 | Σ July 29-31 |



Family Camps are filled with fun and faith

Registration

Instead of charging a per-person rate, we have transitioned to a flat room rate. Parish Family Camp rates are \$400/lodge room and include a 3-day/2-night stay, 6 meals, Snacks & Programming/Activities. Each room can accommodate up to 6 guests (families may share a room as long as they do not exceed 6 guests per room). Weekend rates for RV, Tipi and Tents are \$200/ea and include the same items described above. If you would like to have us conduct an Onsite Registration at your parish, please contact us. Parish Family Camp registration will also be available online at www.whisperingwinds.org.

Ministry Team 2005

To further support Parish Coordinators, we'll be staffing a Summer Ministry Team consisting of a Program Director, Activities Directors, Art & Crafts Director, Children's Program Director, Music Director, CCA Director, Nursery Director and more! If you'd like to learn more about how you can serve on a weekend, please contact us.

We look forward to serving you!

God Bless!



There are tons of exciting activities for the whole family



Thank You!

Thank you to all those who give their time, talent and treasure to Whispering Winds. Our special thanks go to George Meulmester, Len Kube, Dave Anding, Bob & Marie Cizek, Brad Denny, Helen Kane and Jerry Kay.

Camp Rental

Whispering Winds has open dates for weekday or weekend rental for your group, including **6th/8th Grade Camp, RCIA, Confirmation Retreats, Family Reunions, Conferences and Corporate Events!** For a camp brochure, please call the Whispering Winds office at (619) 464-1479 or visit www.whisperingwinds.org.

Tax Changes on Vehicle Donations

Maximize your write-off by donating a **used vehicle**, truck or motorhome to Whispering Winds by December 31, 2004. This year is your last chance to get full fair market value on these donations due to tax law changes for 2005. Please contact Don Kojis at (619) 464-1479.

Insurance Update

This past year, we have been actively pursuing insurance claims to aid in our rebuilding costs. In order to create demand and increased capacity, the Board of Directors intends to direct the vast majority of those insurance funds towards future permanent buildings including a third 12-room lodge and a community swimming pool.



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