



# this is *Whispering Winds*

WHISPERING WINDS CATHOLIC CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

WINTER 2007



## Whispering Winds honors Founders with Lifetime Achievement Awards

**Maureen & Don Kojis and Anne Tisi Denbow & the late Jerry Tisi**



In the summer of 1975, Anne & Jerry Tisi and their three children, along with Maureen & Don Kojis and their son, Daniel, went to Forest Home Christian Family Camp. The experience was striking, and all four realized how much they wanted their children to have the same love of Jesus they experienced on that mountain, but through a Catholic faith experience. After much prayer and discernment, Jerry and Don embarked on creating a Catholic Family Camp, which is now Whispering Winds.

Miracle after miracle occurred as Jerry and Don worked to make their dream a reality. Through God's grace, land was procured, money was raised, and the first "Summer Weekend" was held in 1985.

Don has continued to work to fulfill the dream since Jerry's untimely death in 1988. He served as Executive and Operations Director from 1985 to 2005, and today he continues his dedication to Whispering Winds as the Director of Community Relations. Maureen is a past President of the Women's Auxiliary, and she has recently rediscovered her inner 12 year old and the joy of being a camp counselor for the Whispering Winds "Survivor" 6th Grade Camp.

In 1996, Anne met Ken Denbow through the RCIA program. They were married in 1997 and have continued to be an active part of the Whispering Winds family.

Without the inspiration, foresight, and faith of these two couples, Whispering Winds would not be what it is today. Please join us in honoring our founders, as we present them with Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Join us at our 25th Annual Dinner Dance Gala & Auction as we celebrate the Lifetime Achievement of our founders. Please also consider placing an ad or a tribute in the official program. If you would like to volunteer, or if you have auction items to donate, please contact Don Kojis at (619) 464-1479.

Find out more about the Dinner Dance online at [www.whisperingwinds.org](http://www.whisperingwinds.org) or call (619) 464-1479.

**WHISPERING WINDS**  
*25th Annual*  
**DINNER DANCE GALA & AUCTION**

*for through God  
 all things are possible*  
*Mark 10:27*

*Saturday, March 31, 2007*  
**HILTON SAN DIEGO RESORT, MISSION BAY**

**WHISPERING WINDS CALENDAR**

February 12 - 16	<b>6th Grade Camp</b>
February 24	<b>WWWA Lunch</b>
March 31	<b>Dinner Dance Gala</b>
April 30 - May 4	<b>6th Grade Camp</b>
May 14 - 18	<b>6th Grade Camp</b>
May 18 - 20	<b>Women's Retreat</b>
May 25 - 27	<b>Family Camp</b>
June 15 - 17	<b>Family Camp</b>
June 22 - 24	<b>Family Camp</b>
June 29 - July 1	<b>Family Camp</b>
July 8 - 12	<b>Kids Camp</b>
July 15 - 19	<b>Kids Camp</b>
July 22 - 26	<b>Kids Camp</b>

*Please see inside for more information...*

## Board of Directors

> Glenn Wilhite, Board Chair



As we embark on 2007, the Whispering Winds Board of Directors is constantly lifting praise and thanksgiving to the Lord God for all He has done and is doing for our Camp.

Being called to serve on this Board is a great honor, and, in taking the role of Board Chair for this term, I am doubly honored and eager to serve. In my six years serving on this Board, my life has been blessed in countless ways, both by the ministry I have been a part of at Whispering Winds and by the insight and camaraderie of the Christ-like people who have served on this Board with me. I would like to thank our outgoing Board Members – Damon Braden, Lynn Campbell, Marie Cizek, and Jimmy Villalobos – for their heartfelt commitment to serving the Body of Christ and our Whispering Winds community. We thank you for your continued love and support.

I would also like to thank our outgoing Board President, Steve Spooner. By his example, Steve has called all of us to be stronger people of God in everything we do. Thank you for your leadership!

Though they are big shoes to fill, our newly appointed Board Members are more than equipped to meet the challenge. I would like to welcome Diane Halfman, Karen Jassoy, Kevin Helpers, Patrick O'Brien, and Stephen Holtz to our family. Thank you for answering the Lord's call to join our ministry!

### WW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Tim Binder, San Diego** – Lawyer

**Paul Cable, San Diego** – Executive Vice President / Chief Financial Officer, Coronado First Bank

**Msgr. Mark Campbell, San Diego** – Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish

**Dennis Dahm, Brawley** – Agricultural Business Owner, serving the Southwest and Mexico

**Diane Halfman, San Diego** – Independent Consultant for Arbonne, Health and Wellness

**Kevin Helpers, El Cajon** – President of Helpers Electric

**Stephan Holtz, Heber** – Farm Owner

**Karen Jassoy, San Diego** – Controller for the Diocese of San Diego

**Bernice Mascari, Spring Valley** – Homemaker

**Patrick O'Brien, San Diego** – Program Coordinator for the Diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life

**Pat Rauber, Coronado** – Retired Tax-Preparer

**Larry Sheehan, Encinitas** – Landscape Architect with Integration Design Studio, Inc.

**Glenn Wilhite, El Cajon** – California Division Manager of Brickman, a full-service landscaping provider

## Swimming Pool Project Update

> Don Kojis, Director of Community Relations



I am pleased to report that, once we receive our grading permit, we are ready to break ground, having raised the remaining \$65,000 for Phase I of the Swimming Pool project, with an additional \$26,000 for solar heating!

Whispering Winds' Staff and Board would like to thank all of our donors and our prayer community: thank you for your support! Special thanks to the Carmelites for their dedication in praying for Whispering Winds!

Please pray for a smooth and expeditious process as we continue. Pray for our contractors, the grading permit, the county planners, the safety of all those constructing the pool, and God speed!

To learn more about upcoming project plans and investment opportunities at Whispering Winds, contact Don Kojis, don@whisperingwinds.org or call (619) 464-1479.

## Thank You!

*We would like to express our gratitude for the valuable time spent on projects by volunteers, the financial contributions of all of our donors, the support of groups who choose to come to Whispering Winds, and the invaluable prayers of our community. Thank you all!*



*We would especially like to thank the Sperrazzo family, who lovingly dedicated two years of time, treasure, and talent to the greater glory of God through John's service as Whispering Winds' Executive Director. We greatly appreciate your investment to our ministry; you will remain in our prayers!*

*"For the service you perform not only meets the needs of God's people, but also produces an outpouring of gratitude to God."  
– 2 Corinthians 9: 12*

## Women's Auxiliary

> Joni Deiters, Women's Auxiliary President



*"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to weep, a time to laugh, A time to mourn, and a time to dance." Ecclesiastes 3: 1, 4*

The Whispering Winds Women's Auxiliary is a community of women united by faith and dedicated to prayer and fellowship, raising scholarship funds, and providing support for all Whispering Winds functions. For 2006-2007, we have chosen Ecc. 3: 1, 4 as our theme, and we pray it is time for you to come celebrate joy and friendship with the WWA!

Our next event will be our **Annual Spring Lunch, February 24, 2007**, at the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot (MCRD). Eve Selis will be sharing with us the reasons to "Make a Joyful Noise!" Also coming up is our **Women's Retreat, May 18-20, 2007**, at Whispering Winds. Sister Anne Bryan Smollin, CSJ, PhD will lead a weekend full of the joy of the Lord! Regardless of what events you choose to attend, please join us in praying for Whispering Winds!

## Angels in the Wind

> Linda Crabtree, Angels in the Wind Gift Shop



This past year has been a great year for the Gift Shop! We moved into the "log cabin" at the base of the meadow, which has given us more space and a refrigerator! We have since been able to stock a larger selection and wider variety of merchandise and snacks. We happily donate all proceeds to camp improvements and camperships. Thank you all for your support!

### WOMEN'S SPRING LUNCH

*Make a Joyful Noise*



#### Annual Spring Meeting Lunch and Silent Auction

Saturday, February 24, 2007 • 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

at the Bay View Restaurant  
Marine Corps Recruit Depot • San Diego

featuring Eve Selis in Mini Concert

Mimosas and Silent Auction begin at 10:00 a.m.  
Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Ticket Donation: \$30.00 • Age 12 and under: \$20.00

Parking included. Priority seating with reservations.

For information, call Joni Deiters at (858) 586-1488.

All proceeds benefit Whispering Winds.

## Family Camp a rockin' good time

Our 2006 "Rock of Ages" Family Camps closed the year having served almost 200 families! More than 800 guests joined us to examine the "rocks" in their lives – from the foundations of faith, to the obstacles that can hinder it, to the stone the builders rejected, which became the cornerstone. Highlights include excellent speakers, riding the Zip Lines, Praise and Worship, the Sock Hop, water games on the meadow, Liturgy, great food, and,

of course, the quality family time spent on the mountain! Thanks to our Child Care Assistants (CCAs) and many volunteers for all of your hard work and enthusiasm.

*Information about this summer's four Family Camp weekends will be available online in mid-February at [www.whisperingwinds.org](http://www.whisperingwinds.org), and registration will open March 1, 2007!*



## Kids + Faith @ Camp = Fun!

In 2006, our second year of Kids Camp, we welcomed over 400 campers during four weeks of summer fun! The theme for '06 was "Ordinary Saints," reminding us that we are each called to sainthood, even in the "ordinary" aspects our every day lives. In addition to strong Catholic faith-formation and exciting outdoor activities, there was certainly a huge helping of fun. Cupcake (WW Youth Camp Director) would like to thank the Kids Camp staff: Big Mac, Boots, Buttercup, Chickadee, Chimi, Cookie Monster, Daisy, Dragon Beard, Elvis,

Ernie, Fez, Giggles, Kirby, Lobstar, Lunchbox, M&Ms, Mickey, Minnie, Nickels, Ninja, Pacho, Puk, Q, Raja, Red, Reginald, Secco, Sharkbait, Skittles, Spaz, Speedy, Spork, Squirt, Starburst, Stilts, Stingray, Stitches, Suk, Sunshine, and Wonder Woman! God is good!

*Information about Summer 2007 Kids Camp will be posted on [www.whisperingwinds.org](http://www.whisperingwinds.org) in mid-February, and registration will open March 1, 2007!*



### "THANKS" TO OUR 2006 GUESTS

Blessed Sacrament School  
Camp Emmaus  
CFC - Youth for Christ  
Church of the Resurrection  
Cursillo  
Filipino Cursillo Community  
Han Bit Korean Community  
Holy Spirit Youth Ministry  
Holy Trinity  
Immaculate Heart Of Mary  
Interfaith Shelter  
InterVarsity  
Jones Family  
Joon Han  
Julian Community Preschool  
Kojis Family  
Lions' Camp Jack  
Marian Campus Ministry  
Mary, Star of the Sea Campus Ministry  
Matt Greenbergs  
Notre Dame Academy  
Our Lady of Peace  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Our Lady's School  
Pomerado Christian Church  
Pope John XXIII School  
Sacred Heart  
San Diego Theosophists  
San Rafael Mothers' Spirituality Group  
San Rafael Youth Ministry  
Santa Margarita High School  
Spirit Ministries  
St. Anthony  
St. Barbara  
St. Brigid  
St. Charles  
St. Didacus 7th Grade Class  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton  
St. Francis of Assisi  
St. Gabriel Youth Ministry  
St. John Middle School  
St. John Neumann Youth Ministry  
St. John of the Cross  
St. Jude Academy  
St. Killian  
St. Lawrence Youth Ministry  
St. Leo Youth Ministry  
St. Martin of Tours Youth Ministry  
St. Mary Youth Ministry  
St. Michael Academy  
St. Michael Youth Ministry  
St. Therese of Carmel Youth Ministry  
St. Therese Youth Ministry  
St. Thomas  
St. Timothy Campus Ministry  
St. Vincent de Paul  
USD Greek Life  
USD Orientation Adventure  
USD Outdoor Education  
USD Residential Life  
USD Student Affairs  
USD Women's Basketball  
Vidal Family  
Vincent Memorial Campus Ministry  
Whispering Winds' Family Camp  
Whispering Winds Couples' Retreat  
Whispering Winds' Kids Camp  
Whispering Winds' Men's Retreat  
WW Women's Auxiliary Retreat

### WHISPERING WINDS IS THE PERFECT PLACE FOR YOUR GROUP!

*The 2007 calendar is filling quickly with Camp Rental Reservations. Fortunately, we have increased our lodging and meeting space, which allows us to host more groups of variable sizes and types.*

*Whispering Winds is the ideal setting to host many types of groups, including Parish Councils, student groups, prayer groups, Bible study, clubs, athletic teams, and especially your group!*

*Our rates for this year are \$30 per person per night and \$7 per person per meal. Add on a three or six hour Challenge Course experience for \$20 or \$40 per person, respectively. Whatever you choose, call the office at (619) 464-1479 to reserve your retreat dates today!*

## Reflections from the Mountain

> Martin Rosales, Camp Director



By the time we publish this newsletter, I will have been with Whispering Winds for one full year. Living on-site at Whispering Winds, I have witnessed the ministry occurring with every group that has come through – lives are refreshed, hearts are changed; God is moving powerfully in all of our guests.

When I began working for Whispering Winds, I was struck by the lingering devastation from the 2003 Cedar Fire. The fires affected so much more of the camp than I had previously realized; however, in His faithfulness, God reminded me through Isaiah 61 that He promises He will give us "beauty for ashes," which is encouraging for all of us as we continue to heal and rebuild. This has led me to a clearer focus of why Whispering Winds exists, and the impact we, the greater Whispering Winds community, have on the Body of Christ. As I continue in my role of Camp Director, I am striving to lead our staff to constantly remember that impact.

Beyond adding and renovating buildings, putting in a pool, and expanding programs, our staff goal for 2007 is to strengthen the ministry of Whispering Winds, doing everything with excellence unto the Lord. We are renewing our focus on the heart of our ministry and doing what we can to be good stewards of the blessings Christ bestows upon us.

## Wish List

Whispering Winds is always looking for donations of athletic equipment (footballs, basketballs, soccer balls, tennis balls, used tennis racquets, baseballs, bats, helmets, arrows, archery targets, golf balls, etc). We are also excited to announce the grand opening of our new library! We are still in need of additional materials, including books, DVDs, and videos with good Christian messages. Please contact the Whispering Winds Office at (619) 464-1479 to arrange pick up or drop off. For other opportunities, please contact Don Kojis at don@whisperingwinds.org or (619) 464-1479.

## Eagle Scout Project Opportunity

> Colin Evans, Life Scout, Boy Scout Troop 680

For my Eagle Scout Project, I have decided to remove and replace the Stations of the Cross posts at Whispering Winds, which were badly damaged during the Cedar Fire in 2003. Before I begin the reconstruction of the posts, I am looking for new relics to place inside them. That's where you come in. My project budget is limited; therefore, my choices of relics are equally limited. I am asking for any donations possible to turn a simple project into a blessing for Whispering Winds. I can't do it without you! Any donation you can make is appreciated. If you are interested in making donations or have any questions, please call me at (858) 485-7374 or email me at ceevans@san.rr.com. Thank you so much and God bless!



## 6TH GRADE CAMP for Catholic Schools

### Catholic Program

- Caring Catholic Staff
- Detailed Age-Appropriate Program, Which Encourages Success in Children, Customized to Meet Each School's Needs

### Scriptural & Faith-Based Activities

- "God's Photo Album"
- Virtue-Themed Dinners

### Fun Activities & Education

- Team-Building – Climbing Wall & Low Ropes Course
- Communication & Leadership – Survivor Games
- Fellowship & Community-Building – Campfire & Group Activities
- Education: Wilderness Life Programs & Hikes

### Professional Staff

- Experienced/Professional Program Developers
- Proven Counselors Selected from within Our Faith Community
- Our caring staff is dedicated to the Catholic faith journey of young people

To learn more, visit [www.whisperingwinds.org](http://www.whisperingwinds.org)

### OUR FRIENDLY STAFF

- Martin Rosales  
Camp Director
- Don Kojis  
Community Relations Director  
Co-Founder
- Judy Burke  
Business Manager
- Katie O'Loughlin  
Reservations / Youth Camp Director
- Jen Bedison  
Program Director
- Tina Carter Thompson  
Challenge Course Director
- Rosie Soto  
Foodservice Manager
- Jose Montes  
Maintenance
- Martina Montes  
Housekeeping
- Andy Crabtree  
Designer / Webmaster



## whispering winds challenge course

### HIGH ELEMENTS

These are designed for a personal self-growth. Great for groups that want 'free-time' to allow participants to be active and challenge their members. All activities must be led by trained facilitators.



### climbing wall

We offer a 3-sided climbing tower with a variety of options. One side is designed with a gradual incline to cater to the younger and newer crowd. This is a great way to try climbing. We have two additional vertical walls, one with an over-hang option for our really ambitious climbers. For safety, participants must be harnessed in at all times.



### zip lines

We offer four 450-foot Zip Lines. Participants are harnessed in at the top and 'Zip' down the line at a thrilling speed!

### LOW ELEMENTS

Low Elements are designed for group and personal growth. All activities must be led by trained facilitators.



- all aboard
- trust falls
- team wall
- spider web
- whale watch
- log jam
- criss-cross
- tension traverse
- nitro crossing
- plus more!



Member  
  
 Christian Camp and Conference Association