The Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitaller
Vancouver Commandery

March 2017

SAVE THE DATE! - April 22nd. 9 - 3:30

Topics include:

Living Wakes and a Living Testimonial

Just another destination—Say Yes to Travel Insurance

Memory Fleeting? Of all the things I've lost, I miss my Mind the Most

Is Laughter Still the Best Medicine?

Room Service at Home—How and Where to Get What You Need

So How Will You be Remembered?

Tickets $45.00 each—includes lunch

bucketlistfestivalvancouver.org or call

(604) - 682-2938

To our members and past participants:

On behalf of my committee, it is my pleasure to announce that we are having our 2nd annual Bucket List Festival on April 22nd, 2017.

This year will continue to build on the great topics discussed last year and we have added some additional experts in their respective fields to bring even more knowledge on topics such as: travel medical insurance, resources available for staying in your home, and legacy making, etc. As well, this year, we have testimonials that directly relate to last year's speaker and topic "Living Wakes" which will speak about the impact and results of their experience.

We have attached a "Save the Date" for you to add to your calendar. Also, this year we have a website that we have created, which will be a "one-stop shop" to allow you to view all of last year's speakers and their videos, see the topics and speakers to be presented this year.

You can purchase your tickets directly on our website and it is very quick and easy.

Please visit our website to get more information www.bucketlistfestivalvancouver.org

This year, we have moved to the new presentation hall at Van Dusen Gardens to allow for increased attendance. This will improve the acoustics and the comfort level whilst still being surrounded by the beauty of the botanical gardens. Again, your ticket price includes refreshments and lunch for the day as well as eligibility to win door prizes.

Please purchase your tickets early to secure your space at this event. Sincerely,

Anna Nyarady, DJSJ Chair, Hospitallers Committee

ORDER OF ST. JOHN - VANCOUVER COMMANDERY— EVENT CALENDAR 2017

Event	Date	Time	Location
Bucket List Festival	April 22nd.	9AM	Van Dusen Gardens
Annual General Meeting	April 27th.	5PM	Shaughnessy GC
Director's Board Meetings	March 29th. and May 31st.		Vancouver
Okanagan Investiture	May 27th.	4 PM	St. Michael's Church Kelowna
Investiture	June 10th.	5PM	Christ Church Cathedral
Gala	June 10th.	Reception 6:30 PM Dinner 7:30 PM	at the Vancouver Club

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

There is much to update you on since my last report post Board Meeting in November. Your Board met on February 1st and the following is a summary of the reports delivered by the committee chairs and decisions made at that meeting.

Our meeting began with a minute of silence in memory of Chevalier Ken Mahon, KCJSJ, MMSJ. Ken was a large contributor to the Order through his work on St John Hospice. There is a tribute to Ken in this issue.

Almoner: This is a very busy time for the committee with numerous projects ongoing and at different stages of progress. The "landing page" has been launched on the Vancouver Commandery website under the "Projects" tab. I encourage you to visit this page so that you may be kept up to date on ongoing projects. We hope to update this page on a monthly basis.

More immediately the Almoner has been working with Squamish Hospice Society to finalize a MOA (memorandum of agreement) which will formalize our involvement in this project.

Events and Social: The next big event is the Investiture weekend on the second weekend of June (9-10). The Vancouver Club has been secured for the Gala evening event. A venue has also been secured for the Friday night reception for new Aspirants.

Enquiries are being made with the Vancouver Club as a possible venue for the Christmas Lunch in December. The Social Committee are also assisting with planning for the Sovereign Council Meeting which will be held in Vancouver in 2020.

Finance: 2017 budget is in the works. The passing of one of our members will result in a decrease in annual annuity income to the Foundation. The time may be now to make steps toward creating a Fundraising Committee. We will pursue this option in the coming months.

Foundation: The Asset Facility Management Committee met at St John Hospice at the end of January. The committee is now up and running. Dame Susan Dixon has assisted in organizing the small office in the hospice and a communication book will be used to update the volunteers who will check in on the Hospice two to three times a month.

Message From the Commander

Hospitaller: The April 22nd Bucket List Festival is in the final organizing stages. A website was designed for the purpose of marketing and selling tickets. Please see http://bucketlistfestivalvancouver.org for more information. We encourage you to attend this informative and upbeat event.

The Palliative Care Volunteer Training program that has been offered exclusively to our members by Providence Health will run on May 25/ 6-9 pm, 27/ 9:30 - 4:pm, 28/9:30-4pm, 30/ 6-9pm, June 1 /6-7:45pm and 2/ 6-9pm. There is still space available. Even if members do not plan to volunteer with patients, the training is necessary for a volunteer to assist in any capacity in any hospice setting in our province. Furthermore, it is also valuable training personally in the support of others who are grieving or going through a palliative care experience.

Marshal: Planning is well underway for the June Investiture. The aspirant Orientation evening is set for April 20th. This evening is attended by the Prior, Commander, Committee Chairs and some members who assist in giving background, both historic and current, of the Commandery to the new members. Chevalier Tidball has kindly offered his home for this event.

Membership: The committee is closing in on its goal of 10 new Aspirants for 2017. All committee members have been working very hard vetting new names and gathering information and completing petitions for new members. The deadline for proposing new aspirants is the end of February.

Member Engagement: preparations for the March 15th Palm Desert cocktail and dinner event are underway. Currently there are approximately 25 confirmed attendees. If you have not already let Gail know that you can attend, please do so as Thunderbird Country Club will need to know the final numbers for dinner. Other member engagement activities are being considered for early fall to include an information and discussion evening on the topic of Assisted Suicide.

Herald: Communication is the priority given the increasing activity level of the Commandery and its committees. Making better use of the Vancouver and International Website, emailing a post board meeting report by the Commander every two months, producing 4 annual Newsletter's to be published and placed on the website and maintaining the Directory so that every member is pictured, are all steps we have taken to achieve this goal. The Herald Committee are also currently assisting the Squamish Hospice Society in creating marketing materials for their fundraising campaign for the 4 bed hospice in Squamish.

As you can see by the activities outlined above, the Vancouver Commandery is busier than ever! We are most fortunate to have such a large group of talented members with a broad range of professional and volunteer experience in our community. We are a diverse group with some wishing to contribute through donation and others through service and some in both. I want to be inclusive of everyone and I only hope that with better communication our members will feel a stronger attachment to the Order. If you feel that you would like to contribute in some way, and are not already doing so, please feel free to contact me directly or Gail in the office. We would be most happy to hear from you.

Yours in St John,

Commander Anne Rowland, DJSJ, MMSJ

A Rowland

Christmas Luncheon

The Annual Sovereign Order of St. John Hospitaller Christmas Luncheon was held at the Terminal City Club on December 7th, 2016. We enjoyed a wonderful festive lunch and great fellowship that carried with us throughout the Holiday Season.

After lunch, our guests were entertained by a harp and guitar duo, Leanne and Connor Page, who played Christmas music and added to the ambiance of the room. I wish to thank our Committee members and Administrator Gail Dunn for organizing such a fine event.

Chevalier Mark Ballard, KGSJ

Leanne Page and her son, Connor Page, created an especially enchanting atmosphere. To the beauty of the harp and voice, they added the sensitive sounds of the classical guitar.

Leanne and Connor's collaboration produced a melodious and unique musical offering for our luncheon guests.

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Changes to AGM Format

AGM April 27th

Shaughnessy GC

5PM

Followed by

Town Hall Meeting

I would like to advise the members of changes to the format for the upcoming AGM on April 27th. We have decided that we will combine the AGM and Town Hall meeting so as to maximize our attendance. We will streamline the AGM part of the evening by sending all members a full package which will include committee reports and financials to be reviewed by members ahead of time. We will encourage members to ask any questions ahead of the meeting via email. A short question period will also be allotted at the beginning of the meeting so that any questions or concerns may be addressed at the meeting if this is preferred by the individual. Following the meeting our Almoner will then take over and begin his presentation to the membership. This will last for approximately an hour. Dinner will follow where members will be able to socialize and then while desert is served, a panel discussion will ensue with opportunities for members to engage in conversations and ask questions of the panel. The goal of the Town Hall will be to inform and educate our members on our palliative care initiatives and issues that we face in this arena.

Commander Anne Rowland, DJSJ, MMSJ

The Bloom Group Winter Tea

We were so honoured to be part of a magical day at the Bloom Group Hospice for their annual Hospice Winter Tea which they hosted on December 4th at the Cottage Hospice in Vancouver. They invited the family and friends of the residents back to the Hospice to remember their loved ones who have passed at Cottage Hospice to share in the spirit of Christmas and the holiday season. It was such an uplifting day filled with sharing memories of their loved ones and enjoying the fabulous food brought by the wonderful staff, family and volunteers followed by music and singing Christmas carols. It was truly a wonderful experience to have been part of.

The Bloom Group is a not-for-profit organization based in the downtown Eastside of Vancouver. It was originally founded as St. James Community Service Society in 1961 by May Gutteridge and volunteers of the St. James Anglican Church at Cordova in the downtown Eastside. Along with many services which they provide to the most vulnerable people in our community , they also operate two hospices, which are May's Place (6 room hospice in the downtown Eastside) and Cottage Hospice (10 bed hospice located in Burrard View Park on N. Penticton St. in Vancouver).

Kind regards,

Annie Li, DGSJ

In Memorium

Chevalier

Kenneth Mahon

KCJSJ, MMSJ

MAHON, Kenneth William B. COM, C.P.A, F.C.A August 21, 1934 – January 17, 2017 Surrounded by his family, Ken passed away peacefully at home. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Ellen, and his children, Kevin (Jo- anne), Andre (Brock Rowland) and Peter (Andrea). Ken was predeceased by his son Andrew. His 7 grandchildren will remember him as a role model and a loving grandfather; Trevor, Stuart, Paul, Tessa, Fraser, Lucy, and William. Ken was predeceased by sister, Joan Henderson and is survived by his sister Barbara Sutton. Ken was born and raised in Vancouver and made it his lifelong home. He graduated from Kitsilano High School, and went on to UBC where he obtained a Bachelor of Commerce (1958). In 1961 he was awarded his CA degree, won the Gold Medal and was the class valedictorian. He started his accounting practice with his business partner, Alan Wolrige, creating Wolrige Mahon Chartered Accountants in 1962, an iconic B.C. accounting firm. Ken founded the Adera Group of Companies in 1969 and many other business ventures followed. His contributions to both the business world and the community were recognized when he was elected as a Fellow of the CA Institute (FCA 1983), followed by being honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal (2003). In 2015, Ken received the CA Institute's highest honour, the Lifetime Achievement Award. Over the years, Ken volunteered extensively in the accounting profession, including as a member of the ICABC Council, as the chair of the Practice Review and Licensing Committee, as a professional development lecturer, and as a governor of the Chartered Accountants Education Foundation. He also lent his expertise to more than 40 not-for-profit organizations. In 1988 he was asked by Mayor Campbell to chair the Finance Committee to put the then insolvent Vancouver Symphony onto a firm financial footing. He Co-Chaired the creation of the UBC Thunderbird Golf Society and he played an instrumental role in the BC Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. Ken chaired a $5.5 million fundraising campaign to build the St. John Hospice at UBC, and served as president of Shaughnessy Golf & Country Club, the Vancouver Opera, and the BC Neurological Centre. In recognition of his volunteerism, he received the Order of St. John Medal of Merit, and an Honorary Life Directorship from the Vancouver Opera.Ken was a true Renaissance Man. He loved music, sports and had a lifelong love of learning. He was an intelligent and respected businessman, who was known for his strong opinions and strength of character. He was happiest when his family was coming over for dinner, uncorking the wine, getting the beer ready and sitting down and playing the piano, looking forward to good conversation and the love that everyone brought. He enjoyed golf, travel, skiing, cards, music with friends, but most of all spending time with Ellen and their nightly crib competitions. A memorial service was held at Ryerson United Church, 2195 West 45th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. on Friday, February 3, 2017 at 1 p.m. Please consider making a donation to the Andrew Mahon Foundation, Four Bentall Centre, PO Box 49214, Vancouver, BC V7X 1K8.

IN MEMORIUM

Gowan T. Guest 1929 - 2016 C.M., KSJ, Q.C., LL.B

It is with regret that we must advise Members of the recent passing of Chevalier Gowan T. Guest, KSJ on December 7, 2016. Chevalier Guest was invested in the Sovereign Order in 1995. Chevalier Guest was less active over the past years due to ill health. Chevalier Guest is well known throughout the business community and a long-time member of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club.

Throughout his life, Gowan maintained his dedication to public service, often telling his family to "give back more than you take out". He was an active participant in the political process and an advocate for education, serving as Chairman of York House School. He also served as the President of the World Federation for Mental Health, and as Chair of the Investment Funds Institute of Canada. In 1995, he was invested in the Order of the Knights of St. John; in 2002, his contributions to both the business world and to his community were recognized when he was invested as a Member of the Order of Canada.

We wish to extend our sincere condolences to his wife Michele and family.

Anne Rowland DJSJ, MMSJ

Commander

Check Out Our New Website!

We encourage all members to go to our Vancouver Commandery website and view the crisp, clean, easy to navigate changes we have made. By simply typing in the website address www.sosjvancouver.org, you will find the home page that will link you to other Commandery sites, newsletters and photos, upcoming event notices and the ability to pay for your annual dues or event registrations online.

There is valuable information regarding the history of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller and of our Vancouver Commandery and it can also be a valuable tool to direct prospective members to for information.

Should you have any questions about the Website or have information for our newsletter, please direct inquiries and submissions to Administrator Gail Dunn at (604) 682-2938 or at her e-mail, admin@sosjvancouver.org.

Chevalier Jim McGregor, KCSJ, Herald