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Please consider joining **Arms Outstretched**. Help us care for God's blessed poor every day of the year.

# The TACO Times

*Celebrating 35 Years of Bread Day*

Volume 8, Issue 4

August 2011

## This Week in the TACO Times *by Jim Lovell*

We are overwhelmed here at TACO with great gifts and blessed volunteers! You will find in this TACO Times a report on the Rummage Sale at Clairemont Lutheran Church, a reminder for our Fall Fundraiser, "Bread Upon the Waters" on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, and a story about a fighter for Social Justice, Larry Miligan, among other items. What a thrilling time to see that working together with such amazing champions, we can accomplish all that happens here, where people are fed, wounds are tended, those who are dying receive support, and lives are forever changed, usually one person at a time. Thank you for your ongoing support and caring, prayer and thanksgiving.



## Bread Upon the Waters is Coming!

Bread Upon the Waters  
At the Southwestern Yacht Club  
2702 Qualtrough Street  
San Diego, CA 92106

TACO's annual fall fundraiser is less than a month away, and this year we're making a few changes! In the past TACO has hosted an annual "Sunset by the Sea" event in the lovely home of Drs. Rup and Vani Nagala. But this year our fall fundraiser has a new name - and a new location.

TACO is pleased to bring you our new fall fundraiser, "Bread Upon the Waters." It will held at the Southwestern Yacht Club in Point Loma, where guests will enjoy good food, good company, and a gorgeous view of the harbor at Sunset.

As always the event will feature

both live and silent auctions, featuring items generously provided by our donors - including museum, theater and Disneyland tickets, a wine tasting for twelve, an overnight stay in Julian, and furniture art by Bill Engel and Melodie Baker.

Tickets are \$75 a piece or six for \$300, and can be bought by calling (619)235-9445 ext. 124 or by visiting our website at [www.tacosd.org](http://www.tacosd.org): go to the "about" page and click the "donate now" button, which will take you to our donation page, then select "Bread Upon the Waters tickets" from one of the menus. All proceeds from the event benefit the Third Avenue Charitable Organization, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

## Christmas in July



Each year for the past five years, TACO and First Lutheran have joined for our Christmas in July fundraiser. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to give approximately 250 brightly wrapped Christmas gifts each year—sleeping bags, duffel bags, backpacks—whatever is needed for the community of downtown San Diego.

We begin taking donations for this program in July, but we don't stop there! We're happy to receive your donations all the way until Christmas. A donation of \$25 buys a single gift for a member of our community in need—this year, it will be a sleeping bag to help them through the winter nights. Please consider contributing whatever you can to help our homeless neighbors.

We'd also like to extend our thanks to Ladonna Piper, First Lutheran Council Member and TACO Board Member, for organizing and managing this year's fundraiser.

### Volunteer Update *by Rachel Line*

I have some friends who live in Minneapolis who come to San Diego every summer. While in San Diego, there are some "must-do" things on their list: go to the beach, go to the San Diego Zoo's Safari Park, visit their family, and of course, go to TACO.

Yes, volunteering their time at TACO is just as important as playing at the beach for these Minnesotans, ages 13 and 15. What an inspiration!

The past couple months, we have seen some really fun groups help serve the meal. We had a Girl Scout troop, a Cub Scout troop, a softball team, several home-school families, and youth groups from Corona and Lake Elsinore.

On top of this, we have our regular groups from congregations and families from all over San Diego County. TACO is truly blessed by the amount of people who cherish the opportunity to serve

God's people, whether from Minneapolis or from downtown San Diego.

So far this year, TACO has served over 15,000 meals. It takes many hands to serve that many meals. Thank you to everyone who gives up their time to give of themselves in service to other people. Your time is your most precious gift.

Blessings,  
Rachel



### "Homeless Treasures" Raises Over \$8,000!

Dear Friends of TACO,

Now that the dust has settled a bit from our "Homeless Treasures" TACO Rummage Sale this past Saturday, I wanted to get out a huge thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped make this event such a success.

Thank you for bringing (and sometimes storing) donations, sorting, cleaning and pricing them, making cookies, improvising clothing racks, testing electronics, bringing donuts and pizza, making signs, loading & unloading cars/trucks, lugging heavy

things, arranging attractive displays, helping shoppers, cashiering, and lifting spirits with your positive energy! There were, by our counts, 60 volunteers who helped out in one capacity or another during the week prior, as well as the sale itself. Wow!

Together we raised over \$6500. We received \$1600 in matching funds from Thrivent Financial For Lutherans, bringing our Grand Total to almost \$8200! Your efforts not only brought much needed funds to TACO's services for the homeless, elderly and working poor in down-

town San Diego, but in this down economy, they also helped provide many people with an opportunity to purchase household necessities and "small treasures" at an affordable cost.

With Heartfelt Thanks,

Martha Radatz, and the "Homeless Treasures" Planning Committee:  
Dagmar Miller  
Susan Mayes  
Kathleen Sorahan

## A Memorial for Larry Miligan by Jim Lovell

On Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, TACO and First Lutheran Church held a memorial service, a celebration of the life and work of Larry Miligan. Larry was a good friend of mine and a good friend to TACO. But most of all, Larry was a good friend to the men and women who have to put their heads and bodies down on the sidewalks and planter boxes each night.

Larry was a whirlwind. I said at his memorial that when you went with Larry, you had better hold on tight, you were in for a ride. Larry had been working to bring dignity to homeless persons for more than 20 years. He had been at it so long that many of those who come through the lines at TACO for food don't know what he was capable of doing. He was often seen as a rabble-rouser and probably thought to be crazy much of the time. But his goal was to have homeless people treated as human as you or as me - that rather than defining people by their condition, we should define them as Christ defines us all.

Larry and his soul-mate Johanna Argoud along with a group of like-minded people brought food to Balboa Park many times a week, earning him the name "the pizza man" for the day-old Pizza Hut pizzas he drove around town picking up and then handing out. This was long before evenings found churches from all over the county bringing food to the parking lots around downtown as they do now. Back then the police didn't know what to do with Larry. He was ticketed and arrested any number of times for giving out food.

Around 1995 Larry and his group came to First Lutheran Church, this was before TACO, and increased the meals served from Bread Day's one meal a week on Fridays by adding meals on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday! They organized the lines, brought the food, worked with their own volunteers, fed the people, and cleaned up the mess. Larry worked to open up a long-closed public restroom at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. and C St. in 1997. This remains one of only two public restrooms downtown.

In my time at TACO, Larry was working on stopping the criminalization of homelessness. In an effort to "clean up down-



town" as new condo construction filled the skyline, the police were ticketing people for sleeping on the streets. The ordinance called "Illegal Lodging" meant that people without money to stay inside, without access to enough shelter beds could be ticketed for sleeping on public property. The only way to avoid this was to either stay awake or to hide in some of the darkest and most unsafe places in the city. Many were hurt in these hidden places outside the light. Larry assisted nine homeless individuals to file a class action lawsuit in federal court asserting that it is "cruel and unusual punishment" in violation of the constitution to ticket people for being so poor that they have no access to housing and no choice but to sleep in public.

The City Attorney at that time settled with the plaintiffs, establishing a window when homeless people would be allowed to sleep in public, from 9pm to 5:30am without being ticketed. This historic settlement has recently been altered in an attempt to go back to ticketing people who are sleeping in areas where the downtown community does not want them to be, but the essence of this settlement is still there and still keeping people from being criminals just because they are without a home.

Larry worked for many other services for those on the street, fasting for the winter shelter to be open for several years running was another action performed to bring about change and dignity. But I also remember Larry's kindness, gentleness and love as powerful components of his work and life. One of the last times I saw Larry he was playing with my daughters and the sparkle in his eyes burned bright.

Kelly Davis, in her blog for City Beat, quoted Larry's partner Johanna at the memorial this way, "Larry's partner, Johanna Argoud, spoke briefly, but eloquently summed up what the man she described as her soul mate was all about. "If we're willing to open our hearts to each other, it will be the beginning of the end of homelessness."

The TACO Times  
Third Avenue Charitable  
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First Lutheran Church  
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San Diego, CA 92101-3193

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**"...gathering as a community in service with  
the most vulnerable among us..."**

**Bread**  
*upon the* **Waters**

At the Southwestern Yacht Club  
2702 Qualtrough Street  
San Diego (Point Loma), 92106  
Free Parking

Saturday, September 24, 2011  
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$75  
or 6 for \$300  
RSVP by September 15

*Live and Silent Auction  
Autumn Harvest Supper*

To benefit the Third Avenue Charitable Organization

TACO is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

For more information call (619) 235-9445 ex124, or email [info@tacosd.org](mailto:info@tacosd.org)

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