

Watson News & Views Christmas 2008

We wish you and yours a Merry Christmas, Vrolijk Kerstfeest, Sarbatori Felicite, Joyeux Noel, Tin Hao Nian, Froehliche Weihnachten, Felice Natale, Kinga Shinnen, Glaedelig Jul, Ichok Yilara, Boas Festas, Mo'adim, Lesimkha Chrustovjna, Nollaig Shona Dhuit, Wesleych Swiat, Glaedelig Jul, Vesele Vianoce, Felice Pascuas, Sretan Bozic, Boldog Karacsonyi Unnepek, Mele Kalikimaka, Nollaig Chridheil, Felix Dies Nativitatis. No matter what language is used, we sincerely wish you a festive holiday and hope that you enjoy the 2008 Watson annual Christmas newsletter.



ey on her last visit made a Thanksgiving card for Aunt Anita (she turned 93 this year). What a fun card that was to make!

Those first cards I made were fairly basic as I did not have the all the techniques of using brads, ribbon, and stickers. It's not an expensive hobby, but there is always something new to learn. And I can send "just the right card" to friends and family.

All aboard!



We heard the call to board the *Enchantment of the Seas*, a Royal Caribbean ship for the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem Grand Convent in June. While on board, we attended two Grand Council meetings, a Grand Council

meeting, Investiture and a Change of Command. We boarded the ship in Ft. Lauderdale and cruised to Key West and Cozumel. Seven postulants were invested, during the Convent. Among the many who were recognized for their service to the organization was Marston, who received the prestigious Legion of Merit for his editorial skills on the *Beauséant* and starting a Priory in New England (see page 2).

The C&I was the first service to be conducted at sea in over 717 years. We hope that there will be another event at sea and that we will be able to participate again.

This cruise was no different from other cruises. Templars as well as other guests on board were able to choose from many tours while in Key West and Cozumel. We chose a cooking class! What a treat it was to learn to cook fish and a great dessert. Besides cooking the food while drinking piña colodas we got to eat what we cooked! The cruise ended much too soon!

Watson Wine Tours

This year we were fortunate to have visitors to the Bay Area and the renowned Watson suite. First to visit were **David and Stephanie Hockensmith**, who were returning from a trip and had an extra day to spend in the Bay Area.

Their visit allowed us to become reacquainted with many of the great sights in our neck of the woods. In one day we visited Golden Gate Bridge, Golden Gate Park, Chinatown and shopping in Sausalito. Phew, what a whirlwind tour!

It seemed like it was just around the corner, but our next visitors were **Larry and Betty McClanahan**. Betty was in town for a conference and Larry's arrival extended their visit long enough for the Watson Tour Guides to show them around. Again we covered the Golden Gate Bridge and Sausalito, but this time we showed them Grace Episcopal Church and the Napa Valley wineries. We remember a special lunch in Yountville and visits to Markham and Beringer for tours and wine tasting.

Next to visit were **Jack and Sheila Manning** who were vacationing from Massachusetts and they chose to spend a four days with us. We managed to fulfill every item on Sheila's "must do" list (including walking across the Golden Gate Bridge). Satisfaction guaranteed by the Watsons!

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Wreaths Across America

Both of us were involved all year in this special effort to remember veterans during the holiday season. Marston developed a proclamation which was adopted by the Sons of the American Revolution in California and nationally. As a result, he was made chairman of a national committee to have the SAR represented



at each ceremony in over 350 cemeteries across the nation. He was very pleased with the results. His article outlining the success of the new venture will be published in the SAR Magazine.

My involvement was at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery as the coordinator of the event. I had a great team who committed to place a wreath at every grave at the cemetery in Dixon. Over 3,700 wreaths were purchased by individuals, businesses and organizations. On the day of the event (December 13, 2008) over 1400 people attended the ceremony to help place the wreaths. The event is sponsored jointly by the Anne Loucks DAR Chapter and the Sacramento Valley Cemetery Support Committee. The goal of the *Wreaths Across America* non-profit company is to Remember...Honor...Teach.

Both of us are looking forward to 2009 and even greater success!

Kathy's Card Creations Launched

Earlier this year, I was browsing at Michaels, a craft/hobby store, and decided to purchase cards which were just waiting for my creative talents to turn them into greeting cards. My daughter **Dionne**, whose hobby is scrapbooking thought it was a wonderful idea and offered to help me. After an evening of fun, I was hooked.

Making greeting cards is a wonderful hobby that I have been able to do with family and I've made new friends! When **Halley** and **Lexie** (granddaughters aged 8 and 6) come for a visit, they ask if they can make a card. I was touched when Hal-



Last to visit were Grand Prior **Wayne** and **Rumiko McGrath**. Their stay included a day of touring San Francisco (by this time we were experts!) and another tour of the Napa Valley (high on Rumiko's list).

A Priory is Born in New England



The dream began with the realization that over forty active and inactive Templar members living in the six New England states were members of the Grand Priory of the United States of America (GPUSA) priories located in New York, New Jersey, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas and elsewhere, but had no "home" of their own. Marston was assigned by the Grand Prior to survey the Templar members living in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island to determine their interest in having its own entity in New England. Many of you know Marston's bull dog like attack to any challenge. While I was at my computer, he was on the phone with members seeking their input. The favorable response was overwhelming, with over ninety percent agreeing with the idea of establishing such an entity.

That was the story late in 2007 and early 2008. The rest of the story is the formation of the Priory of St. David of Wales in New England and Marston as Prior I.

With the great help from the Priory of St. Patrick for the first Convent and Investiture (C&I), six postulants were invested and the Commandery was raised to a Priory.

Now we were on our own! Newport, Rhode Island was selected as the site for the fall C&I, so we journeyed over the weekend of Marston's birthday. Little did Marston realize that his birthday celebration would begin on Wednesday and extend through the weekend. The most important event, however, was the investiture of four postulants at the successful C&I.

Belonging to a Priory in New England takes us back to Marston's roots at least twice a year. We are definitely looking forward to those future trips as the Priory matures.

Family Update

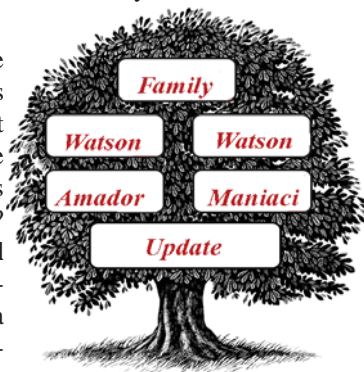
In a Christmas newsletter, one could just say that everyone is fine, just another year older. But that would not really tell the story about accomplishments and important changes would it?

Let's start with **Michael Amador**, the oldest grandson who started at De La Salle high school this year-the school that holds the winningest high school football team record! We are thankful, however, that Michael does not play football. He does run track and still enjoys going to movies with Grandma.

Sophia, Michael's sister transitioned to middle school this year moving from the big class on campus to the newbies. It will be no problem for Sophia, however, as she continues to excel at school. She is musically inclined having taken up playing the clarinet.

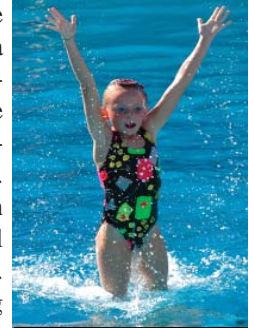


Their mom and dad, **Karen** and **Al**, bought property in Washington state and moved a



home to the property. What a project that was! Over Thanksgiving, they were decorating. The project will continue in to 2009 as they still need to add a garage and complete the landscaping.

Haley Watson, now age 8 and daughter of **Erik**, Marston's son, has become quite the "aquanut". She is part of the Walnut Creek "Aquanuts", a synchronized swimming team that has produced several gold medalists. Last year, she was a beginner, but Haley advanced quickly and now swims with an older age group.



Alexia, Haley's sister is now 6 and in first grade. What a remarkable loving girl she has become, even at such a young age. Grandpa notes that she gives him a great big hug at every opportunity. She is just starting in gymnastics and just soaks up learning.

We would love to report that all is well with Erik, but he's having to endure the end of an eight year marriage. Under the circumstances, Erik, Haley, and Alexia are doing well. Please keep them in your prayers.



Alexander Maniaci, also age 8 (as of December 16) is in second grade and an avid Lego fan. His collection of "Bionicles"



rivals none other. His eighth birthday was celebrated at Chuck E Cheese. The pizza was great and the games were fun.

Rob and **Dionne** continue to improve their property in Sebastopol. This year saw the removal of the mobile home that was the original home. Another bedroom was completed and Dionne got her scrapbooking room finished.

All children became members of the Children of the American Revolution when a member of Kathy's DAR chapter encouraged the formation of a C.A.R. Society. On August 22, the organizational meeting was held and all the grandchildren were members. The Society helps the children to learn about the American Revolution and teaches them leadership skills. All the meetings are run by the children, each taking a speaking role.

Last but not least, let us fill you in on some of our other activities. Marston continues to work on his Watson family book. He has identified many cousins, even some in Nova Scotia. We can see a trip there in the future but probably not until the economy gets better.

I am First Vice Regent of my DAR chapter which entails a bit of work to get speakers lined up for each meeting in addition to orienting candidates for chapter membership. I am still involved in bowling writing, mostly from maintaining both the Bowling Writers Association of America (BWAA) and California Bowling Writers (CBW) websites as well as St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, and at least 25 California DAR chapter websites. This year, I added computer maintenance at the California Genealogical Society (CGS) Library, so I am quite busy in retirement.



Happy New Year!