

BRIEFS

St. Luke's park, shop and play day

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is sponsoring a babysitting service on Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parents can drop off children up to age 10 and enjoy a hassle-free day in town. Parking at the church is free, but there is a fee for the babysitting service. St. Luke's is at 20 University Ave. For more information and registration, call 408.802.4984 or go to www.stlukeslg.org.

Holiday dance for seniors coming up

Los Gatos seniors are invited to a free holiday dance on Dec. 20 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Neighborhood Center, 208 E. Main St. Sponsored by the Lions Club, the dance will feature live music by the Nob Hill Sounds, playing both traditional dance and holiday tunes. Attendees are asked to bring donations of art supplies such as glue sticks, colored pencils and watercolor paints, which will be given to low-income middle school children. For more information call 408.354.1514.

Courtside Club holiday drive benefits babies

The Courtside Club has launched a diaper drive to help Silicon Valley's low-income families make ends meet during the holidays. The diapers will be given to Sacred Heart Community Service, which in turn will distribute them to needy families. Courtside's youth center director, Missy Preiska, says the response from club members has been great so far. "We have a big bin full," she said. She's hoping the public will want to contribute as well. The cut-off date for donations is Dec. 17. Disposable diapers are preferred. Donations can be dropped off at Courtside, 14675 Winchester Blvd.

AROUND TOWN



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COVERING THE ARTS AND LOCAL FEATURES

It's a scholarship program for special Coz

He had an impact on SCU students

By MARIANNE LUCCHESI HAMILTON

When Steve Erbst heard that his favorite professor at Santa Clara University would spend his retirement at the Jesuit Center (formerly the Sacred Heart Novitiate), he was moved—and he wanted to honor the accomplishments of his friend and mentor.

A member of SCU's class of 1988—and Los Gatos High School's class of '84—Erbst says the Rev. Richard Coz, S.J., was the most influential faculty member he encountered during his four years at the university.

Hoping to celebrate the work of Coz and his fellow Jesuits, Erbst began contacting classmates and other alumni, with the goal of establishing a scholarship fund in Coz's name. Erbst launched the initiative via a website, which he dubbed "Pause for Coz." Six months later—and without making a single phone call—Erbst and his fellow SCU grads have put together an impressive stash of cash.

"Writing about Father Coz created an immediate bond with our alumni, because he had such an impact on Santa Clara's classes, sports, student government and other areas," says Erbst. "We all decided that this was the best way to keep his legacy alive. Within two months, we raised nearly \$200,000 from over 230 families. This was probably the fastest-growing, grassroots scholarship campaign the university has ever seen... and it was all because people wanted to honor Father Coz."

Erbst started by sending an e-mail to a target list of 50 names, encouraging those people to contact others who might be interested. "It quickly became a viral thing," he notes. "Now we have over 1,000 names on our distribu-



Photograph by George Sakkestad

The Rev. Richard Coz, S.J., is now a resident at the Jesuit Center in Los Gatos, but his students at Santa Clara University haven't forgotten him. Steve Erbst of Los Gatos has joined with others to create a scholarship in his name.

tion list, and we've done all of the fundraising without any cost whatsoever to the university."

In addition to the online solicitations, Erbst and his colleagues held a fundraiser at Testarossa Vineyards in August (owner Rob Jensen is also an alumnus of SCU). A similar event is planned at the winery next spring. "At our first fundraiser, with only six weeks' notice we had nearly 150 attendees," says Erbst proudly. "Our goal is to get to \$300,000 by May of 2008, then into the million-dollar range soon after. From then on, the scholarship will perpetuate itself."

With the money in the Pause for Coz Scholarship coffers, Erbst says that the selection committee—which will be comprised of alumni families, as well as SCU Alumni Association executive director Kathy Kale and a representative from Concord's De La Salle High School, where Coz also

taught—will be able to award scholarships in the \$3,000 to \$4,000 range to two students each year. "We'll be looking for students who are leaders and are interested in their community," Erbst explains. "Maybe they'll be athletes who play in a club sport that doesn't get funded much. Definitely the recipients will be students who contribute above and beyond, just like Father Coz."

Erbst adds that the "Coz Effect" has made his fundraising mission a relatively easy one. "The minute our alumni read that this is to honor Father Coz, they have an instant reaction; his reputation really breaks down any barriers to giving. Everyone has been united, in that they want to honor his work at Santa Clara and as a Jesuit."

The Pause for Coz Scholarship website is continuously being updated with new information,

including notable alumni who have contributed to the campaign, such as 49ers great Brent Jones, and former Secretary of the U.S. Army Dr. Francis Harvey. Erbst recommends that interested donors visit the site frequently, and join the campaign's e-mail distribution list. Every dollar donated is greatly appreciated, he says.

"We've had contributions from \$10 to \$10,000, and some as high as \$25,000," Erbst says. "It's not the dollar amount; it's people's willingness to be a part of the Santa Clara University community. The most important thing is, this is all about Father Coz."

For more information or to donate online to the Pause for Coz Scholarships, visit www.pauseforcoz.com; to add your name to the e-mail list, send a note to erbst@pauseforcoz.com.