

JUNE 2007



WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

Leadership & Public Service

Program Calendar

June 7–10
Selection Weekend

July 16–20
Placement Week

September 1
Fellowship Year Begins

September 5–7
Orientation

October 25–27
Annual Meeting
(see page 6 for details)

“Freedom and Responsibility, Liberty and Duty—That’s the Deal!”

—John Gardner

REGIONAL MEETING REPORT

When he last spoke to us in 1999, John Gardner urged us to have regional meetings as one way to sustain the WHF Community of Mutual Support. In the intervening years, we have held meetings in San Diego, Boston, New York City and West Point, Chicago, and Seattle.

This year’s meeting was held in San Francisco from May 17-19 and featured a spectacular program put together by the organizing committee of Chairman Peter Fiske (95-96), John DeLuca (65-66), Howard (Nemo) Nemerovski (65-66), Bob Joss (68-69), Marshall Turner (70-71), Andy Barnes (76-77), Fredrica Challandes-Angelini (79-80), Margaret McKeown (80-81), and Ajay Amlani (04-05). Our theme for the meeting was

“California: In Search of the Golden State.”

Sixty-five WHFs and spouses joined us over the three days we were together. We began our program with an open Board of Directors meeting, followed by a visit to Bob Joss (68-69) at the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. Bob described the multidisciplinary approach to graduate business education at Stanford and then demonstrated that approach with a series of speakers that included former WHF Program Associate Director Professor Michael Kirst, who spoke of the challenges California faces in K-12 education; former Secretary of State George Shultz, who discussed the current threats to global security and stability; former Secretary of Defense William Perry, who discussed the growing movement to eliminate nuclear weapons from the world’s arsenals; Dr. Lynn Orr, who talked with us about “Energy, CO2, and Climate Change”; and Henry Rowen, who discussed the economic challenges posed by India and China.

That evening, we returned to San Francisco, where we were welcomed at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals by Justice Margaret McKeown (80-81). After touring the beautiful, historic building that houses the court, we met with California State Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner (03-04) and California State Assemblyman David Jones (95-96) to discuss contemporary problems in the state. We ended the day with a sumptuous reception in the court’s beautiful Redwood Room.

Friday found us up early to meet with Marc Freedman, founder and CEO of Civic Ventures, a volunteer organization for those in the fourth quarter of their lives that was inspired by John Gardner’s Experience Corps. State Supreme Court Justice Ronald M. George then joined us to discuss the judicial and penal systems in California and the dilemmas associated with the state’s growing prison population.

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John Gardner’s gravestone, Presidio Cemetery. As a variation on the old tradition of leaving stones on grave markers, the alumni left a WHF coin in the ground at the foot of his headstone as a reminder of their visit.

REGIONAL MEETING REPORT, CONTINUED

To see one alternative to repetitive incarceration, we journeyed to the Delancey Street Foundation, where Nemo (65-66) had arranged for us to meet with founder Mimi Silbert and six people who had completely transformed themselves from lives of crime and drugs into productive citizens. Following a delicious lunch catered by the Delancey Street Restaurant, we journeyed to the Presidio of San Francisco for a tour of the Presidio Trust – a unique combination of public and private efforts to preserve and enhance the former Army installation following its 1996 closure.

A highlight of our tour was a stop in the military cemetery to visit John Gardner's grave. Our tour of the Trust ended with a visit to Lucasfilm, Ltd., which has transformed the former army hospital into the Letterman Digital Arts Center, the most modern film center in the world. We were met at the entrance by the statue of Yoda and saw many *Star Wars* figures throughout the building. We left Lucasfilm to visit a bench erected in memory of John Gardner at the Palace of the Legion of Honor. Our day ended with a fascinating conversation over dinner at Pres a Vi with Carla Marinucci, political writer for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, about the transformation of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger into a "post-partisan" leader.

As the sun rose on Saturday, we gathered to hear Nelson Dong's (77-78) fascinating discussion of "The Eight Temporaries: Modern Times in China," and then continued the discussion as we traveled by bus to a very special meeting at the Gallo Family Wineries in Healdsburg, CA, organized by Jo and John DeLuca (65-66), Executive Vice Chairman of the California Wine Institute. Our first stop was at the MacMurray Ranch, where we were met under a huge shade tree by Fred MacMurray's daughter Kate, who offered us chilled Pinot Gris and guided us through the old horse barn, plum drying shed, and her father's ranch house.

The lunch scene on the lawn next to the ranch house evoked images of a life and times past—a series of Renoir paintings updated to the 21st century. Members of the Gallo family hosted us as we enjoyed excellent food and superb wines. We were entranced by the scope and complexity of the Gallo Family Wineries and all that the family has done to develop both the Californian and the American wine industries, as well as the level of attention the family has given to taking care of the environment while simultaneously focusing on quality at every level of wine production. Following lunch, we traveled to the Dry Creek Winery to visit the Gallo's state-of-the-art facility and to participate in a wine-blending seminar. We each bottled our very own wine in bottles beautifully etched with the White House Fellows logo and received a bottle of rare Gallo olive oil pressed from the groves at Dry Creek.

As the sun began to set in the West, we journeyed to Novato, where Nemo and his wife Jackie hosted us for a final reception. The Gallo family provided fine wines to match our menu, and, as the evening progressed, Fellows "talked among themselves" in a way that would have pleased John Gardner. As we prepared to say farewell, we were treated to a very heartwarming toast sung by Julia Vindasius (95-96), who captured the spirit of the gathering and all that the WHF Community might hope to be.

Several attendees had attended earlier regional meetings and came because they enjoyed the opportunity to meet outside of Washington, DC, and visit with Fellows from all classes. Mel Masuda (70-71) journeyed



White House Fellows at John Gardner's gravestone

from Hawaii, John Saxon (78-79) and Will Webb (86-87) came from Alabama, and Judy Rosenstreich (76-77) traveled from Vermont. They were joined in their praise of the meeting by newcomer Bill McGlashan (72-73), who noted: "Christney and I are now believers in regional meetings!" We want you to be a believer in regional and annual meetings and are looking for volunteers to help us locate and plan the regional meeting next year. Please email President Judy Walter (75-76) at whffd@aol.com if you are interested in helping.