

“L’Abbiamo Fatto!”

>> CONT. FROM PAGE ONE

In all, this was a remarkable tour for the boys, with the boys all together~singing together, listening together, traveling together, eating together, seeing the sights together.

Granted, many can enjoy visiting some of the same landmarks with their own families, as they should, first and foremost. But this tour was such a unique bonding experience for the boys of the GGBC to share together, that many already look forward eagerly to the next such tour!

~Mrs. Torrey



TO THE PARENTS OF THE GGBC:

Selling Benefit Drawing Tickets is NOT Fun!

Probably you have heard from the staff and alumnae that you have to sell benefit drawing tickets and many of the reasons they present to you emphasize the many economic benefits you can achieve if you are successful in your efforts. Success is measured in how much you sell any given week.

This is fine and accurate to a point.

There are other reasons, not so obvious and not everybody evaluates them in the same way, but to me they are more important than the dollar reasons (important as they are).

Let us talk about what happens in any day that you decide to go out and sell tickets. Early dinner (or fast food somewhere) and run to go to a favorite spot at a proper time.

Sounds simple enough, doesn't it? Except,

- We ALL have work commitments and,
- That there are other family members needing something at about the same time.
- Maybe the carpool is late – or early - (if you don't carpool you don't survive).
- Maybe your son is late from school because of something.
- Or maybe another unexpected disaster happens.

But now you and your son are finally out in Union Street, at the Opera, or the local Safeway.

You find a spot to park yourself (after you parked your car miles away) and put your book down (actually the book that you carry with you as a seat over the concrete surface that you found and that happens to be ice cold).

Now you watch and,

You swear that the other boy partnering with your son is selling twice as many tickets; he is approaching other people with more confidence, etc.

So you call your son and give him instructions based on your observations. Of course he doesn't listen to anything you say.

Some time goes by.

Now you notice that instead of selling tickets they are playing or horsing around. So you tell him “If you do not sell we are going home right now!” (you are cold and bored and just plain irritable at this time)

So the question is: Is it worth to put all these hours? All these preparations? For what?

Jonathan asked me to point to the fact that the bonding between the kids, becomes one more step in a life-long relationship (such as the 20+ year friendship he enjoys with my son for instance), or the fact that they have to “put themselves out there”, I am not to do that, ask him about it and about his war stories, they are fun to hear.

What I can tell you is the bonding that occurs



SELLING BENEFIT DRAWING TICKETS IS NOT FUN!

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2:

between you and the entire family with your singing son. How this becomes a family project in which everybody finds a place and a way to contribute.

Think about the feeling of support and love that your son feels just because you are out there with him.

Think about the learning happening, the planning, the correction to the plans. (Learning not just happens to your choir boy, but to everybody; especially younger siblings. Older siblings develop a sense of pride about their brother).

The personal growth that occurs when your preteen son decides to try something new because the old was not working.

And not the least the closeness and trust that grows among the members of the “parent corps” out in the street.

(Patricio Barrueto is the father of alumnist Roberto Barrueto who participate in the alumni concert last fall. Patricio is a former president of the board and along with family sent Roberto on GGBC tours from 1988-1998 to Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, Spain, New Zealand, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Phillipines, Hawaii, along with the east coast and west coast tours. Roberto Barrueto a contemporary of Jonathan Napier-Morales, was a charter member of the Golden Gate Boys choir. He was a minisinger, mastersinger, ringleader and eventually a ringmaster who played for Pope John Paul II.)

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ONLY DAYS LEFT TO SELL YOUR BENEFIT DRAWING TICKETS!!! LET MR. MEYER KNOW IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL TICKETS.

THE DRAWING WILL BE AT OUR ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY BBQ! THIS YEAR, THE BBQ WILL BE HELD AT SVDP.

HOT DOGS, HAMBURGERS AND BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE BRING A SALAD OR DESSERT TO SHARE.

WE ARE PLANNING A FEW GAMES IN THE COURTYARD AND WILL ALSO HAVE SNO-CONES UNTIL ALL OF THE ICE IS GONE!