



*Lorcan Barnes, President  
of  
Christian Brothers High School*

*Requests the Honor of your presence  
at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual*

*Ambassadors' Club  
Dinner*

*Honoring our  
2010 Ambassador of the Year*

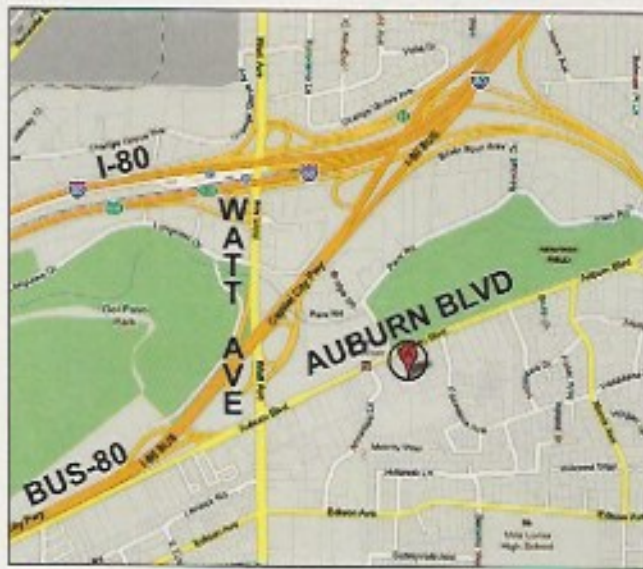
*George Cunningham '40*

*Wednesday, October 13, 2010  
Cocktails at 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner at 6:45 p.m.*

*The Croatian Cultural Center  
3730 Auburn Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95841*

*Kindly respond by Sept. 28th  
to Jan Brown  
(916) 733-3603*

*[jbrown@cbhs-sacramento.org](mailto:jbrown@cbhs-sacramento.org)*



**From I-80**

Take Watt Ave. exit, go south on Watt Ave., left on Auburn Blvd., pass Annadale Lane (on your right) and proceed to driveway just after Abreu Gallery. There is a blue sign, Croatia Cultural Center (but difficult to see).

**From Business-80**

Take Watt Ave. South exit, left on Auburn Blvd. Cross Watt Ave., pass Annadale Lane (on your right) and proceed to driveway just after Abreu Gallery. There is a blue sign, Croatia Cultural Center (but difficult to see).

**Look for CB's Falcon to direct you in!**





WELCOME TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL  
AMBASSADORS' CLUB DINNER

THE THIRTEENTH OF OCTOBER  
TWO THOUSAND TEN

## Program

6:00 PM.....Cocktails

6:45 PM .....Welcome  
*Lorcan Barnes, President*

**Invocation**  
*Br. George Van Grieken, FSC*

## Dinner

7:45 PM.....President's Remarks

## CB City Rhythm

### Ambassador of the Year Award George Cunningham '40

*Lorcan Barnes, President*

### Story Time

*Jerry Kirrene '53*

8:45 PM.....Closing - *Lorcan Barnes*

#### Student Ambassadors

Britney Belme '11  
Alex Contreras '11  
Sam Franzoia '11  
Abby Williams '11

#### Musicians

*Travis Maslin, Instr. Music Dir.*  
Angelo Cook-Perez '11 – Violin  
Abby Scurfield '12 – Violin  
Vincent Salazar '14 – Violin  
Joyce Mok '12 – Cello  
Samuel Rose '11 - Acoustic Bass  
Jordyn Chew '11 – Piano

#### CB City Rhythm

*Holly Slabbinck, Choir Dir.*  
Emily Christina Braaten '12  
Nicole Martin '12  
Miguel Carlos Francisco '11  
Samuel Blaine Lovell '11  
Brianna Lovett '12  
Joseph Kassel '12  
Mitchell Blair Shahbazian '12  
Marie Claire Tucker '12  
Madeline Jean Walsh '12  
Austin David Whitted '11  
Hannah Kathryn Wilson '11  
Jordan Schulz '12



October 13, 2010

Dear Ambassadors and Friends of Christian Brothers:

Welcome to our 26th annual Ambassadors' Club Dinner. Your presence here tonight signals your deep commitment to the students of today, and your dedication to the mission of the Christian Brothers in Sacramento.

While much has changed in our 134 years in Sacramento, we hold steadfast to the tradition of our Founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle, and his insistence on finding and fostering the gifts unique to every student. We have outstanding programs in academics, the arts, athletics and Christian service. Our freshmen class enrollment is up 20 percent over that of last year and our graduates continue to tell us that they were well prepared for the rigors of college.

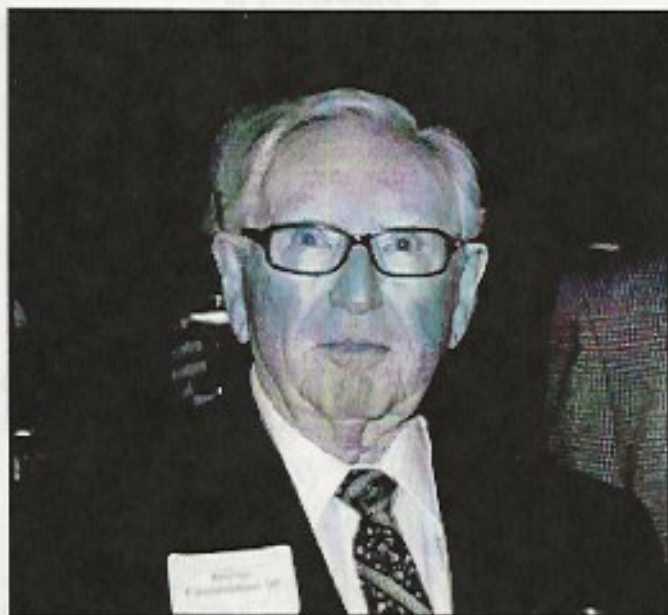
Thank you for all that you do to support us in our ministry of Catholic, Lasallian education. As members of the Ambassadors' Club, your generosity directly impacts and improves the lives of the 1,022 students of Christian Brothers High School. In the words of the Founder, "You are ambassadors and ministers of Jesus Christ." We are profoundly grateful for your generosity.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorcan P. Barnes".

Lorcan P. Barnes  
President

## 2010 Ambassador Of The Year



George Cunningham '40

When George Cunningham looks back on his life, there are four events that stand out as pivotal: the day he married his wife, Rosalie; the day his son, Michael, was born; the day he began working for Sacramento County; and the day he graduated from Christian Brothers High School.

"I really think that high school was the most important phase of my life," says Cunningham. "I grew up at Christian Brothers and thanks to the education I received, I was ready to be successful in college and in my career."

After graduation, Cunningham enrolled at Sacramento City College. He vividly remembers sitting in a classroom and being told to stand up to listen to a message from President Roosevelt. The United States had declared war on Japan. Shortly thereafter, Cunningham enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF). He served mainly in the Pacific, flying the B-24 Liberator and ultimately, as a member of the Allied Forces in Japan following the war.

After returning home, he continued his education. In 1948, he met and married the love of his life, Rosalie, and in 1949, their son, Michael (CBHS Class of 1967) was born. Throughout the years, Rosalie suffered with an illness that necessitated periodic hospitalizations. Yet, the family was happy and enjoyed traveling, built a home in South Land Park and a cabin at Lake Tahoe. They simply loved spending time together.

"I have to admit, I was not in close touch with the school over the years," says Cunningham. "I was working for the County Department of Social Welfare, and caring for Rosalie and Michael. But, I never stopped being thankful for all that the Brothers taught me."

In 2005, Cunningham's world was shattered with the death of his son, Michael. Hoping to create some good from such a tragic loss, he decided to donate the proceeds of Michael's estate to a place they both held dear, Christian Brothers High School. Through his generosity, the east annex classrooms were remodeled, creating first class music classrooms.

"Christian Brothers has a phenomenal performing arts program," says CB President, Lorcan Barnes. "Thanks to George's generosity, our talented singers and musicians have state-of-the-art classrooms in which to learn and develop. Although I cannot imagine the pain of losing a child, I do hope that when George hears our orchestra play or the choir sing, he finds some comfort in knowing that Michael's gift brings joy to hundreds of young men and women every day."

After spending more time at the school, attending alumni events and performances, Cunningham decided in 2008 to join the Building on the Tradition Campaign - Phase II with a \$1 million pledge. At the public announcement of the campaign, he was recognized as the lead donor. He also began sponsoring a student in the 2009-10 school year, a gift that he has extended to this year as well.

"Christian Brothers today has the responsibility of receiving students who need an awful lot of growing to be prepared for college and their careers," says Cunningham. "It was the most important phase of my life. I was able to grow up there. Now, I am fortunate to be in a position to be able to help the students. I just don't think they can get the care they need at other schools."

These days, George remains active with twice daily visits with Rosalie, who lives in an assisted living facility. He is a regular attendee at CB alumni and arts events, a member of the Brotherhoods, and enjoys attending the opera in San Francisco and the Portland Rose Festival each year.

"I am deeply grateful for George's generosity," says Barnes. "His support of the school and the difference he has made in the lives of our students will live on for generations."

To me, personally, he is a hero and one of the people I most admire in terms of his generosity, his continued devotion to his wife and his unwavering positive attitude. I am proud to call him a friend and delighted to recognize him as Christian Brothers High School's 2010 Ambassador of the Year."

## Ambassador of the Year Recipients

- 1988 Richard Carlson '47 †  
1989 John Jackson, Jr. '68  
Leo "Butch" Schuering, Jr. '60  
Charles Sylva '65  
1990 Ron Carissimi '51  
Msgr. Richard Dwyer '32 †  
James Mulhern  
Manuel Perry, Jr.  
Frank Ramos  
1991 Br. Bertram Coleman, FSC †  
Jean Lahey  
Norm Montgomery †  
Dwight "Dinty" Moore † (posthumously)  
Robert Roche '44  
Steve Scully '66 †  
1992 James Dunphy, Jr. '41  
1993 Robert Massa  
1994 Kassis Brothers (Frank†, Louis†, Edward†, Walter, Dr. John†)  
1995 Msgr. Edward Kavanagh  
1996 Dr. Donald Gillott  
1997 Frank '71 & Carrie Vellutini  
1998 John and Claudine † Jackson  
1999 Bob '48 & Mercedes Slakey  
2000 Sisters of Mercy, Auburn Regional Community  
2001 Bishop Weigand, D.D.  
2002 The Brothers of the Christian Schools  
2003 C. Stanley Gilliam '41  
2004 Sal "Chado" Vasquez '52  
2005 Thea Stidum  
2006 Lon '73 and Mary Ann Burford  
2007 Bill '68 and Elaine '68 Schaedler  
2008 Al '39 and Denise Franzoia  
2009 Asa Whetstone '51  
2010 George Cunningham '40





*"You are Ambassadors and Ministers of Jesus Christ"*  
*-St. John Baptist de La Salle*

The Croatian American Cultural Center  
3730 Auburn Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95821