



# SAINT LAZARUS

## Magazine

Newspaper of the Union Corps Saint Lazarus International

10<sup>th</sup> Edition

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2014

A report by Wolfgang Steinhardt



Yet another year has passed and again it is time to strike a balance.

With 2013 already being a very successful year it must be stated that 2014 was the the most successful year in the history of the Lazarus Union so far. While in 2013 we were able to move our seat to the venerable Castle Kreuzenstein and to hold two wonderful investitures of our Knighthood of Honour in the Imperial War Museum, 2014 was characterised by our acceptance as an “organisation with special consultative status with the United Nations”. To mark this event the “Lazarus Union UN-Remembrance Cross” was founded. Please make use of it.

I want to once more explain what the meaning of this “special consultative status” means for the Lazarus Union.

It means seven delegates accredited by name to the United Nations! Seven delegates each in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

These delegates not only are allowed to follow all UN ECOSOC meetings but do have the right to pipe up, file own proposals in the name of the Lazarus Union and look for allies with other UN delegations. The delegates have their own seats with name tags in meetings and conferences and may also use offices and conference rooms to prepare for meetings and conferences in the three cities named.

All Lazarus Union delegates with the United Nations have a “UN ground pass” which gives them permission for unlimited entry to the UN buildings. In 2015 we do plan to make use of this especially in New York, the UN seat of ECOSOC. Our local representative in New York is Chev. Martin von Grossmann, a Lazarus Union founding member, supported by CSLI LtCol Brian Reynolds.

Not even the biggest optimists (including myself) had thought that the Lazarus Union got awarded this international status by the United Nations so fast and without major problems.

I want to thank all here who participated in this success. First and foremost I thank the late secretary general Chev. Erich Josef Kadlec, who died suddenly last year and who was the inspirational driver for our UN application, also doing all the necessary research.

In 2014 the Lazarus Union attracted again more than 2,000 new personally registered members and the official number of members currently is more than 18,000. In this context I want to make some notes and clarifications regarding the Lazarus Union members.

The Lazarus Union as such can be compared to a “group holding organisation” as the Lazarus Union members are the various local Lazarus Union organisations and the various groups and unions affiliated with the union. Every one of these groups and local organisations possesses ONE vote at the general assembly. To this the members of the chair and the board of management, all nominated by name, are added so that the fate of the Lazarus Union



is directed and guided by approximately 120 members entitled to vote.

As the Lazarus Union asks neither for admission fees nor for membership fees from its members, the administration of the local members is in the responsibility of the local commanders or groups and unions affiliated with the Lazarus Union. Membership numbers are reported (rather) informally to the Lazarus Union HQ and are not verified.

Only when a member wants to be in uniform and to carry rank and insignia of the Lazarus Union it is necessary to send an extra personal application to the Lazarus Union for the chair to decide upon acceptance as an extraordinary member. The union commander then confirms the “rank” suggested by the local commander or changes it as he sees fit.

In other words, the “invisible” membership number is definitely to be considered higher than the official figures suggest and, according to my conservative estimate, definitely thought to be more than 40,000. All members from organisations affiliated with the Lazarus Union as “group member” are accepted and counted as “affiliated members”, even when not (yet) known by name. They also will be granted the right to be in uniform, if applied for. As of now more than 5,000 members officially are in uniform and registered by name.

Also for the Lazarus Union it is not that important how many members there are as the Lazarus Union wants to communicate an attitude based on tolerance, piety, charity, and altruism and not on “collecting membership fees.”

Important is the pursuit of our mission, not the money!

Because of this absolute voluntariness is emphasised. NOBODY must be forced into doing something. Only personal honour may compel someone to carry on with a duty taken over until either a successor is found or the member is released from the duty again.

Nobody is compelled to go in uniform! Nobody is compelled to buy devotional objects! Nobody needs to buy wearable distinctions! There merely is the RIGHT to do so if one WANTS to do it and the preconditions are met! This seriously distinguishes the Lazarus Union from (many) other organisations, something that also has to be stated with clarity. And the profit coming from all those items sold goes 100% into our various projects. Expenses are waived from all members, as is stated in our statutes.

We spend no money for representative offices, cars, furniture, or “trips by officials.” All members pay for their personal expenses themselves. Even telephone bills for duty calls from private mobile phones.

ALL officials from the Lazarus Union and affiliated groups, unions, and associations must follow this principle, or leave the Union. There is (unfortunately) absolutely NO tolerance to this from my side. To ensure this principle, all officials from the Executive Board, the Advisory Board, the Union Command, and the Local Commands will have to give a written statement in 2015 that they accept this.

The Lazarus Union is proud that as a result of these strict guidelines less than 2% of the official budget are labeled “administrative cost.” Most of those are for paper and





ink for printing of various documents. More than 5,400 membership certificates, rank certificates, legitimations, and award certificates have been printed by the secretary general's office and almost 50% of all awards have been awarded WITHOUT insignia fees.

It shall also be noted that all expenses are checked by "10 independent eyes" and a monthly statistical analysis is performed as well as a financial statement covering all receipts and expenditures. Receipts and expenditures are also done as well as booked by different persons! Full transparency is a very important and essential concern to me! This was also the precondition that the full Lazarus Union annual accounts report for 2014 is available already on beginning January 2015, for handing over to the elected auditors.

I do not want to inflate this annual report with event stories which can in detail be read on our web pages by everybody. So let me just briefly mention the main events of the previous year.

Notably: Our 8<sup>th</sup> Handicapped Air Day at Stockerau airfield. The many appearances of our music corps and here I cannot conceal the pleasure our music corps gives me. Soon a CD will be available with many live recordings from appearances of our ensembles, the marching formation, and the big band. It can be purchased from our web shop for a donation of EUR 15 plus p&p. The net revenue will be used to purchase some necessary equipment for the music corps. Included on the CD is the "Lazarus Union March" composed exclusively for the Lazarus Union by Johann Hausl and premiered at the memorable investiture for our Knighthood of Honour at Castle Kreuzenstein, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Also the many trips by members to England, Italy, Germany, Lithuania, Slovakia, Hungary, and Malta were beautiful and lasting memories in the last year. To list the numerous projects of all the national organisations and groups here would go beyond the scope of this report and I only point you to our home page and the various home pages of our union members.

Our homepage shall also be mentioned here: Unfortunately we had some most objectionable hacking attacks and had to set up our pages anew several times. On this occasion I want to say a big thank you to our web team, first and foremost to Oliver Gruber-Lavin, who patiently labours in the background on the design and the editorial job. The number of hits is most satisfactory and shows nicely that our home page is fully accepted as an international information and communication medium.

Special thanks go to three more important supporters (everyone is important, but those three especially). To Chev. Christoph Ptak, our (primus inter pares) vice president and manager of our CSLI shop, which is the basis and most important foundation for financing our projects, to our treasurer Dame Monika Gries, who manages our finances and accounts, and to our bandmaster Friedrich Lentner, who is responsible for the forming and assistance of our wonderful music corps and the musical activities.

On a personal note, some remarks concerning the emails I daily receive in great numbers. Emails requiring an answer or comment I usually answer promptly resp. to 99% within 48 hours. In 2014 I received exactly 26,497 emails (not counting SPAM) and answered 19,247 of those. One



can imagine the countless hours I have to spend on this every day.

I received hundreds of mails and postcards with season greetings and wishes for a happy new year and I am pleased about every one of them and give my sincerest thanks. Yet I do ask for your understanding that it is not possible for me to answer every single one, as much as I would love to.

As much as I love to communicate with everybody personally, I do ask to stick to the chain of command. There is no sense in asking for decisions from me which need to be done by the responsible local command chains. Direct responsibility of all local levels is a very important and personality developing factor in the Lazarus Union! An example: At a single blow there was a worldwide order of almost 1000 (free) service ID badges via email (many with incomplete details). If those are not processed within a few days I already receive remainder mails.

We all volunteer our time, some off a regular job, and I do ask for a little more patience and understanding for the comrades engaging themselves in the task. Would there have been such a large request for ID cards, had there been a fee of EUR 15 per ID card?

As can be seen on our home page, the Lazarus Union also had to circumnavigate several cliffs in 2014. Jealousy one (obviously) has to earn hard. Unfortunately we not only have friends but also some (occasionally grim and unfair) enemies. As neither myself nor the Lazarus Union can be accused of any misconducts, they tried with several cowardly, perfidiously, and false ANONYMOUS charges against the

Lazarus Union, several members, and me personally.

All these attacks were successfully warded off respectively "records set straight" and so I will not go into any details. I personally have forgiven ALL of them and hope that these people will in the future see the work of the Lazarus Union with more fairness and less envy. The Lazarus Union does not receive any grants and its members work rather in small individual and personal fields. A major part of our mission and our intention is to give others (small) pleasures. The Lazarus Union campaigns always for peace and reconciliation and has this also anchored in its statutes.

We focus on the future and the year 2015 has some challenges ready for us. Many foreign visits are planned, Canada, USA, England, Germany, Turkey, Italy, Cuba, Hungary, Slovakia, Malta, to name but a few. The "3<sup>rd</sup> International Hospitaller Symposium" in Vienna also will be a logistic and financial challenge. Therefore I URGENTLY ask all persons interested to QUICKLY register as otherwise the hotel reservations will expire and it is very difficult to get a hotel room in Vienna in September.

If we do not have enough foreign registrations by mid-March 2015 the international part will be cancelled and only the investiture of the knighthood of honour will be performed. I am rather pragmatic on this as I do not want to make any experiments at the expense of our many other activities. We love to work for our international friends but this work must particularly be accepted in this case (and in time).

Because of increasing requirements by the authorities and the immense costs (after



eight air days without any accident) there will be no air day in 2015. We will see how this develops in the future. We will focus more on music and try to have less cost intensive and risky projects.

Finally I thank all commanders and comrades in all countries where the Lazarus Union is active for their dedication. I thank our board of management for their valued contributions. But especially I thank my

chair and the extended supporting circle who together with me have done the main work for the Lazarus Union in the past year. I count on this also in 2015 and I trust you!

To this effect I also ask you to forgive me if I seem to be a little brisk and gruff occasionally and call a spade a spade. I am not perfect but I work on it and wish all of us a Happy and Successful New Year 2015.



## FLYING DAY FOR DISABLED 2014

A report by Oliver Gruber-Lavin



**As the LAZARUS UNION-CSLI had this year to do without an own air day because of hardly satisfiable requirements from the Austrian aviation authorities, the 8. air day was held within the scope of the 65. anniversary of the aviation club Stockerau. The LAZARUS UNION managed the handling for the guest flights for the handicapped aid Korneuburg, presented itself with a beautiful (new) info stand, and with our Union doctor Dr. Gabriel Halat provided for a medical aid centre.**

Saturday, before 9 o'clock, the first members led by our president Senator h.c. Wolfgang Steinhardt arrived at Stockerau airfield to set up the LAZARUS UNION info stand. Let me start by giving a big thank you to all our sponsors, especially the companies K&S Dacherrichtungs GesmbH and MATZNER Dachdecker GMBH, as well as all those others who supported us at this event.

At the info stand all interested persons got competent advice and info material on the activities of the LAZARUS UNION, also a small flea market was set up with "historic" badges and insignia, taken care of by our comrade CSLI Maj. Günter Eichinger. Also the newest badges in the style of the new "UN-NGO Remembrance Cross" could be obtained.

Although no "full air day," we were able to operate one helicopter (B206) and four airplanes Cessna C172. One plane was supported by the Fliegergruppe Wien, another one by the Austrian Army flying club, operated by Col Dr. Christoph Auner. Two planes were supported by the FSV

2000. Like in former years we could rely on AERIAL Helicopter and the AERIAL Lazarus Air Corps (ALAC) to support the helicopter. Helicopter pilot was Klaus Weber.

In total there were 25 flights, "lifting off" more than 70 handicapped passengers. Everybody had great fun and many wanted to have a second flight on the spot. Here fortunately the Stockerau flying club (FSV 2000) jumped in, offering more pleasure flights.

For keeping up the ground operations we were able to count on more than 50 helping hands from the CSLI and CSLA, some of them had a 600 km journey to come over. Thanks to all comrades! We were able to also invite the retired Member of the Austrian Parliament, Mrs. Dr. Helene Partik-Pablé, with her handicapped daughter and her nephew to a helicopter flight. Thanks to our very experienced pilots (after 7 successful air days) all flights with handicapped people could be operated without any problems and especially without any accidents.

All over the day there were most impressive aerobatics shows with motor and sailing planes. Beside the "real" planes there also was an interesting and very attractive model plane show with even a successful world record flight which will make it into the "Guinness Book of Records".

For the physical well-being of the guests the LAZARUS UNION and the veteran association provided free coffee and cakes. The cakes were supported by the bakery BALZ from Korneuburg. Also here a full-hearted thank you.

In the afternoon our president awarded two new ground crew members their new "silver wings," CSLI 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Ernestine Lentner and CSLI Col. Franz Lentner (the



deputy band master of the LAZARUS UNION music corps), after they successfully completed the CSLI ground crew training course. Some comrades from the Hoch- und Deutschmeister from Mannheim (Baden) were also surprised with awards.

Summit of this day was the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the FSV 2000, starting sharp at 19:00. On the occasion of this celebration the LAZARUS UNION awarded the president and honorary member of the FSV 2000, mayor retd. Toni Pfeiffer, the "Lazarus Cross of the Union Special Level" in substitution for all FSV 2000 members. During his laudation our president mentioned the merits of the FSV 2000 over the years regarding handicapped people, making the FSV 2000 something very special, hard to find nowadays.

This ceremonial act was attended by representatives from the county govm. of Lower Austria, from the city of Stockerau, from the Austrian Army (Bgdr Mag. Striedinger, military commander Lower Austria) and many guests from the surrounding communities.

After darkness the model plane pilots impressed with a show with planes lit up by many lights before big fireworks brought the day to an end.

Sunday the LAZARUS UNION continued to man its info stand and insignia flea market. This day again was full with impressive air shows – real and model planes alike.

Before the info stand had to be shut down because of an approaching thunderstorm president Steinhardt was able to present a special award.

CSLI Major Klaus Weber, former student pilot of our president and just returned from an Iraq mission was promoted to CSLI LtCol. and awarded the Lazarus Union Commander's Cross. As a special thank you the president handed LtCol. Weber over his personal and the only existing golden pilot wing with old inlay as a special dedication and thank you. Klaus Weber was the one who had the idea to hold these air days eight years ago. It was an emotional summit in the long tradition of the CSLI air days.

Also on this day union doctor Gabriel Halat had nothing to do, something everybody was very glad of, and so the day ended with everybody being most pleased. Again it was a good and successful event in the history of the LAZARUS UNION!

For those interested here is the link to the preparation work.





## INVESTITURE 2014

A report by Erich Kadlec



**On Sept. 6. 2014, the ceremonial investiture of the LAZARUS UNION Knighthood of Honour took place at Kreuzenstein Castle, which finally has become the official seat of the LAZARUS UNION and its Knighthood of Honour. The owner and lord of the castle - Hans-Christian Count Wilczek - has on June 21. 2013, given his approval that Castle Kreuzenstein may be named as "official titular seat" of the LAZARUS UNION and its Knighthood of Honour.**

The investiture ceremony, which was held for the 10. time, has almost become routine for many knights of honour. But this time it was a very special and dignified event for us and the many guests. The tremendous background scene of the inner bailey provided for a festive and ritualistic ambience, illuminated by more than 40 spotlights (with their own choreography).

Until the last minute we feared for the weather, which was even more important this time as today's event was considered the final test for next year when the LAZARUS UNION organises the 3.INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALLER SYMPOSIUM Sept. 3. to 6. 2015. Planned are a symposium, a summer ball, and also a ceremonial investiture at Kreuzenstein Castle.

The event commenced in the early afternoon with a large framework programme. Among other events a castle tour was offered, which took the guests on an exciting trip through the centuries as well as a visit to the birds of prey Show.

Falconry is between 3000 and 4000 years old and was developed in the Asian

steppes. Besides laying out traps like snares, hunting with birds of prey was the only chance to provide meat for food. Therefore falconry is the oldest hunting technique of the world and has been declared an immaterial cultural heritage by UNESCO.

A "knight's banquet" sustained our guests, yet it had to remain uncertain if medieval knights already had pretzels to go with their lentil stew.

A LAZARUS UNION band concert is also integral part of our event, directed by bandmaster Fritz Lenthner.

The planned champagne reception was replaced by a wine tasting, organised by Fichtenbauer-Mold Winery from Langenlois.

The preparations for the ceremony commence. Guard of Honour commander CSLI LtCol Gregor Holubek organises for the colours to take their place at the inner bailey. A really impressive picture - 36 flags and banners provided for an impressive background view.

Our special thanks once again go to the "knights" from Prima Nocte, Milites Sancti Imperii and Armani Domini. They acted as our standard bearers, with their historical clothing building a bridge to the beginning of the former Lazarus order.

The ceremonial marching in of the postulants and the knights of honour mark the start of the ceremony. The CSLI fanfare and a march are Sound.

Our experienced protocol officer, LtCol. ret. Rudolf Murth, leads through the evening, this time in CSLI uniform. CSLI 1.Lt. Andreas Menhart and his team take care of the sound and light effects.



Our president and Grand Master Senator h.c. Wolfgang Steinhardt welcomed the guests. As during many previous investiture ceremonies we were able to welcome representatives from various friend organisations, the Radetzky Order, the Order of St. Michael, the Radetzky Hussars, Spillern voluntary fire brigade, the comradeship organisations, the Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem as well as many guests, friends and relatives of our postulants, and Knights of Honour and CSLI members.

The crusader's fanfare led over to the presentation of the banners. Every Knight of Honour is entitled to his own coat of arms and also to present this coat of arms on a banner at official Events.

The Grand Master after calling the name handed the banner over to the knight being honoured with the banner.

Banners were presented to Dame Monika Gries and to Chev. Hans Rudolf Gries. In remembrance of this day friendship bands were presented to all the banner delegations. In total 36 banners, standards, and flags were present.

Parson Markus Ferenc from Leobendorf blessed the insignias, after giving an excuse for being late which amused the audience: "I am in Leobersdorf since five days only ... I have seen the castle from afar, but could not find the correct road ... Then I stood in front of the castle gates, listening to all the music, but the gates were closed."

It is tradition in the course of all investitures that the Lazarus Union officer's promise is renewed by all officers present. "I promise on my honour ..." Chev. Wolfgang Leitner, member of the chapter and chair of the honorary council directed the ceremony.

This was followed by remembering all those comrades who had already been

called to the Great Army and for all those who had died in the course of support missions. This remembrance is celebrated especially dignified and ceremonially as can be seen in the Video.

During his speech, the Grand Master especially addressed the Lazarus Union mission statement (our basics – tolerance, humbleness, mercy, and brotherly love), giving a short summary of the history of the organisation, having more than 17,000 members in over 75 countries worldwide on all continents. We also are especially proud having received "Special Consultative Status" with the United Nations (ECOSOC), which goes far beyond our former roster status. Our delegates have already participated in several events in the Vienna International Centre and in New York.

Most guests also for the first time were able to listen to the "Lazarus Union March", composed by Johannes Hausl who also directed the performance and afterwards presented the score to our president, to whom the march is also dedicated. With this act the LAZARUS UNION not only has its own march but in total three relevant pieces of music: the Pappenheim March, the crusader's fanfare, and the Lazarus Union March. As a thank you the composer was awarded the special grade of the Union's Lazarus Cross for science, research and arts, a distinction which will be awarded only one single time!

The investiture of the new knights of honour provided for the climax of the ceremony. The protocol officer called all candidates by their name and the Grand Master asked the already famous questions: "*I ask you therefore, before the assembled congregation: Do you of your own free will as ... .. (here the rank and position to which the candidate is to be commissioned is used) want to belong to our community and accept our mission?*" and "*Are you aware what it means to be a member of this community?*"



After answering with *"I want it with all my heart!"* and *"Yes, I am!"* the candidates receive the insignia of their new dignity: the sword from Grand Marshal Chev. Ewald Angetter, the mantle from Grand Knight and member of the board Col. ret. Adolf H. Neidhart, and the insignia of the LAZARUS UNION Knighthood of Honour from our Collane Knight Hans-Christian Count Wilczek.

After the symbolic accolade by Lazarus Union president and Grandmaster of the Knighthood of Honour, Senator h.c. Wolfgang Steinhardt, the new Knight of Honour is welcomed into the society with the triple kiss of brotherhood. After this the new Knight faces the audience while the Grand Master presents the new knight with the words:

*"Dear attendees, friends, comrades: here is our new Knight of Honour, we applaud him."*

After the applause the CSLI Fanfare and the Colours honour the new knight. This ceremony is then conducted for every single knight and dame of honour as it is a very special ceremony and shall be remembered with pleasure.

Appointed Dame of Honour resp. Knight of Honour were: Edith Lentner, Ernestine Lentner, Fritz Lentner, Giedrius Petruzis,

Prof. Dr. Josef Michael Schramm, Klaus Weber, Ludwig Brunner, Romualdas Ramasauskas, Rudolf Murth, and Sascha Valenta.

Promotions are also a regular topic during our investitures: appointed Knight Commander were: Chev. Hannes Hochmuth, Chev. Hans-Rudolf Gries, Chev. Dr. Oswin Hochstöger, and Chev. Werner Winkelhofer. Appointed Grand Commander were: Chev. Algis Klimaitis, Chev. Dipl.-Ing. Herbert Paulis, and Chev. Josef-Maria Gebel.

Also some awards were presented by the Lazarus Union, this time to: Andreas Antony, Josef Kühner, Alexander Mattauschig, Ferdinand Mayer, Adolf Huber, Christoph Koidl, Josef Grlinger, Markus Preishuber, Wolfgang Vierlinger, Herbert Brandstetter, Prof.Dr. Josef Schramm, Johann Hausl, and Franz Lentner.

As a final surprise Manuela Murth presented the "Fare Well Song" in a wonderful and emotional performance. All guests remained seated afterwards, nobody wanted to leave after this incredible song!

Our big and cordial thanks to all comrades who participated in making this event possible!





## IMPRESSIONS





## INVESTITURE ST. MICHAEL ORDER 2014

A report by Hannes Hochmuth



**On 27<sup>th</sup> September, the Order of Knights of St. Michael celebrated the Feast of St. Michael in the ancient fortified church of St. Michael at Weissenkirchen. (First mentioned in documents in the year 987, this was formerly an extensive parish and mother Church of the entire Wachau region.)**

The Order of Knights of St. Michael is one of the long-time friends of the LAZARUS UNION and is always a welcome guest at our events. Therefore we happily accepted the invitation to their Convention and Patron-Saint Festival, and a 14-member delegation (10 Knights of Honour and four senior members of the Corps Saint Lazarus Austria (CSLA) with flag) represented the LAZARUS UNION at this beautiful celebration.

Presently more friendly organisations and guests arrived: The Radetzky Order, the Knights of the Wine, the Knights of the Heart from Tyrol, the German Order of Knights of St. Michael and many other guests.

The Mayor of St. Michael / Weissenkirchen, Dipl.-Ing. Anton Bodenstein, honoured the festival with his presence and made a very heartfelt keynote speech.

At 14:00 the solemn procession into the church began. The Pastor of the Church, Reverend Peter Rückl M.A., celebrated solemn Mass with a wonderful musical ac-

companiment from the Cantemus Choir, under the direction of Choir Director Erich Klug. It was a real 'auditory delight'!

After the Service, and the usual group photos (there were about 70 participants this year) a wine presentation at the Bayer Winery was announced. All the participants were able to enjoy delicious Grüner Veltliner and freshly baked bread. Thus strengthened, we proceeded to the castle ruins of Aggstein using the ferry at Weissenkirchen to cross the Danube to Aggstein.

After all the participants had arrived at the Aggstein ruins, the Convention (General Assembly) of the Order of Knights of St. Michael (correctly: 'The High Laudable Order of the Freeman and Knights of Saint Michael') was held. On the occasion of this Convention, Prof. Guido Mancusi M.A. was elected new Grand Master.

While the Order's General Assembly was being held the guests enjoyed a champagne reception, including a stunning 'apricot champagne', and of course tours of the Castle and the Nibelungen Exhibition.

At 18:00 the ceremony started for all Order members and guests with a solemn entry of the Knights and the Chapter in the beautifully restored grand hall of Aggstein Castle.

The highlight was the new Grand Master swearing his oath and then being solemnly inaugurated in front of the entire congregation by the Grand Prior of the Order, Dr.hc. Gerhard Ficker.

Various awards were made to deserving members and a new Knight was admitted to the Order.



The ceremonial Knighthood was granted by the new Grand Master with the traditional words: "... Receive as a sign of humility, this last blow and accept as a knight then no more..."

The 'best knightly saying' was then announced: "The buffet is open."

The 'Aggstein Castle feast' was fragrant and ready. Fried spare ribs, chips, sausages, baked chicken from the castle, dumplings, cooked cabbage and lettuce were offered and gallantly eaten. A sweet knight's dish: 'flaky dumplings with stewed fresh plums', rounded off this superb meal.

It was a very friendly and harmonious celebration for which we thank you very much in the Order of Knights of St. Michael and look forward to next year. As our President particularly pointed out in his message "... It's nice to have friends who pursue common objectives and who do not indulge in petty and blinkered 'competition'.

At the height of the celebrations we had to depart, after all, we still had a long way to go, with the autumn mist (or was it something else) accompanying us on our journey back to Vienna.



## INVESTITURE ST. JOACHIM ORDER 2014

A report by Mike Boxall



**On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014, The Equestrian, Secular and Chapterial Order of Saint Joachim, United Kingdom Commandery 'Edward the Confessor', held its annual Investiture Ceremony at St Anne's Church, Limehouse. Five members of the Union Corps Saint Lazarus International (LAZARUS UNION) were present at the ceremony.**

Commander of The United Kingdom Commandery, and also Colonel (CSLI), Simon McIlwaine lead proceedings, ably supported by the Commander of the Canadian Commandery, David Douglas, a Major-General (CSLI). Andy Smith, the United Kingdom Commandery Deputy Commander and a Major (CSLI) and David Johnstone, a Knight in the Order and Colonel (CSLI) were also present and, attending as a guest of the Order, Mike Boxall, Major (CSLI).

Vice Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson is arguably the most celebrated and recognized member of The Order of Saint Joachim, having been conferred the rank and title of Knight Grand Commander of the Order in recognition of his victory over Napoleon's troops at the Battle of the Nile. It's little wonder that the UK Commandery maintains a strong maritime connection.

Proceedings at this Investiture began with the entry of an Honour Guard formed of Sea Cadets from the Newham Cornwell VC Sea Cadet Unit under the command of Sub Lieutenant Adam Mendrys. The Officers and Knights of the Order then processed through the guard to take their places in the Chapter Hall.

The Rev. Gordon Warren, Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Navy, welcomed us to St Anne's with some fascinating facts about the church. Built between 1714 and 1727, St Anne's has the highest church clock in London. With its prominent position near the Thames, it became a Trinity House seamark on all navigation charts for this part of the river and is permitted to fly the White Ensign, the exclusive Ensign of the Royal Navy.

After the formal opening of the Investiture and blessings, the Commander of The United Kingdom Commandery admitted one Postulant (Knight Expectant) to the Order, raised four Knights Expectant to the rank of Knight, installed one Knight and raised one Knight to the rank of Knight Commander.

Investing a new Knight in the Order is a six-stage process. The new Knight takes an Oath to the Order, kneels for the sword strokes of knighthood, has his heels tapped symbolically with a spur, receives white gloves symbolic of a Knight's clear conscience. Then the Commander raises the new Knight to his feet and presents him with the Order's Neck Cross and Certificate.

After all the Knighthoods had been conferred, the Convocation concluded with a blessing and the Order's traditional words of closing: "Love and Peace be with us!" All then processed out and gathered for group photos on the church steps.

A short walk through Limehouse brought us to The Narrow, a Gordon Ramsey restaurant with panoramic views of the river Thames. After Loyal and Order toasts, taken sitting down in Royal Naval tradition, the three-course meal and wines were greatly enjoyed.

Speeches and the presentation of a donation to the Newham Cornwell VC Sea Cadet





Unit followed before we all again assembled for another short walk to the Museum of London Docklands.

After a brief stay that wetted the appetite to re-visit this fascinating museum we all boarded a Thames Clipper for the journey up-river to Tower Bridge. The high-speed catamaran made short work of the journey, bringing us to The Tower of London to view the major artistic installation entitled 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red'. This has filled the Tower's famous dry moat with over 800,000 ceramic poppies to create a powerful visual commemoration for the First World War Centenary.

A visit to St Katherine's Dock, to board one of the Little Ships that went to the aid of the British Expeditionary Force during Operation Dynamo (the evacuation of Dunkirk) in 1940, brought to an end a special day of maritime-related events.

As a first-time attendee at an Equestrian, Secular and Chapterial Order of Saint Joachim annual Investiture, I found the Investiture and programme of events inspiring. With so many fellow-CSLI members also members in The Order of St Joachim, the warm welcome I received reflected the closeness of our two organisations.





## INVESTITURE KNIGHTS OF MALTA 2014

A report by Josef-Maria Gebel



**A delegation of the Lazarus Union Knighthood of Honour (Chev. Christoph Ptak, Chev. Hannes Hochmuth, Chev. Josef.Maria Gebel) led by Grand Master Senator h.c. Wolfgang Steinhardt followed an invitation from the "SOVEREIGN ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM, KNIGHTS OF MALTA".**

After a leisurely trip through Hungary we arrived in best autumn weather at the location "Château Bela" in Slovakia.

I want to mention at this place that Lady Ann Popper and Chev. George Popper are members of our Knighthood of Honour since its first investiture at the Wiener Hofburg.

After a jovial lunch the first agenda item was due, the "general chapter of the knights and postulants".

Our president and Union Commander presented the Lazarus Union and its new status as an "NGO in Special Consultative Sta-

tus with the United Nations" after which a cooperation treaty was signed between the FEDERATION MEDICAL AID International and the LAZARUS UNION.

Then a Catholic mass was celebrated in the chapel of the Château Bela. Here it became apparent that when people from various nations come together speaking many different tongues, the Latin mass rites allow all participants to follow the celebration.

After the mass the investiture ceremony was held in the orangery of Château Bela. In the course of this investiture our Grand Master Senator h.c. Wolfgang Steinhardt was appointed "Knight Commander" of the "Sovereign Order of Cyprus – Knights of Sword and Silence".

Lady Ann Popper perfectly moderated the dignified ceremony.

To express the mourning for our departed comrade secretary general Chev. Erich Kadlec, we did not participate in the following gala dinner and ball but commenced our trip back home.



## HOCH- UND DEUTSCHMEISTER REMEMBRANCE CONCERT 2014

A report by Hans-Rudolph Gries



The visitors of the house which was fully booked were to expect quite some aural pleasure.

**A memorial concert celebrating the 100. birthday of Horst Winter, 125. birthday of Julius Herrmann and 150. birthday of Wilhelm Wacek**

The welcome and introduction was given to the audience and the guests of honour by the chair of the Hoch- und Deutschmeister, Mr. Ralph Osner. The musical introduction was composed of the Deutschmeister fanfare, the Liebenauer cadet March, Wien-Berlin, and Horst Winter's former hit, Little Bear. After a well-needed break, the temperature in the hall was mid-summery hot, melodies by Robert Stolz were played, all hailing the Hoch- und Deutschmeister Regiment.

**After this our president, Senator h.c. Wolfgang Steinhardt, in a short speech presented the goals and achievements of the Lazarus Union to the audience.**

Then honours were presented to bandmaster Reinhold Nowotny for his long mu-

sical and artistic achievements. With great éclat he was to receive the Officer's Cross of the Lazarus Cross for Arts, Science, and Research.

For her tireless charitable work (for years already clothes and items for daily usage are collected for the homeless) Horst Winter's widow, Mrs. Dipl.-Päd. Dorothea Winter, was awarded the Commander's Cross of the Lazarus Union by our president.

Both were surprised and honoured, and very pleased to have received these high awards. The ceremony was followed by some encores of the band. There might very well have been more but the temperature was close to that of a Sauna.

The CSLI delegation then met at typical Viennese tavern for a drink and a snack. Present were Wolfgang Steinhardt with his wife, Prof. Hans König, Ludwig-Loui Brunner with his wife, Christoph Ptak, Hannes Hochmuth with his wife, Monika and Hans-Rudolf Gries. All together a wonderful afternoon, very advisable.



## CHARITY CONCERT IN GROßWEIKERSDORF

A report by "Spectator"

**On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014, as a final event of the current musical year of our music corps a concert of our big band directed by our musical representative, CSLI Brig Friedrich Lentner, was conducted in the large ballroom of the restaurant "Maurer". Motto of the concert was: "Glenn Miller and his contemporaries".**

Guided by this motto and moderated professionally by our new secretary general and protocol officer Rudolf Murth the big band brought us back to the golden era of swing. Vocalist "Franky" W. Werner made us believe that Frank Sinatra personally was singing for us.

One of the purposes of this event was also to thank our friends of the voluntary fire brigades of Lower Austria for their friendship and assistance this year and to publicly appreciate the job of the voluntary fires brigades.

The Lazarus Union cordially congratulates all of them!

The awards were presented by Lazarus Union President Senator h.c. Wolfgang Steinhardt who in his laudation prized the always ready, altruistic, and indispensable efforts of the voluntary fire brigades in service of the people as a very special example of "modern knighthood".

There was also a large dance floor which after some initial shyness was well frequented, not least because the moderator frequently announced "ladies' choice" and of course no man thus selected could refuse the "choice".

Obviously there was no ending without lots of encores and so the concert which was actually planned for two hours actually lasted for three hours, well until 11pm. A big thank you also to the restaurant "Maurer" for treating us with excellent food and service, also providing the ballroom for free.

A blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year to all comrades, friend, supporters, and sponsors of the Lazarus Union!





## DONATION OF APPLE JUICE TO THE MARKTZEULN KINDERGARTEN

A report by Sven Dietel



Last Friday (11/21/2014), the founding Board Members of the Corps Saint Lazarus International, Germany Command, Sven Dietel, Hermann-Dietrich Streit and Katja

Dietel made a donation of apple juice to the kindergarten in Marktzeuln.

Over 600 pounds of apples were collected in the orchards. These were then pressed and processed into high-quality, local juice.

The kindergarten in Marktzeuln can now enjoy over 300 litres of juice that the children can consume in the coming months. Sven Dietel particularly thanked the community of Marktzeuln and their 1st Mayor, Gregor Friedlein-Zech, for permission to harvest from the apple trees in Horb am Main and Marktzeuln. These orchards provided enough fruit for the all the delicious juice.

The commander of CSLI Germany, Sven Dietel, spoke about the good work of the

kindergarten in Marktzeuln and expressed pleasure that his organization could give a helping hand to the kindergarten.

He also spoke briefly about the CSLI in Germany, explaining that the CSLI is an independent, private organization following the ideals and spirit of Saint Lazarus. Members share the objective of disaster relief and bringing other people pleasure, especially people with disabilities and the homeless. All members are volunteers.

The CSLI was founded in Austria and now



also has a large number of supporters in Germany.





## VINZI RAST DONATION 2014

A report by Oliver Gruber-Lavin



**A few days before Christmas, Chev. Hans-Rudolf Gries, Chev. Hannes Hochmuth and Chev. Josef Maria Gebel as representatives of the Knighthood of Honour, and the Deputy Treasurer Col. (CSLI) Oliver M. Gruber Lavin as a representative of the Executive Committee of the LAZARUS UNION visited the “Vinzi Rast”, an emergency overnight accommodation in Vienna.**

Up to 60 people, mainly dependent on alcohol, often mentally ill, will find a warm bed, simple dinner and breakfast, rest, relaxation, confidence, a plaster, a pair of socks, a conversation and attention. In the foreground stays the unconditional acceptance and respect for each individual. The people are accepted as they are. Ms. Christine Öllinger explained For the guests recognition and dignity are as important as for each of us.”

A financial contribution of 2 € is to be paid for an overnight stay.

Like last year, the Lazarus Union has started a donation campaign to make the

Christmas holidays and the turn of the year free of contribution. Thanks to the helpfulness of many individual donators, as well as the tireless efforts of our cashier lady Monika Gries, more than € 600. – could be collected.

During the visit in the night shelter the donation check was presented to the house manager, Ms. Christine Öllinger. Ms. Öllinger thanked in her name and on behalf of the director and Chairwoman Ms. Cecily Corti for this Christmas gesture.

**Next year the LAZARUS UNION will support the “Vinzi Rast” again by donations**



**as well as volunteering.**

We thank all our donors and wish a Merry Christmas.



## CSLI NORTHERN GERMANY COLLECTS FOR "MITTAGSKINDER"

A report by Hans-Georg Pesch



CSLI Northern Germany collects for a 'kids lunch' charity

As last year, CSLI Northern Germany raised cash and donations in kind for those in need.

This time collections were for the Mittagskinder Foundation in Hamburg Neuwiedenthal. The Foundation supports two locations in Hamburg where socially disadvantaged children who can barely afford lunch are catered for. Volunteers man these locations from 13:00 - 19:30.

From Monday to Friday, 80 children regularly come to eat, play and do their homework together.

A very special attraction of the Neuwiedenthal site is the play area in front of the club's terrace doors. There is also plenty of space to play in the grounds where the children also grow vegetables and herbs. (Source: Info Homepage of the Foundation)

### Child Poverty in Hamburg

Hamburg is particularly affected by child poverty. Many children are not receiving regular healthy meals. 20% of under six year olds are on Social Support. Every third child this age comes from a family that lives below the poverty line.

### Figures and Background Information

According to a study published by the UN Children's Fund UNICEF, child poverty in Germany is increasing more than in most other industrialised countries.

Every tenth child, a total of 1.5 million, is growing up in relative poverty. Their families are on less than half the average income.

We all know that deprivation of education and participation in social and public life excludes people. The Mittagskinder Foundation, in its promotion and education initiatives through books, music, theatre, sports and nature, can open doors for children to an independent and responsible life. (www.stiftung-mittagskinder.de)

To help relieve this need a little, CSLI Northern Germany has decided that this year's money,



made through donations and collections, will go to the Mittagskinder Foundation and the children of the Neuwiedenthal site.

Even though charitable donations in Germany are decreasing, 300 euros together with certain donations in kind have been raised by CSLI Northern Germany. The collection will be transferred to the management of the Neuwiedenthal site on 23.12.2014 at 11:30h. In addition, CSLI North Germany has established an annual subsidy of € 200 to the Mittagskinder Foundation.



## SWEETENING THE DAILY LIFE OF PEOPLE IN NEED

### A LAZARUS CORPS DONATION FOR ADVENT

A report by Sven Dietel



In good time for the beginning of Advent, the Commander of CSLI Germany, Sven Dietel, together with his wife Katja and daughter Alexa handed nearly 150 Advent Calendars

to the Chairman of the Burgkunstadter Table charity, Silke Mohler.

When handing over the calendars at the Burgkunstadter Town Hall, Sven Dietel explained that a new member of the Lazarus Corps had sponsored these chocolate-filled Advent Calendars. He thanked all the volunteers of the People in Need's Burgkunstadter Table who have so much to do in the weeks before Christmas and promised that another large donation would be passed on shortly.

He also spoke briefly about the CSLI in Germany, explaining that: the CSLI is an independent, private organization following the ideals and spirit of Saint Lazarus. Members share the objective of disaster relief and bringing other people pleasure, especially people with disabilities and the homeless. All members are volunteers. The CSLI was founded in Austria and now also has a large number of supporters in Germany.





## A HEART FOR THOSE IN NEED

CHRISTMAS DONATION FROM THE CORPS SAINT LAZARUS

A report by Sven Dietel



For the Christmas meeting of the Burgkunstadter Table charity, Sven and Katja Dietel and Hermann-Dietrich Streit, as representatives of the Corps Saint Lazarus Interna-

tional, presented 132 packs of sweets and 127 packs of sausages to the Burgkunstadter group.

This was the fifth time that the Corps had supported the Table with a Christmas donation. About 2000 euros had been donated to bring the Table's clients some joy before Christmas. As Silke Mohler, President of the Burgkunstadter Table said, The Soldaten und Traditionskameradschaft (Soldiers and Traditional Comrades Community) Lettenreuth (STK) and all the other patrons of CSLI Germany deserve great thanks for this achievement.

The Corps Saint Lazarus International is a private organization, acting in accordance with the ideals of Saint Lazarus. Connected in the spirit of tolerance, humility, charity and love, it has taken up the causes of disaster relief, providing for the disabled and the homeless and simply bringing pleasure to other people. All members are volun-

teers. Especially in this day and age, more and more people need help and support, not only in crisis areas, but also in local neighbourhoods. Here the Lazarus Union aims to help.

On behalf of all the Table's clients, Silke Mohler gave thanks for the Christmas gifts that were so very welcome just before the holidays. She expressed the joy of the whole Table team, saying: "I know how much time and personal commitment lies



behind such a comprehensive fundraising campaign. We are excited every year that you provide such a generous donation, it seems almost incredible that you've done it again."





## THE SWORD OF FREEDOM – CORPS

A SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP OF THE LAZARUS UNION CSLI

A report by Bernd Höhle



The Sword of Freedom – Corps is a registered, humanitarian, international peace and relief organization (NGO) inside and under the umbrella of the LAZARUS UNION. In more than 120 countries it super-

vises, maintains and supports various national and international aid projects. Its purpose is to promote and support needy, sick, disabled and elderly people. Individual sections are active worldwide through financial, material and personal assistance where necessary in cases of poverty, misery and disaster.

The SOF Corps' steady commitment is characterized by the three pillars of helpfulness, respect and tolerance. The strong association of members consists predominantly of police, fellow athletes, martial artists and volunteers. All have joined forces in the service of life, peace and common humanity with the purpose expressed in the phrase: "We are for others with no one alone". All activities and actions are apolitical and neutral. Everyone, regardless of origin, religion, ethnicity, race or social status is welcome, as are any other interested parties.

"Humanity is life in action!" As part of its fraternal peace work the SOF Corps regularly organises trans-national events where worldwide international contacts are made and friendships maintained. The

Corps maintains and supervises many youth and adult groups in leisure, sport and experiential learning in which the integration of people from other cultures and those with disabilities are important components.

"Help where the heart demands action": In the field of social welfare the SOF Corps regularly organizes fundraisers and fundraising projects for the benefit of charitable purposes. Various aid projects are supported in the Philippines, Nepal, Africa, India and Thailand, as well as projects in Europe and South America. This support



extends from assisting humanitarian aid delivery and the use of medical auxiliary corps to the pastoral care of the needy.

The badges and insignia of the uniformed forces of the Sword of Freedom – Corps consciously do not use the cross as a symbol. They feature instead the unique distinctive SOF symbol, the flaming sword.



## IN MEMORIAM



...we once had a comrade,  
you will find no better....

**Dear Comrades!**  
**Dear Dames and Knights of Honour!**  
**Dear Friends and Patrons of the Lazarus Union!**

Deeply mourning we have the sad duty to inform you of the sudden and completely unexpected demise of

the secretary general of the Lazarus Union,  
the commander of the Lazarus Union's Knighthood of Honour,  
the member of the chapter of the Lazarus Union's Knighthood of Honour,  
the Lazarus Union delegate at the United Nations,  
the holder of various high national and international awards,

but first of all our cordial friend, faithful comrade, and amiable human,  
valued, estimated, and respected by everybody,



**H.E. Chevalier GenLt CSLI Erich Kadlec**

We ask God to mercifully allow Erich's eternal soul into his kingdom without delay. As of now we have no additional information but we will take care for a dignified funeral for Erich. Just recently he said among comrades, "... for the past five years the Lazarus Union has been my family..."

For the Lazarus Union, deeply mourning

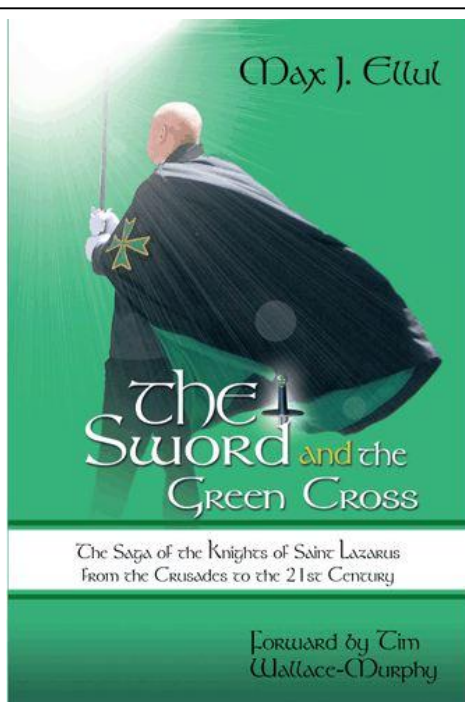
Senator h.c. Wolfgang Steinhardt  
President and Grand Master of the Knighthood of Honour

Vienna, 12. October 2014





**Create new Perspectives together!**



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