ALL ABOUT THE 2018 DOWNTOWN'S HERITAGE TOURISM ASSOCIATION

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO has for nearly two centuries served as the hub of activity and meaning for the community of San Juan Capistrano. Long before the incorporation of the City in 1961 the historic downtown was home to hotels, restaurants, gas stations, churches, post offices, the depot, and more. Today, the downtown continues to be a vibrant setting of historic “architecture meets tradition.”

When the Heritage Tourism Association (HTA) was established in 2015 its purpose was to join together the non-profit museum and business community members in the downtown to help promote it as a destination for locals and visitors alike.

From the Historical Society to the Library, guests from all over the world can now better discover the unique architectural heritage that surrounds the Mission.

With the work of many, the Heritage Tourism Association’s inaugural “free map and guide” was conceived and developed with over 40 members of the historic downtown joining together to share in the production costs of the project. With the Mission’s leadership and the support of the Mission Preservation Foundation encouraging “us to get the word out” about local shopping, dining and discovering the area, the program was successfully launched.

Recognizing the Mission and members of the Heritage Tourism Association efforts, Mayor Ferguson awarded the organization with Business Entity of the Year in 2017 and celebrated the group’s effort to encourage a guest experience within the Mission walls, and the area adjoining it.

See ALL ABOUT THE 2018 DOWNTOWN CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

ANNUAL RMV RODEO RETURNS TO CAPISTRANO

Rancho Mission Viejo Rodeo celebrates 18 years of good old family entertainment with a western style rodeo. The RMV Rodeo continues to elevate the level of competition which draws the best contestants from across the world to compete in the richest two day Rodeo in the nation with a purse totaling over $180,000.

See ANNUAL RMV RODEO RETURNS CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

THE LEGEND OF THE SWALLOWS OF SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

The miracle of the “Swallows” of San Juan Capistrano takes place each year at historic Mission San Juan Capistrano, on March 19th, St. Joseph’s Day.

As the little birds wing their way back to the Mission, the town of San Juan Capistrano welcomes visitors from all parts of the world, to witness the return of the swallows, a tradition started by Father O’Sullivan that has been celebrated since the early 1930s.

See THE LEGEND OF THE SWALLOWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Pick up your FREE Downtown map & guide at the Mission Store!

Enter on Ortega Hwy
26801 Ortega Hwy, San Juan Capistrano
Located at Mission San Juan Capistrano
SERRA CHAPEL, AN ONGOING PLACE OF INSPIRATION AND TRADITION

BY MECHELLE LAWRENCE ADAMS
Editor and MEGAN DUKETT Contributor

Serra Chapel is one of the State’s most historically significant chapels and is one of San Juan Capistrano’s original locations for the daily celebration of the Eucharist. At nearly 240 years, the Chapel has survived into the 21st century as a place of deep meaning and faith tradition.

In fact, while Mission San Juan Capistrano is renowned as the “Jewel of the Missions,” the Serra Chapel could be considered “the jewel of the jewel” and stands as a proud monument to California’s early multi-cultural history, embracing a Native American, Spanish, Mexican, European and American heritage.

The Chapel was built and constructed by local Native Americans as baptized Catholics re-named “Juanitos.” These builders were originally known as the Acjachemen people. According to the Mission’s registers, Saint Junipero celebrated Mass in the Chapel in 1783 and by 1811 more than 1,200 people lived and worked at the Mission as a thriving community of Catholic tradesmen, farmers, soldiers and clergy.

After secularization in 1833, many events changed the course of the Mission’s history. In 1845, Mexican governor Pio Pico sold the Mission buildings at auction to his brother-in-law John Forster. For the next 20 years, John Forster and his wife Ysidora Pico Forster used the South Wing as their home and raised their family. The Forsters also maintained a small room for the priest who was assigned to serve the community of San Juan Capistrano. Although Serra Chapel remained an active parish, the priests’ records indicated only 23 parishioners lived in town or at nearby ranchos by the 1850s.

After the Mission was returned to the Catholic Church in 1865, the Mission underwent long periods of deferred maintenance and experienced decades of decline through the late 1800s. By 1891 Serra Chapel was deemed unsafe to hold services.

When Serra Chapel was no longer in use as a place of worship the daily Mass was relocated to its adjoining southbound room, the Sala. Historic photos taken the early 1900s confirm this.

However, with the early 20th century’s innovation of the automobile and subsequent rise in interest in California’s historic missions as destinations, such leaders and community members, Charles Limms, Frank Miller and Judge Richard Egan, came together to raise funds for preservation of the declining landmark in Capistrano.

This marks the time when the Mission’s identity began to change from being a desolate outpost of the past to a place worth visiting. It is under this paradigm that the 20th century “period of preservation” paved way for the Chapel’s renewal. With the fortuitous arrival in 1910 by the dying Mission Pastor, Father St. John O’Sullivan (as a given-name, “St. John” is sometimes pronounced as [SIN-jin] or [SIN-jun] especially in the UK and Ireland.) While given just a short time to live (he had tuberculosis), Father O’Sullivan went on to live another 23 years, and during that time became known as the Great Restorer of the Mission, specifically the Serra Chapel. Due to his visionary efforts, the townpeople came to gather to raise funds to bring the Chapel back to life as a place of worship.

It was during this time frame when the golden retablo/altar piece was installed within the Chapel. To accommodate its size, the Chapel was expanded northward, and the ceiling was raised. The golden retablo, an 18.5 feet wide by 22.5 feet tall baroque altarpiece originates from Barcelona, Spain and is made of hand-carved wood with a gold leaf. It is estimated to be well over 300 years old.

With O’Sullivan’s work complete, the Chapel went on (along with 85 years of deferred maintenance) to serving as home to local Catholics as their parish church. This paved the way for a second great restoration in 2005, See SERRA CHAPEL, AN ONGOING PLACE OF INSPIRATION CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
TIPS FOR VISITING THE MISSION THIS SUMMER

BY MARIELA MARTINEZ
Guest Services Director, Mission SJC

The Mission welcomes nearly 300,000 guests annually. Whether it is to visit the Serra Chapel, the fountains, or taking a stroll through the lavish gardens, each enjoys their own special experience at Orange County’s only Mission.

For guests planning a visit to the Mission this summer, here are our top 10 visiting suggestions:

1. The Mission grounds are open most holidays with daily hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas. The grounds and Mission Store also close at noon on Good Friday, for the Romance of the Mission Gala, and on Christmas Eve. Visit the website before you visit.
2. When enjoying a family picnic on the grounds, use the free picnic tables or lay a blanket on the grass in the Central Courtyard.
3. Enjoy the new multi-language audio tour available in English, Spanish, French and German. Complimentary for members, and free with paid admission.
4. Take a staff tour to enjoy architectural and historical highlights of the Mission. These tours are offered daily at 11:15 a.m. and 1 p.m. An additional tour is offered at 2:15 p.m. on weekends, no reservation needed. The cost is $3 for adults and $2 for children ages 4-11 with paid admission or an active membership.
5. Plan an afternoon visit for a more serene experience. During the summer, the grounds are less crowded after 2:00 p.m.
6. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a light sweater as you will be spending time in various climates.

ENHANCE YOUR VISIT
NEW MULTI-LANGUAGE AUDIO TOUR OFFERED

The Mission recently launched its new audio tour experience that is now available FREE to Mission members or with paid admission to the Mission.

The tour is available in English, Spanish, French and German. The audio tour mixes music, storytelling and history revealing interesting facts you may not know about the Mission and California history.

Bring the family and plan a visit this summer and enjoy a picnic while spotting a swallow or two after you experience the new audio tour.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL
The easiest way to stay in touch!
@MissionSJC #MissionSJC

TEXT MISSIONSJC TO 22828
To sign up for our enewsletter. Stay tuned for news, updates, upcoming events and special offers.
DELICIOUS DISHES IN DOWNTOWN

BY LAURA FRESEE, Assistant Editor, Former SJC City Councilmember (2008-2012)

Downtown SJC is a cornucopia of food varieties and tastes. Our eaters embrace diverse histories, ethnic groups and age groups and could be home to a fan travel/food show where the host samples foods of every sort all within a few short blocks. But we have one thing that makes the experience unique: restaurant venues in historic buildings.

L’Hirondelle Restaurant, a Belgium themed restaurant, with a mug garden across from the Mission. Listen to bells toll as your magnificent meal is served.

Cedar Creek Inn, provides another fabulous patio garden setting with American fare at its best. Enjoying a meal there is pure comfort.

The charming Sundried Tomato American Bistro & Catering, located in the Valenzuela Adobe, circa 1789, offers indoor and outdoor eating with legendary dishes.

Hennessey’s Tavern, with its Irish pub atmosphere, small bites, mighty burgers and big beers whets the thirst of thirsty guests.

El Adobe de Capistrano Mexican Steakhouse, located in the Miguel Yorka Adobe circa 1797, can boast fabulous Mexican cuisine, a historical jail cell in the basement and once former President Nixon’s favorite restaurant.

Ellie’s Table, in the graceful Egan house circa 1843 is an example of Victorian/Greek Revival style. Once known as Harmony House due to previous social events, it is still a social center with American delights, pastries and more.

The Swallow’s Inn circa 1950, is a San Juan landmark. The interior décor alone is worth a visit to this bar but the weekend burgers are scrumptious! Proudly touted by its owners as “one of America’s worst saloons!”

Taqueria El Campeor, in this cafeteria style setting you can get delicious Mexican small plates or large plates, reasonably priced, and family friendly. Delicious! The family friendly Ruby’s Diner/Sky Ranch Saloon with its 1940s look can also boast that it has the town’s best view of the Mission from its famous patio. What a way to enjoy a milk shake! The 316 Bakery Shop near the Verdugo Street train platform is known to satisfy every sweet tooth that has ever entered their door. A great way to start the day!

The new Bueno Bueno Mexican Kitchen has a contemporary Mexican atmosphere. Already respected for its tacos; it is superb!

Tresor’s at the Tracks, in the Capistrano Depot, circa 1894, is a delight for the eye as well as the gastronomic track. Be sure to enjoy the herbs growing along the vintage building.

Within the historic Los Rios District is The Tea House on Los Rios Street in the Rodman House, circa 1910. On its charming, flower covered porch, you can sample teas as well as savory dishes and desserts.

Visit the Mission and pick up your free Heritage Tourism Association map which identifies all these epicurean landmarks and plan your next dining experience. Try them all – it’s worth it.

ENJOY A SELF GUIDED WINE TOUR

Downtown San Juan Capistrano has become a destination for wine tasting over the past few years.

To plan a special wine tasting experience in San Juan Capistrano, take a look at our Heritage Tourism Association wine tasting members’ listing on page 7. Plan to meet the Fisher Family at Five Vines Wine Bar, Kyle Franson at Rancho Capistrano Winery, and/or Ed Szwabicki at We Olive & Wine Bar, and you’ll meet some terrific business leaders with tasting staff who are committed to offering downtown visitors and locals unparalleled original service in unique settings with lovely tastings and small plates unique to each location. Reservations are not required but encouraged.

EXPLORE ART DOWNTOWN

Did you know there is a legacy of art in San Juan Capistrano? Starting with the religious paintings that came with the founding of the Mission, the community has enjoyed a rich tradition of appreciating fine art for over 240 years.

In fact, the Mission features a weekly Friday “art walk” led by volunteer guides who take visitors on a journey to discover the recently conserved Spanish colonial artworks, the historically significant stations of the cross painting collection and the newer 20th century plein air artworks.

Along the tour, visitors always stop by the Serra Chapel to view the recently discovered 2018 year old Crucifixion painting that remained hidden behind a 1970s era copy only to be found three years ago. Visitors to the Mission also enjoy the ongoing Soldiers Barracks exhibit made possible by the Irvine Museum and University of California Irvine which showcases outstanding reproductions of plein air artwork from the early 20th century. That exhibit will be upgraded this summer and feature new images and framing made possible by way of the partnership with the Irvine family that now includes the University. On an art walk tour, visitors can enjoy original works from renowned artists such as Joseph Klettich and viewing Cotton Borglum’s mission painting. Borglum went on to become the carver of Mount Rushmore. The Mission’s new audio tour also features numerous art works stops to further celebrate the Mission’s status as a place of beauty.

Outside the Mission walls, art can be enjoyed at the long standing Mission Fine Art Gallery located in the historic Ferris Kelley building better known as the Mission Promenade. The Gallery is a highly successful boutique shop featuring a co-op of talented local artists who collaboratively showcase their work on a rotating basis. Further along in the Los Rios Historic District, downtown members like The Cottage Gallery also showcase original one of a kind local art in a variety of mediums for sale and enjoyment.

The SJC Library, an outpost of the Orange County Public Library System, also rotates local art works throughout its spaces and galleries. Collectively from the Mission to the historic downtown, there are plenty of opportunities to appreciate history and tradition of fine art in historic downtown. Turn to the Downtown Map on page 6 to plan your next art visit to one of our local galleries.

From an Annual R.M.V. Rodeo Returns to Capistrano, P1

The top 30 contestants compete in each event for cash prizes in the hopes of continuing on for the grand prize at the Nationals Final Rodeo in Las Vegas in Saddle Bronc, Bareback Riding, Tie Down Roping, Steer Wrestling, Bull Riding and Team Roping. This Rodeo features the best of the best!

Celebrating the golden age of early California history and the American West, Rancho Mission Viejo has committed to the preservation of the cowboy way of life. Carrying on the cowboy tradition of “passing the hat” in support of a sick child or needy friend, all proceeds from the Rodeo benefits local charities. Sign up to get news, updates, purchase tickets and other Rodeo information at www.rmvrodeo.com

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 25 & 26

RANCHO MISSION VIEJO RIDING PARK
WWW.RMVRodeo.COM
ALL ABOARD! FREE TROLLEY IS BACK IN DOWNTOWN FOR SUMMER

San Juan Capistrano free weekend trolley

A favorite way to get around historic San Juan Capistrano returns this summer with the City’s free trolley service that launched June 8.

Riding the trolley, visitors can get to local attractions such as the Los Rios Historic District, the Egan House and Mission San Juan Capistrano, as well as several schools, the senior center, and the library.

Residents and riders from out of town can ride on two, free trolley shuttles that connect to one another—San Juan, Dana Point and the trolley that rolls along Coast Highway each year in Laguna Beach.

Riders who want to connect from the SJC trolley to Dana Point can hop off and on at Del Obispo Street and Stonehill Drive for connecting routes that also link to Laguna Beach’s trolley.

The City’s 2016 and 2017 trolley service programs have been extremely successful and received very favorable reviews from residents and visitors. Last year’s service carried over 11,000 passengers and averaged approximately 18 riders per hour, per trolley.

The City is pursuing an additional grant funding opportunity through the Orange County Transportation Authority that, if awarded, will provide the City expanded trolley service for several years.

Beginning June 8, the trolley runs on weekends, Friday to Sunday through Labor Day, 2018. The free trolley operates from 5-9 p.m. on Fridays, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. on Saturdays and 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Sundays. For the trolley route, please visit missionsjc.com/trolley.

FREE WEEKEND TROLLEY JUNE 8—SEPTEMBER 3
FRIDAYS SATURDAYS SUNDAYS 5PM-9PM 11AM-9PM 11AM-7PM

AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION HOTEL—INN AT THE MISSION COMING SOON!

Mission Commercial Properties, a founding member of the HTA, has commenced their formal site work at the 3.5 acre site at Ortega Hwy and El Camino Real on the Inn at the Mission project, also known as Plaza Banderas.

The new hotel across from the Mission will consist of 124 rooms, a spa, restaurant, and retail space provided as part of the project, and is to be included in Marriott International’s “Autograph Collection.”

On May 1, the team initiated construction of the project and have been busy at work on-site ever since.

For accommodations this summer near historic downtown:

27174 Ortega Hwy (949) 483-5661
33711 Camino Capistrano (949) 443-3600

360° WORLD VIEW HISTORY LECTURE SERIES

The Mission recently hosted Part I & II of its 360-Degree World View Toward History Lecture Series and welcomed Drs. Rose Marie Beebe and Robert Senkewicz, esteemed Spanish Literature and History (respectively) professors, from Santa Clara University, both of who also sit on the Mission’s Historical Interpretation Advisory Committee.

We now invite the community to join us at the Mission for Part III & IV of our lecture series on July 25 & 26. Dr. Ruben G. Mendoza, a respected archaeologist, writer, photographer, and founding faculty member of California State University, Monterey Bay will present as follows:

Wednesday, July 25 - 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Saint Junipero Serra and the Dream of California
(No host bar and light snacks in partnership with We Olive of San Juan Capistrano)

Thursday, July 26 - 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
O’ What a Tangled Web We Weave: The Archaeology of Objects and Materials in the California Missions
Both lectures are free to Mission Members, active volunteers or with paid admission. Seating is very limited and available to the first 75 RSVPs.

Please R.S.V.P. by calling (949) 234-1312 or emailing bmnumma@missionsjc.com.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s Native American Storytelling “Journey’s to the Past”

1st SUNDAYS 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
FREE WITH ADMISSION

2nd SATURDAYS 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
FREE WITH ADMISSION INCLUDES ACTIVITY

Jacquie Tahuka Nuviez, Award Winning Educator
American Bistros & Catering
Sundried Tomato
Valenzuela Adobe, circa 1789
31781 Camino Capistrano
(949) 661 1167

3:16 Bakery Shop
26762 Verdugo St, Ste A
(949) 218 0660

Bueno Bueno Mexican Kitchen
26752 Verdugo St, Ste A
(949) 218 0660

Cedar Creek Inn
Founding Member
26900 Ortega Hwy
(949) 240 2229

El Adobe de Capistrano
Mexican Steakhouse,
Founding Member
Miguel Yorba Adobe, circa 1797
31891 Camino Capistrano
(949) 493 1163

Ellie’s Table
Egan House, circa 1883
31892 Camino Capistrano
(714) 636 6045

Hennessey’s Tavern
31761 Camino Capistrano
(949) 441 4777

L’Hirondelle Restaurant
31631 Camino Capistrano
(949) 661 0425

Mission Promenade
Ferris Kelly Building, circa 1920s
Camino Capistrano & Ortega Hwy

Ruby’s Diner / Sky Ranch Saloon
31781 Camino Capistrano
(949) 496 7829

Swallow’s Inn, Founding Member
Circa 1950
31786 Camino Capistrano
(949) 493 3188

Taqueria El Campeon
31921 Camino Capistrano, #15
(949) 489 9767

The Tea House on Los Rios &
Rodman House, circa 1910s
31731 Los Rios Street
(949) 443 3914

Trevor’s at the Tracks
Capistrano Depot, circa 1894
26701 Verdugo Street
(949) 493 8233
DOWNTOWN SITES LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER LOCATED IN SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

Excerpts of this article were re-printed from the City of San Juan Capistrano’s website feature. All photos featured courtesy of the City of San Juan Capistrano

Downtown San Juan Capistrano is rich with heritage and has numerous sites listed on the National Register. The National Register of Historic Places is the nation’s official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archaeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. According to the National Register of Historic Places, the following are the downtown’s most historically precious sites and structures.

Los Rios Street Historic District
(added 1983 - District - #83001216)
31600-31921 Los Rios St., SJC

Los Rios Historic District lies directly across the railroad tracks from the Capistrano Depot and is the oldest neighborhood in California. The forty homes that remain here include three original adobe structures. The Montanez, the Rios, and the Silvas are all that remain of the adobes that housed the builders of the Mission and the mission ranch workers in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Los Rios Street was originally called Calle Occidental, or “West Street.”

Casa de Esperanza (The Blas Aguilar Adobe)
(added 1990 - Building - #90001448)
31805 El Camino Real, SJC

The Blas Aguilar Adobe is owned by the City of San Juan Capistrano, located just at the north side of Historic Town Center Park. The nonprofit Blas Aguilar Adobe Foundation operates a museum and cultural center at the Adobe under a curator agreement with the City. Exhibits focus on the community's history, especially that of the local indigenous people including the Juanito Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation and their descendants. The museum is open on weekends and by appointment by calling (949) 493-0959.

Montanez Adobe
(added 1975 - Building - #75000450)
31745 Los Rios St., SJC

Montanez Adobe is a contributing structure to the Los Rios Historic District. Built in 1794, one of three such adobes remaining on Los Rios Street. Named for Polonia Montanez who was a village midwife and gave religious instruction to children; she was the owner of record in 1850. Archaeological and late 1800s period displays. Included in docent guided walking tours on Saturdays and Sundays; also open to the public by volunteer docents, mid-day most days of the week.

Esslunger Building
(added 1988 - Building - #88000557)
31866 Camino Capistrano, SJC

Esslunger Building was constructed in 1939 by Dr. Paul H. Esslinger. Inspired by a 1937 trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina, Dr. Esslinger designed the building in the Streamline Moderne style of architecture. It was considered one of the most advanced medical practices of its time due to the wide variety of services offered. The building itself is also unique with its poured-in-place concrete method of construction. Esslinger Building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988, and restored to its current condition in 2002.

Yorba, Domingo Adobe and Casa Manuel Garcia
(added 1982 - Building - #82002222)
31781 Camino Capistrano, SJC

Yorba, Domingo Adobe and Casa Manuel Garcia was built in the 1840s by Manuel Garcia, a Portuguese merchant and is the only surviving Monterey style adobe in OC. Its uses include: French Hotel, a general store, and the town's first American era Post Office. The house was purchased by Domingo Ohyarzabal in 1880 and occupied by his family for over 100 years.

FROM SERRA CHAPEL, AN ONGOING PLACE OF INSPIRATION AND TRADITION, P1

when the new Executive Director, Michelle Lawrence Adams, carried out a $1.8 million campaign to raise much-needed funds to preserve the Chapel over a three-year work effort that included:
- Conservation of its statues and the late 18th early 19th century stations of the cross-painting collection
- Conservation of the 1920s pews
- Establishment of temperature controls
- Protection of the interior decorative wall finishes and plaster within the sacristy, choir loft, sanctuary, breezeway, and nave spaces
- Cleaning, stabilization and repairs to the gilding on the golden retablo altar and pulpit
- Repair and redesign of the sacristy’s interior
- Removal and replacement of a failing organ
- Seismic safety and stabilization efforts
- Repairs to exterior finishes
- Safeguarding of the Chapel’s original building fabric such as the wooden beams and decorative corbels, headers, and window frames under threat
- Removal of the concrete waistcoating
- Installation of new museum quality lighting system and security systems
- Installation of corridor lighting and fire safety systems
- Stabilization of the historic baptismal font
- Conservation of the St. Peregrine Chapel
- Initiation of pest and termite treatment
- Electrical upgrades
- Fabrication and installation of chair rails to protect wall finishes
- Removal of the failing chandeliers
- New hand carved, hand gilded, Spanish Colonial era designed frames for the Stations of the Cross paintings
- Conservation of the historic Immaculate Conception painting
- Conservation of the 19th century Crucifixion painting that was hidden for 40 years
- Discovery of a hidden newspaper published April 20, 1923 dating the restoration of the Serra Chapel to Easter week of that time frame
- Installation of new Chapel furnishings designed in tribute to the 1920s pews and décor
- Installation of a new sound system with Gregorian Chants playing daily

Today, the Mission Preservation Foundation and staff are immensely proud to provide the Serra Chapel as a place of ongoing faith tradition. The Chapel is also a place of learning as students and adults alike enjoy tours of the Chapel to learn more about California’s rich and diverse past. The St. Peregrine Chapel also beautifully provides respite to those suffering from cancer at its recent restoration provides a beautiful setting for those seeking solace.

When our visitors come to the Mission and learn of the traditions of the Church and the deeper meaning of the site, they often leave awestruck and are appreciative of the collective efforts of the past 15 years that have continued to provide this “jewel of the Jewels” as a place built by Native Americans, founded by a saint, and maintained by a community.

SERRA CHAPEL TOUR
SUNDAYS 11:15 A.M.
$13 PER ADULT IN ADDITION TO ADMISSION
$2 PER CHILD IN ADDITION TO ADMISSION
*subject to cancellation
**FEATURE**

**The Capistrano Chimes | Summer 2018**

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**FROM THE LEGEND OF THE SWALLOWS OF SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, P1**

The Legend of the Cliff Swallows of Capistrano


One day while walking through town, Father O’Sullivan saw a shopkeeper, broomstick in hand, knocking down the conically shaped mud swallow nests that were under the eaves of his shop. The birds were darting back and forth through the air squealing over the destruction of their homes.

“What in the world are you doing?” O’Sullivan asked.

“Why, these dirty birds are a nuisance and I am getting rid of them!” the shopkeeper responded.

“But where can they go?”

“I don’t know and I don’t care,” he replied, slushing away with his pole. “But they’ve no business here, destroying my property!”

Father O’Sullivan then said, “Come on swallows, I’ll give you shelter. Come to the Mission. There’s room enough there for all.”

The very next morning, Father O’Sullivan discovered the swallows busy building their nests outside Father Junipero Serra’s Church.

Pick up your own copy of the free swallows story at the Gate House at Mission San Juan Capistrano.

Join us for St. Joseph’s Day and Return of the Swallows Celebration annually on March 19th.

**Did you know?** The arrival of cliff swallows to the Mission every March 19th is world renowned. Swallows migrate 6,000 miles from Goya, Argentina to San Juan Capistrano in groups of up to several hundreds, foraging as they move. The Mission is also home to other swallow species.

Learn more facts about cliff swallows, view the swallows vocalization experiment, and hear the legend of the Swallows of Capistrano as told by Father St. John O’Sullivan, pastor of Mission San Juan Capistrano from 1910-33 during the Swallows Walk & Talk tour at the Mission.

**Swallows Walk & Talk Tour**

Offered Daily at 1 p.m.

*Subject to cancellation*

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**FROM ALL ABOUT THE 2018 DOWNTOWN’S HERITAGE TOURISM ASSOCIATION, P1**

Today hundreds of thousands of historic downtown map and guides and monthly emails have been distributed in support of ensuring a continued sustainability of the historic downtown. The 2018 Heritage Tourism Association is proudly comprised of the following entities:

- It is hoped that by directly providing residents and visitors with a free map, that they will stay to enjoy wine tasting, dining, or shopping. A community calendar is featured as part of the free Map and Guide which can be picked up at any of the member locations.

Please join us in celebrating the following 2018 Heritage Tourism Members:

**FOUNDERS**

- Cedar Creek Inn
- El Adobe de Capistrano
- Inn at the Mission San Juan Capistrano
- Mission San Juan Capistrano
- Mission Store
- Rancho Mission Viejo
- Sundried Tomato American Bistros & Catering
- Swallow’s Inn

**MEMBERS**

- 3:16 Bakery Shop
- Best Western Capistrano Inn • Bueno Bueno
- Ellie’s Table • Egan House • Five Vines Wine Bar
- Hennessey’s Tavern • L’Hirondelle Restaurant
- Mission Fine Art Gallery
- Mission Promenade • Old Barn Antique Mall
- Rancho Capistrano Winery
- Residence Inn Dana Point SJC
- Ruby’s Diner • Sky Ranch Saloon
- San Juan Hills Golf Club
- Shops on Los Rios
- The Cottage Gallery, Las Catinas and Nest
- Taqueria El Campeón
- The Tea House on Los Rios
- Trevor’s at the Tracks
- We Olive & Wine Bar • San Juan Capistrano
- Wildfire Mercantile • Zia Jewelry

**NONPROFITS**

- Blas Aguilar Adobe Museum
- Camino Real Playhouse
- Rancho Mission Viejo Rodeo
- San Juan Capistrano Fiesta Association
- San Juan Capistrano Friends of the Library
- San Juan Capistrano Historical Society
- San Juan Capistrano Rotary Club
- Vintage Car Show

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**THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 HERITAGE TOURISM ASSOCIATION SPONSORS**

**Berrington Properties**
- Buy My Bikes, Inc.
- Celebrating 40 years!

**Farmers & Merchants Bank, San Juan Capistrano**

**Tom Hribar, RE/MAX Select One, San Juan Capistrano**

**Mission Preservation Foundation**
- Mission San Juan Capistrano
- Ricardo’s Place
- San Juan Capistrano
- Walking Tour Guides • Montanez Adobe
- Mission Grill
- San Juan Capistrano

For information about how to obtain additional maps or support the Heritage Tourism Association, please contact the Mission at (949) 234-1312.

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**Be sure to golf locally!**
- Support our HTA Member
- San Juan Hills Golf Club
- 32120 San Juan Creek Road
RAFAEL CELEBRATING 49 YEARS AT THE HISTORIC MISSION SJC!

One of the gems at the Mission is its long-time employee Rafael Gutierrez who has worked for the historic chapel, landmark and museum since 1969.

Rafael is a resident of San Juan Capistrano who, while attending Mass at the Mission one morning, was invited by the resident pastor, Monsignor Russell to come work at the Mission. Since that time, he has raised his family locally and been a part of the significant efforts to preserve the Mission as San Juan Capistrano’s defining historic landmark. He has literally lived his entire career in service and stewardship of the Mission.

Rafael’s reputation among his co-workers is stellar and everyone who works here holds him in the highest of esteem. Sam U’Ren, Mission Preservation Manager, says that, “After working alongside Rafael for now 18 years, I can say that I find his work ethic and “can do” attitude to be inspiring. I believe that he embodies the spirit of our Mission, always warm and welcoming, willing to go the extra mile for anyone should they ask, and steadily moving us forward from the past to the future.”

As a maintenance worker, he helps to ensure that things at the Mission campus (which includes the Basilica, Pastoral Center, school, and historic Mission) are running properly. He works most events and often many holidays to help ensure those red candles are well stocked for the prayerful visiting the Serra Chapel, that the grounds are pristine, and that the needs of the community are served.

Rafael also participates in a unique and important tradition at the Mission as one of the bell ringers which started when he first began working for the Mission and long-time Mission Bell Ringer Paul Aburzo, taught him how to ring the historic bells. Today Rafael rings those bells with Paul’s grandson, and local resident Michael Garthum, in an effort to keep the important tradition alive. Resident and community leader Nathan Banda also joins Rafael and Michael in carrying out this important tradition.

Rafael and his wife Socorro were married at Serra Chapel and have four children who were also baptized at Serra Chapel and thirteen grandchildren.

As Rafael approaches his 50th year of employment (2019) at the Mission, he says he loves working at the Mission and feels very appreciated. He’s enjoyed seeing the Mission become more beautiful over the years.

The Mission Preservation Foundation, Mission staff, and the volunteers congratulate Rafael Gutierrez and thank him for his outstanding years of service and stewardship.

Rafael Gutierrez ringing the bells March 19, 1987

Thank You Rafael for all your hard work over the years!

THE BELL RINGING TRADITION

In addition to the Catholic worship services and the celebration of the Eucharist daily, Mission San Juan Capistrano’s next oldest tradition is the ringing of the bells. This tradition is performed by a chosen few. The official bell ringer positions have only been occupied by a handful of men, since the late 1800s. The three men who carry out this important ritual today are Michael Gastelum, Nathan Banda and Rafael Gutierrez. Together they bring history to life by ringing the bells on designated feast days, holidays and community celebrations.

Four bells were originally cast for the Mission and each is named after a Saint (from largest to smallest - San Vincente, San Juan, San Antonio, and San Rafael). With the earthquake of 1812 and the collapse of the bell tower, they were relocated to a bell wall, or Campanario. However, the two largest bells, having sustained major damage in the towers collapse, would never ring the same way again.

Today, the original two largest bells (San Vicente and San Juan) hang in the footprint of the bell tower of the ruins of the Great Stone Church where they once hung. On the Bell Wall are two replica large bells, and the original two small bells (San Antonio and San Rafael) which are still run today.

ANNUAL HISTORIC BELL RINGING CALENDAR

MARCH 19
Feast Day of St. Joseph

JULY 1
Feast Day of St. Serra

SEPTEMBER 11
Patriot’s Day

SEPTEMBER 17
Constitution Day

SEPTEMBER 23
Saint Serra’s Canonization Day

OCTOBER 23
Feast Day of St. John of Capistrano

NOVEMBER 1
Founder’s Day

NOVEMBER 24
Saint Serra’s Birthday

DECEMBER 8
Day of Remembrance, honoring the victims of the 1812 earthquake

The bells are rung upon the Mission’s daily opening at 9 a.m., 7 times, in honor of Saint Serra founding Mission San Juan Capistrano as the 7th of his 9 California missions.
San Juan Capistrano local volunteers representing the volunteer community.


BE A VOLUNTEER! HELP PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF THE OLD MISSION

More than 300,000 visitors each year are warmly welcomed to Mission San Juan Capistrano and assisted by our caring volunteers who dedicate over 8,000 hours a year to keeping the Mission a vibrant place of inspiration, education, and preservation.

Mission leadership is grateful for the special role our volunteers play here every day and are grateful for their commitment of time to keep the Mission relevant, keep California history alive, and keep our gates open to an appreciative world audience.

Today we have more than 200 individuals who help. Each and every volunteer makes a difference no matter the role they take on. Many of our volunteers help in several different areas. What makes Mission San Juan Capistrano a top work place is its emphasis on service and making sure the landmark is represented with the spirit of Franciscan hospitality.

We invite you to join our Mission volunteer family and become an active volunteer working with others who are committed to preserving the Mission for future generations.

There are many ways in which you can give back as a volunteer including:

- The Guild: Hosts various social events throughout the year. Meet new people who love the Mission and help out at events. Meets monthly.
- Gardening Angels: This group of expert garden volunteers can be found every Wednesday morning pruning, fertilizing, and planting to make the gardens look their best for visitors.
- Docents: Comprised of individuals with a strong sense of history, a passion for remembering it, and the ability to share it with others and provide field trip inspiration to thousands of fourth graders. Training sessions required.
- Special Events: Volunteers at Mission events who serve in fun ways to ensure a memorable experience.

We invite you to learn more about ways that you can volunteer. Join us at our upcoming volunteer open house on Wednesday, August 29. For more information, contact Pat March, Volunteer Program Administrator at (949) 234-1322 or email pmarc@missionsjc.com. Visit our website at missionsjc.com/volunteer to learn more.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION OPEN HOUSE at Mission San Juan Capistrano August 29 or September 26 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. R.S.V.P. by calling (949) 234-1322 Mandatory for all prospective volunteers

DOCENT TRAINING DATES at Mission San Juan Capistrano September 11, September 18, September 25 & October 2 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. R.S.V.P. by calling (949) 234-1322

SHOP AT THE MISSION STORE

Shop our unique collection of dining ware, gourmet nuts, salsas, olives and more, great additions for a summer picnic outing or family barbecue. Also available is our hand loomed table runners, hand dyed and made of woven cotton in Guatemala, perfect for a bridal shower or wedding gift. The Mission Store celebrates 5 years on July 13!

Spring & Summer Hours 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Fall & Winter Hours 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

HISTORIC MISSION IS "WORTH A VISIT"

The Mission's new vintage photo exhibit "Worth A Visit" tells the story of early preservation efforts and the landmark's growing identity as a historic destination.

This new exhibit displays rarely seen images from the Mission’s museum and archival photo collection dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Also featured are two new digital kiosks that showcase even more historical images. The kiosks located in the Sala and West Wing museum buildings also provide visitors a chance to view the former commemorative tile program that the Mission had on the grounds in the late 1990s to recent.

Visitors may find it interesting to know that the title of the exhibit was inspired by the 1930s era when the Mission’s original ticket booth had a sign painted on it that read, “Worth a Visit.” Father Hutchinson, pastor from 1933-1951, decided to identify the Mission to travelers who were passing through San Juan Capistrano on their way to San Diego or Los Angeles. Fun fact: Admission tickets were only 10 cents at that time.

We hope guests will plan a visit this summer and view this exhibit. The following are all our exhibits currently at the Mission:

- Legacy of Saint Serra Exhibit explores Serra’s early life as a scholar, his journey to the Americas, and his significant role at the Mission.
- Mission Treasures Exhibit featuring historic artifacts, precious and rare paintings, and more related to the Mission’s history.
- Native American Museum and Interpretive Room featuring authentic artifacts, music and an interactive station.
- Padres Quarter/South Wing Building featuring the original quarters of the padres and settings.
- Plein Air Art Reproductions Exhibition featuring a collection of reproductions of historic plein air paintings from the Irvine Museum and University of California, Irvine.
- Spanish Colonial Art Room featuring recently conserved religious artwork from the 18th and 19th centuries as a way to explore the Mission’s founding period from 1776 to 1821.

All exhibits are open daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and are included with paid admission or with Mission Preservation Society membership.
2018 COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MISSION MEMBERS RECEIVE DISCOUNTS AND BENEFITS ON EVENTS!

JULY

Shakespeare in Historic Town Center Park
Presented by Camino Real Playhouse
www.caminorealplayhouse.org

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Summer Crafts Days (July-August)
Monday - Friday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Feast of Saint Imphros (Serra) Historic Bell Ringing
Sunday, July 1 12 p.m.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
FREE Native American Storytelling
Sunday, July 1 1 - 2 p.m.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Music Under the Stars Summer Concert Series
July 6 & 7 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
26801 Ortega Hwy | www.missionsjc.com/music

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
FREE Native American Programming
Saturday, July 14 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Activity: Claypipe Stick

Summer Concerts in Historic Town Center Park
Wednesday, July 18 6 - 8 p.m.
Free to the Public | www.sanjanucapistrano.org

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
History Lecture with Dr. Ruben G. Mendoza
Wednesday, July 25 7 - 9 p.m.
Thursday, July 26 1 - 3 p.m.
Limited seating R.S.V.P. required. See page 5

AUGUST

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Music Under the Stars Summer Concert Series
August: 4 & 8 & August 18 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
FREE Native American Storytelling
August 5 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
FREE Native American Programming
Saturday, August 11 11 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Activity: Reed Basket

Summer Concerts in Historic Town Center Park
Wednesday, August 15 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Free to the Public | www.sanjanucapistrano.org

Rancho Mission Viejo Annual Rodeo
Saturday, August 25 & Sunday, August 26
Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park at STC www.rmmvrodeo.com

SEPTEMBER

SJC Historical Society Annual Heritage BBQ
www.sjchistoricalsociety.com

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
FREE Native American Storytelling
Sunday, September 2 1 - 2 p.m.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Membership Appreciation Week at the Mission Store
September 4 - September 16
Mission Preservation Society Members receive 15% off

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
FREE Native American Programming
Saturday, September 8 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Activity: Soapstone Arrowhead

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Patriots Day Historic Bell Ringing
Tuesday, September 11 10 a.m.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Romance of the Mission Benefit Gala
Friday, September 14 6 p.m.
Grounds close at noon

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Constitution Day Historic Bell Ringing
Monday, September 17 1 p.m.

Summer Concerts in Historic Town Center Park
Wednesday, September 19 6 p.m.
Free to the Public | www.sanjanucapistrano.org

OCTOBER

Ghost Tours led by the SJC Historical Society
Los Rios Historic District
www.sjchistoricalsociety.com

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
FREE Native American Storytelling
Sunday, October 7 1 - 2 p.m.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
FREE Native American Programming
Saturday, October 13 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Activity: Abalone Necklace

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Feast of St. John of Capistrano Historic Bell Ringing
Tuesday, October 23 12 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Founders Day Historic Bell Ringing
Thursday, November 1 12 p.m.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
FREE Native American Storytelling
Sunday, November 4 1 - 2 p.m.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
FREE Native American Programming
Saturday, November 10 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Activity: Grourd Bowl

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
FREE Admission for Military and Veterans
Sunday, November 11 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Annual Veterans Day Ceremony
Sunday, November 11
Veterans Park 31472 Camino Capistrano

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Thanksgiving Day Hours
Thursday, November 24
Historic Mission/Store Closed

DECEMBER

Annual San Juan Capistrano Tree Lighting Ceremony
Saturday, December 1
www.sanjanucapistrano.org

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Christmas at the Mission
Saturday, December 1 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
FREE Native American Storytelling
Sunday, December 2 1 - 2 p.m.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Day of Remembrance Toasting of the Bells
Saturday, December 8 10 a.m.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
FREE Native American Programming
Saturday, December 8 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Activity: Grourd Bowl

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Winter Break Crafts and Activities
Visit www.missionsjc.com for details

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Christmas Eve Hours
Monday, December 24 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Historic Mission/Store closed at noon.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s
Christmas Day Hours
Tuesday, December 25
Historic Mission/Store Closed

ONGOING EVENTS

Camino Real Playhouse
Weekly shows, plays and events all year long (including Shakespeare in Historic Town Center Park) on two indoor stages; www.camino realplayhouse.org

Old Capistrano Certified Farmers’ Market
Every Wednesday in Historic Downtown
www.farmersmarketjc.com

Movies at The Bookstore (Michael Graves’ Library)
Every first Friday and Saturday
La Sala Auditorium
Call (949) 493 2684 or visit www.sjfcfd.org

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s ANNUAL SIGNATURE EVENTS

ST. JOSEPH’S DAY & RETURN OF THE SWALLIES

Don’t miss this world renowned celebration every March 19, marking the return of our famous swallow to Capistrano and the coming of spring – a time of renewal and rebirth.

SWALLOWS PARADE

Presented by the Fiesta Association, the annual parade takes place the Saturday after St. Joseph’s Day throughout downtown San Juan Capistrano and is the nation’s largest non-motorized parade. For more information, visit swallowsparade.com.

BATTLE OF THE MARIACHI’S FESTIVAL

A friendly competition of young mariachi musicians celebrating talent, inspiration and music as a way to bring the community together.

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Concerts feature top notch tribute acts, picnic dining and dancing in the Central Courtyard of the beautiful historic Mission on Saturdays June through August. Visit missionsjc.com/music for band lineup.

ROMANCE OF THE MISSION BENEFIT GALA

Voted One of Orange County’s Best Fests, this black tie gala is one of the most magical, romantic events of the year. Join us for a reception in the Mission’s spectacular front gardens, a concert in the Ruins of the Great Stone Church and a four-course plated dinner in the Central Courtyard. Proceeds benefit Mission Preservation. This year’s gala will be held Friday, September 14 from 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION

Celebrate the holidays at the Mission. This special evening at the Mission, held in conjunction with the City of San Juan Capistrano’s Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, features music, food, snow and activities for families. Free admission for Mission Members, Mission Volunteers and Military. Nominal fee for general admission. Join us on Saturday, December 1, at the Mission from 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

MISSION MEMBERS RECEIVE DISCOUNTS AND BENEFITS ON EVENTS!

View our 5 year signature event calendar at missionsjc.org