SUMMER 2007 - Vol. IV, No. 3

Rising gasoline prices have curtailed many vacation options for Southern California residents, however, there is one weekend destination that offers an affordable alternative: Mission San Juan Capistrano. The Mission offers families many attractions at costs far lower than other entertainment activities. The Mission itself is home to historic structures and artifacts, beautiful gardens, winding paths and majestic fountains. Additionally, there are many programs and festivals that are both entertaining and educational. The Mission’s website is the best source for information on events and programs.

Children can enjoy one of the Mission’s many hands-on summer camps, including Beginning Clay Summer Camp, Mission Matters and Indian Summer Camp. Each offers a glimpse of life in the early Mission days with entertaining activities to keep young hands and minds occupied.

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The Mission also offers rotating art exhibitions in its Barracks Gallery. This summer, an exhibit curated by San Juan Capistrano’s own Vitas and Verandas art gallery in San Juan Capistrano, featuring paintings of California’s landscape and history (June 30 – August 21). A highlight of the show will be images of colonial santos (saints) depicted in the traditional Spanish style.

The cost of admission to the Mission ranges from $5-$7; concerts and summer camps are offered at a different price. Mission Preservation Society individual memberships begin at $30 per year. Membership offers free regular admission, plus discounts on special activities. Experience fun this summer at the Jewel of Orange County, Mission San Juan Capistrano.
Executive Director’s Message

“It is a happy talent to know how to play.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

After watching our well-behaved crowds dance, sing, shop, and eat throughout the month of June at the Flower, Garden and Fine Art Show; the Third Annual Mariachi Festival; and the first Music Under the Stars concert featuring Alturas, I am convinced that we all want to have fun in a wholesome and affordable way. In this inflated and expensive environment where movie tickets are nearly $10, a standard cup of coffee costs $2, and a gallon of gas approaches $4, it seems to me that time spent at the Mission is a darned good deal.

Frankly, I am pleased that the Mission provides its members, visitors and students a place to play. This may be a rather frank confession. After all, it’s uncommon for a historic site’s management to actually acknowledge “play” as a value. Of course, we are not an amusement park and never aim to be anything but a historic site. However, I sure see a lot of happiness at our events, and I have to admit that that makes me happy too.

A few years ago, when the Mission Team expanded the membership benefits, we also began to examine how events can be staged to generate greater support for the Mission’s preservation. The staff mutually agreed that we would need to increase the value of the visitor’s experience here at the Mission by cleaning up the site, removing broken lights, installing new signage, and developing an inviting welcome video, and so much more.

The Mission Preservation Foundation embraced this concept and directed greater fundraising to improve and safeguard the Mission from deterioration. The Foundation also acknowledged a need to balance the number of events, and asked staff to set standards to protect the Mission from the impact of too many events or those that had blatant unmanaged use of the site. Along the way, we have revisited our own in-house events line-up. In fact, we continually evaluate what works, and what doesn’t. At the end of all this effort is a commitment to provide a unique visitor experience.

Shared joy is the shortest distance between two people, and we need a lot of people to ensure this beautiful mission is around for the next one hundred years.

Experience fun and joy this summer, visit the Mission.

Michelle Lawrence

FUTURE ART EXHIBITS

August 25 – October 9
Hyatt Moore
Reception on Saturday, August 25, 2007
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

November 3 – January 9
Greg LaRock & Jeff Sewell
Reception on Saturday, November 3, 2007
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Held in the Soldiers Barracks Gallery

Music Welcome Capistrano Valley Symphony for Sunday Concert Series

Mission San Juan Capistrano is pleased to host the Capistrano Valley Symphony for a Sunday evening pops concert series, May 20 – September 23. The evenings feature live classic symphony sounds, show tunes and popular music from the 40’s to the present day in the beautiful Mission courtyard. The music begins at 6:15 p.m. each evening (except September 23); five concert evenings are scheduled for the 2007 season.

Sunday, July 29 – Summer Symphony Serenade: Maestro Carlo Spiga and the orchestra bring you an evening of light classical and pops favorites.

Sunday, August 26 – Introducing... Danièle Belen Nesmith: violinist and graduate of the USC Thornton School of Music.

Sunday, September 23 – Black Bandana Ball: with the Riders of the Purple Sage: come early and join us for a kickin’ barbeque and auction. Concert time 7:15 p.m.

For tickets and other information, call (949) 240-8584 or visit www.capovalleysymphony.com/2007program.pdf. Tickets may also be purchased at the Mission’s front gate. There is no caterer on site for the Symphony, so attendees are welcome to bring a picnic dinner. The Capistrano Valley Symphony is a nonprofit organization in Dana Point, performing throughout southern Orange County.
Mission Preservationists To Upgrade Serra Chapel Lighting

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The process will involve the installation of over 200 new lights, many of which will not be readily visible to visitors. The rooms of the South Wing offer visitors a glimpse into the past with museum-quality lighting that will not only illuminate the historic building's interior but enable visitors to see the artwork which is older than the 230-year-old Mission itself.

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Mission Preservation Foundation

The following individuals lend time, talent, and financial support in serving as foundation board members.

President
Anthony R. Moiso
Rancho Mission Viejo

Secretary/Treasurer
William Cveengos
National Retirement Partners, Inc.

Arthur R. Bittcher
Bittcher Anderson Properties

Michael Hagan (ret.)
Faxon Corporation

Very Reverend Arthur A. Holquin
Rector/Pastor, Mission Basilica San Juan Capistrano

Robert McDonough
Select Kentwood Temporary Service

Anne Marie Moiso Leonard
Rancho Mission Viejo

George O’Connell
O’Connell Landscape Maintenance

Connie Spenuzza
Imperial Manufacturing Company

Gretchen Struscher Thomson
Struscher Capistrano, LLC

Past Board Members
Tony Forster
N. Christian Anderson, III
R. J. Brandes

Russell S. Penniman, IV

Wylie A. Aitken, Esq.

Jan Siegel, Mission Volunteer

Jan Siegel is an active volunteer at the Mission. Each week, Jan joins with Museum Conservator Catherine Hayes in her work with the Mission's artifacts. Jan remarked, “It's more fun than anyone should have. I get a close look at historic candlesticks, vestments and art dating back to Fr. Serra's time and before.” Jan describes herself as a professional volunteer as she is also involved with the San Juan Capistrano Historical Society and leads architectural tours of the City. In 2005, she was named the San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce's Woman of the Year. She has been a resident of San Juan for two decades. Jan described her life to the San Juan Capistrano community. His passing is a great loss. We will be missed forever,” shared Tony Moiso, Mission Preservation Foundation Board President.

Mission Staff and Volunteers Mourn Tony Forster’s Passing

The staff and volunteers of Mission San Juan Capistrano mourn the death of Tony Forster, a member of the Mission Preservation Foundation. Tony Forster devoted his life to the San Juan Capistrano community. His passing is a great loss. We will be missed forever,” shared Tony Moiso, Mission Preservation Foundation Board President.
Meet Our New Employees

- Megan Dukett, Education Program Interpretative Manager
- Carolyn Kickline, Administrative Assistant On Site Events Department
- Justin Stewart, Museum Assistant
- Patricia Morrison, Customer Service Representative and Office Assistant
- Maria Jeronimo, Environmental Services Technician
- Stanley Perkins, Part Time Security Officer Environmental Services Technician Facilities Department
- Fred Yslas, Part Time Security Officer Facilities Department
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“It’s great to work here, particularly since I grew up in San Juan Capistrano,” Jesse remarked. “It can get crazy some mornings with all the tours, but it’s part of the job.”

Jesse attended the Mission school and was an altar boy at the parish. He worked in various jobs before returning to the Mission to work in security. His role has grown since Jesse attended the Mission school and was an altar boy at the parish. He worked in various jobs before returning to the Mission to work in security. His role has grown since

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Recipes in the cookbook include a recipe for pozole by the Mission’s pastor, Fr. Arthur Holguin, another for cocoa fudge cookies by the Mission’s late pastor, Msgr. Paul Martin, and one for “Calabacitas de la Familia Rios” by Juaneño Indian descendant and performer Jacque Nanez. There are also contributions from popular San Juan restaurants, including Cedar Creek Inn, El Adobe and Sarducci’s at the Depot. Beautiful photographs feature the Mission and sidebars tell of history relevant to the Capistrano Mission, also known as the Jewel of the Missions.

The cost of the book is $30, plus tax and shipping. To purchase a book, call Pat March, (949) 234-1322; visit www.missionsjc.com or buy one at the front gate of the Mission.

Mission Welcomes the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

Catherine Hayes, a member of the Mission’s preservation staff, made a presentation to DAR members on the proper cleaning and maintenance of two plaques recognizing DAR’s support of the Mission, installed in 1967 and 1979. The plaques are located at the front entrance of the Mission.

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MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO NEWS.

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v. Volunteers play a vital role in preserving the Mission’s heritage and sharing it with others. There are five volunteer groups at the Mission each in need of additional volunteers. For more information call Pat March, 949-234-2000.

MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO VOLUNTEER & STAFF UPDATE

Meet Our New Employees

Maria Jeronimo Environmental Services Technician Facilities Department

Caroline Kickline, Administrative Assistant On Site Events Department

Justin Stewart, Museum Assistant

Patricia Morrison Customer Service Representative and Office Assistant

Megan Dukett Education Program Interpretative Manager

Stanley Perkins Part Time Security Officer/Environmental Services Technician Facilities Department

Fred Valas Part Time Security Officer Facilities Department

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San Clemente Island Chapter

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The live demonstrations are being presented on the Mission grounds to improve the visitor experience, in accordance with the Mission’s Five-Year Strategic Plan.

The Acjachemen or Juaneno Indians were the sole residents of present day Orange County when the Spanish arrived in the 18th century. They joined with the Spanish padres to build the Mission; many Mission employees and volunteers are Juaneno descendants.

Mission “Curiosity Carts” Offer Visitors Opportunities for Hands-on Learning

Mission San Juan Capistrano will officially introduce “curiosity carts” this September, displaying items used at the Mission in its early days. Each cart offers hands-on learning for students and visitors interested in seeing items up close. Items include branding irons, spurs, horseshoes, hides, candles, pottery shards and objects used by the Juaneno Indians. A trial period with the cars will be experimental this summer to see how visitors respond.

The carts will be staffed by volunteers during peak visitors hours. The carts are the creation of Ron Bauer, of the Mission Matters education program.
Mission Preservation News From the Mission

Painting Conservation of South Wing’s Guest Room Completed

Conservation work has been completed in the Guest Room of the Mission’s South Wing, a historic building built more than 200 years ago. Conservators from May Painting Conservation removed a white latex overpaint which revealed a decorative motif encircling the room.

The work has been funded through grants and donations and by proceeds generated from the Mission’s new cookbook. A Call To Table: The Bells Are Ringing that debuted on November 1, 2006.

The rooms of the South Wing offer visitors a glimpse of life in settings that date to the early mission era. The interior of the building’s paint and plaster, along with exterior finishes, bricks, roofing and lighting are undergoing treatment and protection. This work is part of a bigger effort to ensure the buildings and artifacts survive to be enjoyed by future generations. The work is being carried out in accordance with the Five-Year Strategic Plan, adopted by the Mission Preservation Foundation Board of Directors in 2004.

Mission Preservationists To Upgrade Serra Chapel Lighting

The Preservation Team has initiated the process of upgrading the lighting system in historic Serra Chapel. The museum quality lighting will not only illuminate the historic structure’s interior but enable visitors to see the beautiful artwork which is older than the 230-year-old Mission itself.

The process will involve the installation of over new lights, many of which will not be readily visible to visitors. Some older lighting fixtures, including several chandeliers that were installed as part of a 1920s preservation of the structure, will be removed and placed in museum storage.

The improvements in lighting are an important component of the three-year, $1.5 million renovation of the Chapel. The project is being funded by private donations, proceeds from the Mission’s annual fall gala fundraiser and federal government grants. Mission officials hope to complete the lighting component of the Serra Chapel conservation by the fall. The entire conservation of the Chapel, and the South Wing, is scheduled to be completed by fall of 2008.

Mission Preservation Donor Profile

Mission Staff and Volunteers Mourn Tony Forster’s Passing

The staff and volunteers of Mission San Juan Capistrano mourn the death of Tony Forster, a member of the Mission Preservation Foundation. Tony traced his family history in San Juan Capistrano to the 1830s, when his great great grandfather, Juan Forster, arrived to the area. In 1845, Juan took up residence at Mission San Juan Capistrano after purchasing it from the Mexican government in a deal which would later be voided by the United States government.

Tony grew up in San Juan, and attended the Mission Parish School. His grandfather was once Administrator at the Mission, and his mother served as a docent in the 1920s. Tony was a graduate of West Point, and served in the U.S. Army. He engaged in a variety of business pursuits, including operating an RV storage facility and an automobile parts business. He served as mayor of San Juan Capistrano from 1971-72.

Tony was president of the San Juan Capistrano Historical Society. He was also founder of the Capistrano Valley Boys & Girls Club. He was the community’s Santa Claus and each year dressed up for the annual San Juan Capistrano Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

“Tony Forster devoted his life to the San Juan Capistrano community. His passing is a great loss. He will be missed forever,” shared Tony Moiso, Mission Preservation Foundation Board President.

Volunteer Spotlight

Jan Siegel, Mission Volunteer

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Michelle Lawrence, Executive Director, observed, “Jan is a committed, behind-the-scenes volunteer who has contributed much to the Mission. We’re also grateful for the generous financial support she and husband Warren have given over the years to the museum and preservation projects. Volunteers like Jan are crucial to the work we do at the Mission, and enable us to offer more to our visitors!”
**Executive Director’s Message**

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Music Under the Stars 2007 Concert Series

Tickets are now on sale. Purchase tickets at front gate or go to www.missionsjc.com.

For tables of 10 call the Special Events Department at (949) 234-1321. Gates open at 5:30 pm. Concert: 6:30 pm-9:30 pm.

- **July 21**-Celebrity Concert Bjorn Again - Abba Tribute Band
- **August 4**-Max Bishop - Big Band, Swing
- **August 15**-Jumping Jack Flash, Rolling Stones Tribute Band
- **September 1**-Celebrity Concert The Tab Four The Ultimate Tribute to the Beatles with Special Guest “Ed Sullivan!”

No outside tables or caterers allowed. Go to www.missionsjc.com for more information.

**Villas & Verandas Art Exhibition and Sale**

“Our Land, Our People, Our Mission”

June 30 – August 21, 2007, Soldier’s Barracks Gallery

Curated by Alda Gandolrini and Ron Deuk, owners of San Juan Capistrano’s own Villas & Verandas Fine Art Gallery, the 4th annual “Our Land, Our People, Our Mission” exhibition features images of California’s landscape and history. Also included in this exhibition are images of the historic Mission, as well as colonial Santos (saints) which are a part of the gallery’s extensive museum quality collection of such pieces. Featured artists include Jason Sittu, Robin Hall, Grace Schleier, Anita Hampton, Kevin Kibsey, Phil Starks, Dalil Higa and Anna Menshi. The exhibition is included with paid admission to the Mission, and is free to all Preservation Society Members of the Mission.

**Teachers Wine & Cheese Open House**

Wednesday, October 3, 2007 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Mission San Juan Capistrano will host its Annual Teacher’s Open House for the coming school year in the fall of 2007. Speakers and honoring stations will provide teachers with information on making their tour of the Mission more successful and how to engage students in the learning process while at the Mission. Refreshments will be provided. RSVP: Regina Lozic, (949) 234-1318 or e-mail rlozic@missionsjc.com

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- **July 22** – Symphonic Pops: The Beatles, from the Sixties to the present day
- **August 19** – Summer Symphony Serenade: M arina del Rey
- **September 9** – Pops under the Stars: An Evening with the Stars

Mission Welcomes Capistrano Valley Symphony for Sunday Concert Series

**FUTURE ART EXHIBITS**

**What’s Happening At The Mission**

August 25 – October 9

**Hyatt Moore**

Reception on Saturday, August 25, 2007 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

November 3 – January 9

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 Held in the Soldiers Barracks Gallery

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The Mission offers families many attractions at costs far lower than other entertainment activities. The Mission itself is home to historic structures and artifacts, beautiful gardens, winding paths and majestic fountains. Additionally, there are many programs and festivals that are both entertaining and educational. The Mission’s website is the best source for information on events and programs.

Children can enjoy one of the Mission’s many hands-on summer camps, including Beginning Clay Summer Camp, Missions Matters and Indian Summer Camp. Each offers a glimpse of life in the early Mission days with entertaining activities to keep young hands and minds occupied. Both children and adults can enjoy the Mission’s Music Under the Stars summer concerts, which featuring dining and dancing to live music. Bring your own dinner or buy it onsite. For classical orchestra lovers, there is the Sunday evening Capistrano Valley Symphony series.

The Mission also offers rotating art exhibitions in its Barracks Gallery. This summer, enjoy an exhibition curated by San Juan Capistrano’s own Villas and Verandas art gallery in San Juan Capistrano, featuring paintings of California’s landscape and history (June 30 – August 21). A highlight of the show will be images of colonial santos (saints) depicted in the traditional Spanish style.

The cost of admission to the Mission ranges from $5-$7; concerts and summer camps are offered at a different price. Mission Preservation Society individual memberships begin at $30 per year. Membership offers free regular admission, plus discounts on special activities. Experience fun this summer at the Jewel of Orange County, Mission San Juan Capistrano.