This year’s annual Romance at the Mission benefit gala on Friday, September 12 celebrates its 10th anniversary. The event honors the memory of the Great Restorer, Irish Priest, Monsignor Saint John O’Sullivan. Father O’Sullivan served as pastor of Mission San Juan Capistrano from 1910 to 1933, and is credited for establishing the Mission Parish School, conserving the Serra Chapel, and restoring Mission San Juan Capistrano. O’Sullivan was dubbed “The Great Restorer of the Mission” for his invaluable preservation work performed at a time when the historic Mission buildings were crumbling away. In 1924, Father O’Sullivan installed a monument in the Mission cemetery to commemorate those with Native American heritage who lived and worked at the Mission, placing on top of the monument a Celtic cross reflecting his Irish roots. That Celtic cross remains in place to this day. In tribute to Father O’Sullivan’s Irish roots, this special evening will take on an Irish theme.

The event begins with a welcome reception for all gala attendees in the Front Courtyard, followed by a one-of-a-kind concert performance featuring Irish baritone, Nyle Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe lives in County Limerick, Ireland and is traveling to the United States to help support raising awareness of the need to preserve Mission San Juan Capistrano. His debut album, Moodswings, has led to worldwide recognition.

Following Mr. Wolfe’s performance, an elegant dinner in the Central Courtyard will be hosted by artisan chefs from the Mission’s valued community partner, The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel. A bevy of special cocktails and spirits will be generously donated by Southern Wine and Spirits, a Mission supporter. George O’Connell, a Mission Preservation Foundation Board member, owner of O’Connell Landscape Maintenance joins with wife, Eden O’Connell, in sponsoring Mr. Wolfe’s performance.

In celebrating the event’s milestone, the evening also honors gala chairpersons from the last ten years, including such Mission supporters as Mrs. Joan Irvine Smith, George & Julia Argyros, Mrs. Ninetta Herbert, General & Mrs. William Lyon, Mr. Richard J. O’Neill and Mrs. Madeline Swinden. Net proceeds from this event will be directed toward the development of a new museum format and Front Gate/gift shop providing a greatly improved and inspired visitor experience.

To receive an invitation to the Romance Gala 2008, please call Ms. Pat March, Volunteer Program Administrator at (949) 234-1323 or by email to pmarch@missionsjc.com. To become involved with underwriting the event please contact Mechelle Lawrence-Adams, Executive Director at 234-1311 or Barb Beier, Development and Marketing Manager at (949) 234-1323 or llbeier@aol.com.
Executive Director’s Message

When you ask me what is happening at the Mission through my eyes, there is a lot to see and do. A new chapter is developing with energy and promise through the efforts of our dedicated, hard-working volunteers and staff. We have many projects in process that are intended to build our exhibits, upgrade educational programs, and modernize the visitor experience. We are also looking for financial support and funding.

What about the next book? What will history report about Mission San Juan Capistrano from 2008 going forward?

The next book will include the themes of “inspired learning,” “joy,” “spiritual respite,” “cultural vibrance,” and “continued learning about the past.” Our next book will tell the story of what we are doing to embark on implementing a new Front Gate and gift shop, a plan that re-exports the tired West Wing museum exhibits, and upgrades the South Wing displays making them more relevant and understood by our visitors. The next book reports on a new hospitality center in the Soldiers Barracks featuring new displays, interactive learning, improved lighting, and exhibits. All are in the draft stages waiting to happen, and looking for financial support and funding.

There is also a theme incorporated in this book that focuses on creating renewable experiences at the Mission through short term exhibits featuring collections from such premiere potential partners as the Bowers Museum, Smithsonian, Irvine Museum, and more. This unreported book is not only imaginary, but with your help, possible to be written. The first step is inviting our members to support the Mission Preservation Foundation’s annual fundraiser, the Romance Gala to be held September 12, 2008, benefiting our new museum format.

While I welcome you to read a good book, I encourage you to write one with us. Write the next book of history about the Mission. The one that is all about the future museum at Mission San Juan Capistrano, the Jewel of the Missions.

Sincerely,

Michelle Lawrence-Adams
Executive Director

Ps. This issue of the Jewel features my newly married name, Mechelle Lawrence-Adams.

What’s Happening at the Mission

It must be overwhelming on December 8, 1812 as surviving worshipers determined what to do next after the earthquake destroyed the Great Stone Church claiming the lives of nearly 40 worshipers. One can imagine that those frightened individuals had many important decisions as to how the Mission would go on after such a devastating event.

If the Mission Preservation Foundation had not stepped in under the capable leadership of the ever gracious Tony Mossio in 1998 to assist with the fundraising efforts to stabilize the Great Stone Church, these historic ruins might have been permanently lost under a future, yet to come, earthquake. It is timely then to write about where we have been, and where we are going, on this 200th anniversary of the Mission Preservation Foundation and the Romance Gala. We have closed the chapter on the long, challenging Great Stone Church project; nearly finished a shorter, perhaps more exciting chapter about saving the Serra Chapel; and then initiated another chapter about saving the South Wing buildings. If you take all of these chapters and put them together, the Foundation has compiled a book worth reading.

Mission Welcomes Art Exhibit Featuring California Landscape and History

Mission San Juan Capistrano hosts the 5th annual “Our Land, Our People, Our Mission” exhibit, a display of art curated by Villas & Verandas Fine Art Fine Art Gallery in San Juan Capistrano, from June 29 – September 29, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the Soldiers Barracks Gallery.

The show features oil paintings of California’s landscape and history. Featured artists include: Jansen Sita, Robin Hall, Grace Schaeleg, Aanita Hampton, Kevin Ebyeth, Pal Starkes, Dale Craig, Pursky and Mary Ann Obit, Janice Salzman, Ron Duak and Marjorie Taylor. Also featured will be colonial saints (saints) that are part of Villas & Verandas extensive collection of museum quality santos. These highly collected art pieces of significant history will also be for sale.

The show will kick off with an artist’s reception and preview art sale on Saturday, June 28, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. in the Soldiers Barracks Gallery. Participants will have the opportunity to meet many of the artists. A portion of art sales will benefit the Mission’s preservation. For additional information about the exhibit, please visit www.VillasAndVerandas.com or call (949) 493-7200. For pre-registered information about the exhibition, call the Mission’s Special Events Hotline at (949) 254-1313.
New Display Features Preservation Tools and Documents

Mission San Juan Capistrano has unveiled a new display featuring old Mission photographs, preservationists’ tools, and information about the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) taken of the Mission in 1936. The U.S. Congress approved HABS legislation in 1933; documentation and photographs taken by HABS provided preservationists with important information to assist them in their work. Preservation work began on the Mission in the late 19th century, and still continues today.

New Display: Serra Chapel Conservation Project

The exhibit is designed by Mission museum staff and will continue through the fall in the South Wing building. Admission is free to members of the Mission Preservation Society; visit www.missionsjc.com.

Grand Retablo DVD

Available for purchase at the Mission’s Front Gate for $20 by calling (949) 234-1300 or online at www.missionsjc.com. All proceeds benefit the historic Mission. The 24-minute DVD explains the history of retablos and gives a behind the scenes look at the making of the Grand Retablo in Spain, which may be viewed in the Basilica Church.

Welcome New Foundation Members!

Lula Halfacre, owner of Traditional Jewelers in Fashion Island, Newport Beach, has joined the Mission San Juan Capistrano Preservation Foundation Board of Directors. Lula and her late husband Marion, opened their first jewelry store in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1979, they moved to California and opened another jewelry store in Newport Beach. In 1991, they moved to their present location in Fashion Island (visit www.traditionaljewelers.com). Traditional Jewelers is noted for their branded jewelry and watches, and, as Lula noted, “for our service, quality and integrity.” Lula is an enthusiastic supporter of the Mission. She explained, “The Mission is a rich part of California's history. I’m pleased to join the efforts to save the old Mission, so we may pass it on as a better place to future generations.” Bastone commented.

Mission Hospital CEO Joins Mission Preservation Foundation Board

Mission-San Juan Capistrano is pleased to announce that Peter Bastone, President and Chief Executive Officer of Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center in Mission Viejo since 1996, has become the newest member of the Mission Preservation Foundation Board of Directors. “Mission San Juan Capistrano has a rich historical, religious and cultural tradition and is one of our community’s most treasured assets,” Bastone commented. “I’m pleased to join the efforts to save the old Mission, so we may pass it on as a better place to future generations.” Bastone was born in Chicago. After considering a life in the Roman Catholic priesthood and playing as a linebacker for the Baltimore Colts, he opted for a career in Catholic hospital ministry.

He earned a B.A. degree in psychology from Princeton University. He also holds Master's degrees in Public Health and Business Administration from the University of California at Berkeley, and a Master's degree in Health Care Mission from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. He served as Chief Executive Officer of Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital in Inglewood, a Catholic hospital sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, before coming to Mission Hospital sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange.

Mission Preservation Foundation Board Profile

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

President
Anthony R. Molso Rancho Mission Viejo

Secretary/Treasurer
William Cevengros
National Retirement Partners, Inc.

Wylie A. Atiken, Esq.
Atiken & Cohn

Peter F. Bastone
President and Chief Executive Officer
Mission Hospital

Arthur B. Birchler
Birchler Anderson Properties

Michael Hagan
Faron Corporation

Lula Halfacre
Owner of Traditional Jewelers

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

Anne Marie Moiso Leonardo
Rancho Mission Viejo

George O’Connell
O’Connell Landscape Maintenance

Connie Spenuzza
Imperial Manufacturing Company

Gretchen Struscher Thomson
Struscher Capistrano, LLC

E.J. Tracy
Thomas J. and Erna Jean Tracy Family Foundation

Past Board Members
R.J. Brandes
Tony Forster
Robert McDonough
Russell S. Penman, IV
Myron Sukut

PRESERVATION NEWS FROM THE MISSION

UPDATE: Serra Chapel Conservation Project

Removal of debris and delapidated roof. Members planning to visit the Mission this summer should take note that as part of completing the Serra Chapel Conservation Project there are still many improvements to be made.

The final phase of work to be undertaken this summer includes:

- Removal of the existing roofing on the Arcade roof on the west side of the Serra Chapel.
- Installation of fire sprinkler piping on the rear (north) and side (west) walls under the roof eave of the Mission.
- Installation of fire sprinkler, electrical and fire safety pipes and conduit in the attic spaces of the living quarters and the Serra Chapel.
- Closing of the Serra Chapel and St. Peregrine’s Chapels for installation of fire sprinkler, lighting and fire safety finish items on the Chapel interior. Also the final aiming of the light fixtures and the repair of the tile floor in the St. Peregrine’s Chapel.
- Construction of a “utility trough” on the roof of Arcade roof next to the Serra Chapel.
- Installation of fire sprinkler and electrical work in the “utility troughs.”
- Installation of new roof membranes and flashing on the Arcade roof.
- Installation of new chandeliers.
- Installation of additional new lighting and a final focus on existing recently installed lighting.

Walkways and pedestrian routes will be relocated during this time frame. This work began in June and will end in September. The Serra Chapel will be closed for two weeks, Monday, July 7 to Friday, July 18th. The weekday 7 a.m. Mass will be relocated to the Basilica Church during this time; the Sunday, July 13 Mass will also be relocated. For more information, visit www.missionsjc.com or call the Pastoral Center at (949) 234-1360.

MISSION PRESERVATION FOUNDATION BOARD PROFILE

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Living History Society Presents
An Old Fashioned Picnic at the Mission
July 12, 2008
Mission San Juan Capistrano’s Living History Society will present an old-fashioned picnic at its monthly gathering, Saturday, July 12, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Food will not be served, but visitors are welcome to bring their own picnic lunch and blankets and participate in games and activities sponsored by the Living History Society. Participants will enjoy 19th century games, such as potato sack and egg and spoon racing, and a variety of children's games. Entertainment will include singing and dancing, guitar playing and poetry reading. There will also be an exhibit featuring people, foods, inventions, candy, toys, transportation, etiquette and lifestyle of the 1880s.
Living History Day is observed the 2nd Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visitors have the opportunity to meet characters from the Mission's history portrayed by members of the Living History Society.

Mission's Bell Ringer, Mike Gastelum Retires
Mission San Juan Capistrano bids farewell to long-time employee Mike Gastelum, a Facilities Department employee since 1981. Mike was born and reared in Anaheim, but moved to the San Juan Capistrano community in 1979. He was hired to perform part-time maintenance work at the old Mission cemetery 27 years ago. Mike is a descendent of the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, and has served as the Mission’s bell ringer since the previous bell ringer, Mike's grandfather Paul Arbiso, died in 1994. Mike will return to ring the Mission bells on Swallows Day and on special occasions.

Mission Thanks Volunteer Jeanette McGregor
Mission San Juan Capistrano owes a huge debt of gratitude to volunteer Jeanette McGregor, who devoted countless hours to assembling the Mission's Passport Explorers for this school year. The Passport Explorer is given to field trip students visiting the Mission and features a walking map, interesting historical facts and games that teach about Mission history. Since September, 2007, 54,000 Passports, most assembled by Jeanette, have been distributed to students.

Musical Performances
The Mission held its 4th annual “Battle of the Mariachis,” in which competing mariachi bands performed on May 3. The bands were given 15 minutes to perform while being reviewed by distinguished judges. The annual event is made possible through a generous donation from the Thomas J. and Erma Joan Tracy Family Foundation.
Winners included:
1st Place High School, $2,000: mariachi Juvenil Aztecas de Oro, Rancho Cucamonga
2nd Place High School, $1,500: Mariachi Cielo Azul, Oxnard
1st Place College, $1,500: Mariachi Alma del Sol, Los Angeles
2nd Place Middle School, $1,000: Mariachi Academy of Carson, Carson
1st Place Middle School, $1,500: Mariachi Junior Aztecas de Oro, Rialto / Bloomington

Overnight at the Mission Program for Families
Mission San Juan Capistrano announces its new overnight summertime family camping program, Night at the Mission. Families may camp on the historic Mission grounds, beginning at 6 p.m. Friday and ending Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Participants enjoy a bonfire, games, campfire storytelling and sleeping out under the stars. This event is scheduled for August 8-9. Cost is $65 per person, or $50 each for families of four or more. Prices for Mission Preservation Society members are $55 per person. For additional information, contact (949) 234-1318.

Audio Tour Available in French & German June 30th
The Mission San Juan Capistrano Preservation Foundation is pleased to announce that its self-guided digital “Voices of the Mission” audio tour will be available in French and German beginning June 30.
The audio tour was previously available only in English and Spanish. The hand-held audio player or wand given to each visitor offers a 45-minute tour with history, interviews, music, and sound effects interpreting Mission San Juan Capistrano. Antenna Audio, a company that has produced successful tours for The Vatican, Alcatraz and the US Midway in San Diego, produced the audio tour and wands. The self-guided tour program allows visitors to engage the tour in any order from different locations throughout the grounds. It is included in the price of admission; or, for group tours with reservations, $2 per person.

Mission Welcomes Capistrano Valley Symphony Concert Series 2008
Mission San Juan Capistrano welcomes the Capistrano Valley Symphony, performing evening pops concert series through September 21. The concerts feature dining to live classic symphony sounds, show tunes and popular music from the 40s to the present day in the beautiful Mission courtyard. The music begins at 6:15 p.m. each evening; four concert evenings remain in the 2008 season:
Sunday, June 22 – Catch a Rising Star: Featuring Juilliard-trained cellist Victoria Bass, an exciting voice of contemporary music and accomplished master of the classics.
Sunday, July 20 – Grande Romanza: Stefano and Nina Tarchi perform musical scenes of love and passion from opera, operetta and Broadway.
Sunday, August 24 – Piano Rhapsody: From Prokofiev to Gershwin, Sandra Joy will delight you with her sensitivity and versatility.
Sunday, September 21 – Cinema Spectacular: Features well loved music from the movies.
Tickets: $20 - $75. For information, call (949) 240-8934 or visit www.capovalleysymphony.com. Tickets for Garden Seats may also be purchased at the Mission’s Front Gate for $21. The Capistrano Valley Symphony is a nonprofit organization based in Dana Point, performing throughout southern Orange County.

www.missionsjc.com
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Mission San Juan Capistrano Volunteer Update

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Sincerely,

Michelle Lawrence-Adams
Executive Director

What's Happening at the Mission

Festivals & Summer Programs 2008

Free Craft and Storytelling Days - June, July and August

Craft Days - Tuesdays, June 17 – August 26, 10:30 a.m. – noon. Included in the price of admission. Make a mini-adobe house, a rope/lasso or an old-fashioned toy.

Storytelling Days – Thursdays, June 19 – August 28, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Learn about Fr. John O'Sullivan, the Great Restorer of the Mission; Capistrano's Cliff Swallows; and Famous Stories of San Juan Capistrano. Free with admission.

Night at the Mission – An Adventurous Family Sleeper – August 9-9

Friday nights through Thursday morning, sleepovers held July and August Activities include: Adobe Brick Making, Rope Making, Flashlight Tour through the Mission, Scavenger Hunt, Campfire Storytelling/Meal Sharing Roasting, Saturday morning Pancake Breakfast and historic games. Over night stay also includes free parking and admission to the Mission after 8:30 AM. All participants must be pre-registered using the form available online at www.missionsjc.com and pay all fees in advance. For reservation details and forms go to www.missionsjc.com. Call (949) 234-1306 Monday, Friday 8:30 AM-5:00 PM. For the registration form to (949) 485-8995 or email registration form to kswikowski@missionsjc.com

Music Under the Stars 2008 Concert Series

June 21 – ALTURAS World Music, Spanish Guitar and Contemporary - SOLD OUT!

July 5 – THE SURF CITY ALL-STARS Music of the Beach Boys and Jan & Dean.

Family Night: Each child 11 or younger receives FREE admission for every paid adult admission in your party. There will be activities for kids to enjoy during the show.

July 19 – DEREK BOURDEAUX Motown, Soul, Funk and R&B favorites.

August 2 – JUMPING JACK FLASH -Rock'n Roll Spectacular! A tribute to the Rolling Stones.

August 16 – HOT AUGUST NIGHT and PHIL SHANE -Legendary Orange County tributes to Neil Diamond and Elvis.

August 30 – THE FAB FOUR - SOLD OUT!

Art Exhibits

Mission Welcomes Art Exhibit Featuring California Landscape and History

Mission San Juan Capistrano hosts the 5th annual “Our Land, Our People, Our Mission” exhibition, a display of art curated by Villas & Verandas Fine Art Gallery in San Juan Capistrano, from June 29 – September 29, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the Soldiers Barracks Gallery.

The show features oil paintings of California’s landscape and history. Featured artists include Jason Sitts, Robin Haley, Grace Schlesier, Anita Hampton, Kevin Edsby, Phil Starke, Dali Craig, Parsky and Mary Ann Omhit, Janice Salzman, Ron Duck and Marjorie Taylor. Also featured will be colonial saints (saints) that are part of Villas & Verandas extensive collection of museum quality santos. These highly collected art pieces of significant history will also be for sale.

The show will kick off with an artists’ reception and preview art sale on Saturday, June 28, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. in the Soldiers Barracks Gallery. Participants will have the opportunity to meet many of the artists. A portion of art sales will benefit the Mission’s preservation. For additional information about the exhibit, please visit www.VillasAndVerandas.com or call (949) 493-7200. For pre-registered information about the exhibition, call the Mission’s Special Events Hotline at (949) 234-1313.
This year’s annual Romance at the Mission benefit gala on Friday, September 12 celebrates its 10th anniversary. The event honors the memory of the Great Restorer, Irish Priest, Monsignor Saint John O’Sullivan. Father O’Sullivan served as pastor of Mission San Juan Capistrano from 1938 to 1933, and is credited for establishing the Mission Parish School, conserving the Serra Chapel, and restoring Mission San Juan Capistrano. O’Sullivan was dubbed “The Great Restorer of the Mission” for his invaluable preservation work performed at a time when the historic Mission buildings were crumbling away. In 1924, Father O’Sullivan installed a monument in the Mission cemetery to commemorate those with Native American heritage who lived and worked at the Mission, placing on top of the monument a Celtic cross reflecting his Irish roots. That Celtic cross remains in place to this day. In tribute to Father O’Sullivan’s Irish roots, this special evening will take on an Irish theme.

The event begins with a welcome reception for all gala attendees in the Front Courtyard, followed by a one-of-a-kind concert performance held in the ruins of the Great Stone Church featuring Irish baritone, Nyle Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe lives in County Limerick, Ireland and is traveling to the United States to help support raising awareness of the need to preserve Mission San Juan Capistrano. His debut album, Moodswings, has led to worldwide recognition.

Following Mr. Wolfe’s performance, an elegant dinner in the Central Courtyard will be hosted by artisan chefs from the Mission’s valued community partner, The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel. A bevy of special cocktails and spirits will be generously donated by Southern Wine and Spirits, a Mission supporter. George O’Connell, a Mission Preservation Foundation Board member, owner of O’Connell Landscape Maintenance joins with wife, Eden O’Connell, in sponsoring Mr. Wolfe’s performance.

In celebrating the event’s milestone, the evening also honors gala chairpersons from the last ten years, including such Mission supporters as Mrs. Joan Irvine Smith, George & Julia Argyros, Mrs. Ninetta Herbert, General & Mrs. William Lyon, Mr. Richard J. O’Neill and Mrs. Madeline Swinden. Net proceeds from this event will be directed toward the development of a new museum format and Front Gate/gift shop providing a greatly improved and inspired visitor experience.

To receive an invitation to the Romance Gala 2008, please call Ms. Pat March, Volunteer Program Administrator at (949) 234-1322 or by email to pmarch@missionsjc.com. To become involved with underwriting the event please contact Mechelle Lawrence-Adams, Executive Director at 234-1311 or Barb Beier, Development and Marketing Manager at (949) 234-1323 or lbeier@aol.com.