MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
Preservation Society

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Preservation Foundation,

RONCIA OF THE MISSION
Saturday, MAY 3, 2008 10:00 am – 2:30 pm
MUSIC UNDER THE STARS 2008 CONCERT SERIES
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Saturday, March 15, 2008
March 19th - Bell Ringing
2008 RETURN OF THE SWALLOWS / ST. JOSEPH’S DAY FEAST
Two concerts June 23 thru September 1, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm. No outside tables or caterers.
Two for One Wednesdays
MUSIC UNDER THE STARS 2008 CONCERT SERIES
Tickets go on sale to Mission Preservation Society Members only on Monday, April 2
General Public Tickets Go on Sale on Wednesday, April 16. Six concerts June 23 thru
September 1, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm. No outside tables or caterers.
MARIACHI FESTIVAL - BATTLE OF THE MARIACHI
Saturday, MAY 3, 2008 10:00 am – 2:30 pm
ROMANCE OF THE MISSION
Friday, September 12, 2008
Concert in the Great Stone Church, Baritone Nyle Woltz. Candlelight dinner to follow in
the main courtyard compliments of The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel.

The Mission Calendar of Events and pricing is subject to change.

The Jewel
OF THE MISSIONS
WINTER 2008 - Vol. V, No. 1

Voices of the Mission: An Update

As Mission Preservation Society members know, one of the noteworthy ac-
c complishments during 2007 was the implementation of the “Voices of the Mission”
digital audio tour project. With its debut, the tour became the first of its kind among
the 21 California missions.

Visitors use a hand-held audio player to experience a range of stories, music,
and information about the Mission at their own pace in any order desired. They
hear first-hand about the Serra Chapel Conservation Project, the 1776 founding of the
Mission, the role of the Native Americans, and how the bells are tolled during times
of celebration and mourning.

“Since the program’s debut on November 1, over 10,000 visitors have enjoyed the
tour,” reported the Mission’s Executive Director Mechelle Lawrence. “Visitor
reviews have been universally positive because the tour provides them with an ex-
cellent experience when they cannot be part of a larger docent guided group tour.”

Among the personalities and featured voices on the “Voices of the Mission”
audio tour are:

Jerry Nieblas, a long-time employee of the Mission shares his stories of grow-
ning up at the Mission as a Juaneno Native American. Jerry also participated in the
development of the project and facilitated the involvement of the Tushmal Singers on
the tour. Jerry shares stories about the family and cultural traditions he experienced
growing up.

Conservator Sam U’ren shares his insights on the differences between  preserva-
tion and conservation of the Mission’s 230-year-old site. Sam’s “tour spot” follows
him where ever he goes throughout the grounds. Visitors can look for Stop #20 to
hear about the work being done by him at any given time.

Teeter Romero, a member of the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen
Nation, shares the traditions of her ancestors, singing and laughing on the tour. She
explains about the history and use of acorns, grinding stones, and dwelling units serving her
ancestors during the early California days.

The Mission’s leadership team comprised of Father Arthur A. Holquin and Mechelle Lawrence
are also featured on the tour. Father Holquin explains the goals of the Church in
founding the Mission while Mechelle Lawrence provides a first-hand look at the challenges in-
volved with conserving the Serra Chapel and the Great Stone Church. Other notable “voices”
include San Juan Capistrano Mayor Joe Soto and the late Tony Forster, whose ancestor Juan
Forster once owned and lived at the Mission.

In 2007, over 300,000 visited the Mission, while the Mission’s 803 docents
led 2,466 tours. That left most guests without a tour or a richer understanding of the Mission and its unique relationship to Orange County and California history.

Not only is the tour free with admission, it is featured as a podcast/download on the Mission’s official website at www.missionsjc.com for all visitors to use in
planning their next visit to the Mission. In the upcoming years, the Mission will expand the tour to include additional languages and add a special children’s
tour as well.

Mission San Juan Capistrano salutes those involved in the fundraising,
development, design, and efforts to make new history at the Jewel of the
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their excellent participation in bringing California history to life, loud and clear.

MissionsJC.com
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MissionsJC.com
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Mission is just the place for peace-filled reflection. With the approaching New Year, we have the chance to start fresh and wipe the slate clean. As usual, I plan to make the same old resolutions—“to seek greater meaning of life,” “lose a few more pounds,” “slow down,” and “find time to experience life more fully.” I also have a few new resolutions to add as well.

Then I remember, I work at the Mission so perhaps I don’t need to make resolutions any more. After all, I am surrounded by caring staff, wonderful volunteers, a committed Board of Directors, and supportive friends. I have wonderful children. In the context of life, things can’t get any better than this, or can they?

For me, Mission San Juan Capistrano provides a haven for professional and personal development, time for reflection, creativity, and the opportunity to consider the deeper meaning of life. Each day I am faced with a new challenge, a struggling visitor who faces a grim medical prognosis, a story of a student’s excitement over a learning opportunity, or the chance to build a bridge with someone who needs me. Each day I am given an opportunity to make a difference. In this life I am lucky. I’ll get 27,000 days, the ones spent at the Mission with friends, family, and colleagues gives me a chance to make a lasting impact.

As I sit among the gardens and listen to my inner voice regarding matters of personal importance, I get the chance to hear first hand the sounds of the timeless fountains, chirping of birds, and the happy children learning. These experiences are gifts. They remind me to keep up the fight of preserving the Mission, expand its programming, and spread the good news that is the Mission.

I invite you in 2008, a year of opportunity, to consider your care and investment in Orange County’s only mission, and to consider being a part of a historic fabric that connects us to the past and the chance to be a part of something bigger. Join me as we progress in our quest to make Mission San Juan Capistrano the Nation’s mission.

Michelle Lawrence
Executive Director
Mission San Juan Capistrano’s Featured Artifact Display features an adobe brick and model, and lime plaster shards, with a lesson on the use of adobe for construction. Visitors can learn the answers to such questions as: What is adobe? Why was adobe covered with lime plaster? How is adobe construction in the early mission days in California linked with an- 

A third critical component of the South Wing Conservation Project involved the seismic reinforcement of two arches with considerable foot traffic passing beneath them. A previous reinforcement of the arches had used a steel rebar embedded in cement plaster. Rusting of the steel and damage to the bricks necessitated removing the cement and replacing the rebar with a new profile stainless steel cage drilled and supported from above by the existing tension cable of the seismic restraint system. The arch was then buried under three coats of the softer lime plaster. This treatment was performed on the arch at the entrance to the Gift Shop and on the arch closest to the Soldiers Barracks.

All of this much needed work was carried out due to the generosity of donors and the availability of grant funding (the Mission receives no support from any religious organization). Thanks to generous donors and supporters, the 18th century South Wing building can be safely enjoyed for years to come.

Mission Releases Grand Retablo DVD


The $2 million retablo is an artistic centerpiece in the Mission Basilica. It is the creation of 84 craftspeople from Spain, and stands 42 feet tall, 30 feet wide and weighs 16 tons. The piece features images of the Holy Trinity, saints of special importance to the community, cherubs, swallows and grapes. The project was created by Talleres de Arte Granda, a liturgical arts manufacturer in Madrid, Spain. The DVD was produced by Jeff Vasquez, videographer, and former city councilman of Vasquez Studios, an award-winning photographer and videographer, and former city councilman.

Mission Preservation Foundation Board Profile

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

George O’Connell

Mission Preservation Foundation

PAST BOARD MEMBERS
N. Christian Anderson, III
R. J. Brandom
Tony Forster
Robert McDonald
Russell S. Penniman, IV
Myron Sukut

George O’Connell: Mission Jewel

George O’Connell has been a director of the Mission Preservation Foundation for more than a decade. George was born and reared in Massachusetts, and for the last 23 years has been a resident of San Juan Capistrano. He is a parishioner at Mission Basilica, San Juan Capistrano. He joined the Board at the request of Tony Mosso, the Foundation’s president. Reflecting on why he joined, he recalled, “The Mission is a big part of the history of this town, and I wanted to be a part of it.”

George is also the founder of O’Connell Landscape Company, which he began with $60 and a borrowed truck in 1971. Today it is a prominent business that employs over 1,000 people.

George is generous and involved with a variety of charities, including Mission Hospital, the Shea Ridering Center and the Camino Health Center. He claims the Mission is by far his favorite: “Serra Chapel is my passion. I remember the first time I attended Mass there; it was overwhelming. It’s hard to believe we have a church that old right here in town.”

Preservation of the Chapel has since become his personal cause. A cause which he shares with his good friend, Mission Basilica Pastor, the Very Reverend Arthur Holquin. In fact, he also has been involved with fundraising and improvements on other parts of the Mission campus, including the parish church and school.

George has been married to wife Edie for eight years, and has three grown children. His interests include traveling, biking, golf, going to the beach and gardening. George’s parents immigrated from Ireland, and hence, he has citizenship in both the United States and Ireland. George is an enthusiastic supporter of the Mission’s Five-Year Strategic Plan and looks forward to seeing additional preservation projects begin. He is involved with the plans to improve the front entryway. He is excited about the release of the new digital audio tour, which greatly enhances the experience of Mission visitors. The Mission organization celebrates George and Edin O’Connell’s support as leaders and caretakers of the Orange County’s most historic site.

Mission’s Welcomes John Mendoza

With the adobe stabilization and plastering of the second story of the Serra Chapel completed this past summer, recent conservation efforts turned to the South Wing. A team of Mission Conservators, Sam Uren and specialists from ARG Conservation Services, addressed four critical needs along the South Wing.

In order to extend the life of the original bricks, the cement mortar used in an early 1900’s repair effort was removed from all 12 columns along the arcade wall. Because the Portland cement mortar is harder and less porous than the original bricks it forces moisture to exit through the bricks, resulting in significant damage over time. For a more compatible material system, the cement mortar was repointed with a softer lime plaster. This treatment was performed on the arch at the entrance to the Gift Shop and on the arch closest to the Soldiers Barracks.

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mission san juan capistrano volunteer update

Mission San Juan Capistrano's Top Docents Honored

The Mission San Juan Capistrano Docent Society honored its top members Tuesday during a 26th anniversary recognition dinner at the Dana Point Yacht Club.

Mission San Juan Capistrano's Top Docents Honored

Information, contact Pat March, (949) 234-1322.

Visitors and members should not miss the talents of Mission San Juan Capistrano’s volunteer weaver, Miss Marion Logan. She received two division awards at the 2007 Orange County Fair for Professional Weaving and Professional Spinning. Miss Marion demonstrates weaving and spinning in the Mission’s Rancho Room on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (free with Admission).

Volunteers play a vital role in preserving the Mission’s heritage and sharing it with others. The following volunteer groups at the Mission are in need of additional volunteers. For information contact Pat March, (949) 234-1322.

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Gardening Angels Offer Free Garden Tours

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s Gardening Angels are offering tours on Wednesdays beginning at 10, 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. Each tour lasts a half hour. The tours are included in the price of admission. Garden tours for groups of 15 or more are also available by appointment. To arrange a group tour, contact Regina Loxic at (949) 234-1318 or email rloxic@missionsjc.com.

Mission’s Living History Day Makes the Past Come Alive!

Mission San Juan Capistrano presents its monthly Living History Day on the 2nd Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visitors have the opportunity to meet people from the Mission’s history portrayed by members of the Living History Society. Each member carefully studies the background of his/her character and creates an authentic costume.

An Annual Report Now Available

This past fiscal year’s annual report features the photographic talents of Janis Dittmar. The Mission thanks Janis for sharing her beautiful photos. To review the Mission’s finances and accomplishments for 2006-2007 visit www.missionsjc.com.

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Mission San Juan Capistrano welcomes students from Saturn Elementary School in Los Angeles about the lifestyle of the Juaneno Indians, during a Journey to the Past presentation.

Saturn Elementary enjoys the Adopt-a-Class Program

SJC Chamber of Commerce Donates $4,000 to Adopt-a-Class

The San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce donated $4,000 to Mission San Juan Capistrano’s Adopt-a-Class Program from funds raised at the Chamber’s annual Vintage celebration held at the Mission in October.

“We’re so grateful to the Chamber for their generosity,” remarked Mechelle Lawrence, Executive Director. “The funds raised will help us provide disadvantaged fourth graders an inspired learning experience with a field trip, free Passport Explorer, and hopefully a Mission Matters Class or Making the Grade Science activity at Orange County’s only mission.”

For information about becoming a donor to the Adopt-a-Class Program visit www.missionsjc.com or call (949) 234-1300.

Welcome New Employee

Marcy Barr, Customer Service Representative.
Mission San Juan Capistrano’s Top Docs Honored

The Mission San Juan Capistrano Docent Society honored its top members Tuesday during a 26th anniversary recognition dinner at the Dana Point Yacht Club.

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s Top Docents Honored

Karen DeBellis, Marjorie Knudson

Appreciation luncheon in January. The Mission’s 103 docents led 2,466 tours in 2007, recognizing at the Serra Award for Most Tours – Derek and Pat Hibbert

Franciscan Gracious Spirit Award

- Wick Lobo

Wick Lobo, Charlie Heineman, Dennis Ryan

Mission's annual Volunteer and Employee Appreciation luncheon in January. The Mission's 103 docents led 2,466 tours in 2007, and engage in a variety of special projects. More docents are always needed. For information, contact Pat March, (949) 234-1322.

Visit “Miss Marion” – Mission Weaver

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Mission's Welcomes John Mendoza

Mission San Juan Capistrano recently welcomed John Mendoza, grandson of the famed artisan Ireneo Mendoza, who came to view his grandfather’s pottery pieces in the Mission’s collection. Ireneo once lived in the Mission’s Soldier’s Barracks in the first half of the 20th century, and maintained a shop on the Mission grounds. He sold pottery to Mission visitors. The Mission owns several pieces made by Ireneo Mendoza, including a plate, pot, vase and candelabrum.

Conservation Progress Update of Serra Chapel and the South Wing

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Swallows Day Celebration Moved to March 15 Due to Holy Week

In 2008, historic Mission San Juan Capistrano will observe its biggest annual celebration, the Return of the Swallows, on Saturday, March 15. The celebration is traditionally held on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19 on the liturgical calendar, but this year it falls during Holy Week and hence the celebration date had to be changed.

Holy Week is the most sacred time of year for Christians, as they prepare for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. In accord with Roman Catholic liturgical norms that order the liturgical calendar of feasts, when a major feast falls during Holy Week, its celebration is transferred to the closest date prior to the beginning of Holy Week. In 2008, the Feast of St. Joseph will be celebrated in the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar on March 15.

There will be a Mass on March 15 at 8:30 a.m. in the Basilica with the annual crowning of the King and Queen from the Mission Parish School. The customary festivities will follow on the historic Mission grounds. The historic Mission will be open as usual on March 19. The press conference and annual bell ringing is on March 19 at 10:00 a.m.

For more information: www.missionsjc.com

ON-GOING EVENTS

Mission San Juan Capistrano offers attractions on a daily, weekly and monthly basis to enhance a visitor's experience. Each attraction is included in the price of admission.

CURIOSITY CARTS – Tuesdays, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., visitors can enjoy history-related replica carts at the Mission during its early days on “curiosity carts,” manned by a staff member. Each educational cart offers close-up learning for students and visitors interested in seeing items up close. Items include branding irons, spades, hoes, hitches, candles, pottery shards and objects used by the Juaneños Indians.

GARDEN TOURS – Wednesdays at 10:30 and 11 a.m., the Mission’s volunteer Gardeners Angels offer tours of the Mission’s gardens. They last a half hour and meet in the front entrance area. Reserved garden tours for groups of 15 or more are also available; contact Regina Loizic at (949) 234-1318 or rloizic@missionsjc.com or krkivowski@missionsjc.com.

LOOM WEAVING – Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., “Miss Marion” Logan demonstrates spinning andloom weaving of textiles in the Mission’s Room. She has received two division awards at the 2007 Orange County Fair for Professional Weaving and Professional Spinning.

INDIAN BASKET WEAVING – 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., volunteer Ajachemen Indian basket weavers gather in the Native American village area near the entrance to the Mission and demonstrate weaving in the style of their ancestors.

LIVING HISTORY DAY – 2nd Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., the Mission presents its monthly Living History Day. Visitors have the opportunity to meet people from the Mission’s history portrayed by members of the Living History Society and receive a free trading card featuring a Living History character. Characters featured on the cards include Fr. Junipero Serra, Don Juan Bandini, Josie Benton Fremont, Christopher “Kit” Carson and many more.

FEATURED ART DISPLAY – Every day tourists can view the Mission’s Featured Art Display. The current exhibit offers a lesson on adobe, featuring an adobe brick and model, and lime plaster shares, with information on the use of adobe for construction.

ART EXHIBITIONS IN THE SOLDIERS BARRACKS

EMET METINEZ – January 11, 2008 – March 31, 2008 Photography Art Show Celebrating the Mission: A Photographer’s Journey. Receptionsaturday, January 12, 2008, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

SOCALPAPA ART SHOW – April 5, 2008 – June 24, 2008 (Southern California plein air Painters Association) Reception Friday, April 4, 2008 – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. SOCALPAPA Outdoor Show and Sale April 5, 2008, 6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Swallow’s Day Celebration Moved to March 15 Due to Holy Week

In 2008, historic Mission San Juan Capistrano will observe its biggest annual celebration, the Return of the Swallows, on Saturday, March 15. The celebration is traditionally held on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19 on the liturgical calendar, but this year it falls during Holy Week and hence the celebration date had to be changed.

Holy Week is the most sacred time of year for Christians, as they prepare for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. In accord with Roman Catholic liturgical norms that order the liturgical calendar of feasts, when a major feast falls during Holy Week, its celebration is transferred to the closest date prior to the beginning of Holy Week. In 2008, the Feast of St. Joseph will be celebrated in the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar on March 15.

There will be a Mass on March 15 at 8:30 a.m. in the Basilica with the annual crowning of the King and Queen from the Mission Parish School. The customary festivities will follow on the historic Mission grounds. The historic Mission will be open as usual on March 19. The press conference and annual bell ringing is on March 19 at 10:00 a.m.

For more information: www.missionsjc.com

ON-GOING EVENTS

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MISSION SAN JUAN CAPITSTRANO

Saturday, MAY 3, 2008 10:00 am – 2:30 pm

FIND THE JEWEL OF THE MISSIONS WINTER 2008 - Vol. V, No. 1

2008 RETURN OF THE SWALLOWS / ST. JOSEPH’S DAY FEAST
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Saturday, March 15, 2008/ March 19th - Bell Ringing

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS 2008 CONCERT SERIES
Tickets go on sale to Mission Preservation Society Members only on Monday, April 2
General Public Tickets Go on Sale on Wednesday, April 16. Six concerts June 23 thru September 1, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm. No outside tables or caterers.

MARIACHI FESTIVAL - BATTLE OF THE MARIACHI!
Saturday, MAY 3, 2008 10:00 am – 2:30 pm

ROMANCE OF THE MISSION
Friday, September 12, 2008
Concert in the Great Stone Church, Baritone Nyle Wolfe. Candlelight dinner to follow in the main courtyard compliments of The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel.

“The Jewel of the Missions” website. Non Profit Org US POSTAGE PAID Santa Ana, CA Permit # 63

Visitors user a hand-held audio player to experience a range of stories, music, and information about the Mission at their own pace in any order desired. They hear first-hand about the Serra Chapel Conservation Project, the 1776 founding of the Mission, the role of the Native Americans, and how the bells are tolled during times of celebration and mourning.

“Since the program’s debut on November 1, over 10,000 visitors have enjoyed the tour,” reported the Mission’s Executive Director Mechelle Lawrence. “Visitor reviews have been universally positive because the tour provides them with an excellent experience when they cannot be part of a larger docent guided group tour.”

Among the personalities and featured voices on the “Voices of the Mission” audio tour are:

Jerry Nieblas, a long-time employee of the Mission shares his stories of growing up at the Mission as a Juaneno Native American. Jerry also participated in the development of the project and facilitated the involvement of the Tushmal Singers on the tour. Jerry shares stories about the family and cultural traditions he experienced growing up.

Conservator Sam U’ren shares his insights on the differences between preservation and conservation of the Mission’s 230-year-old site. Sam’s “tour spot” follows him where ever he goes throughout the grounds. Visitors can look for Stop #20 to hear about the work being done by him at any given time.

Teeter Romero, a member of the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation, shares the traditions of her ancestors, singing and laughing on the tour. She explains about the history and use of acorns, grinding stones, and dwelling units serving her ancestors during the early California days.

The Mission's leadership team comprised of Father Arthur A. Holquin and Mechelle Lawrence are also featured on the tour. Father Holquin explains the goals of the Church in founding the Mission while Mechelle Lawrence provides a first-hand look at the challenges involved in conserving the Serra Chapel and the Great Stone Church. Other notable “voices” include San Juan Capistrano Mayor Joe Soto and the late Tony Forster, whose ancestor Juan Forster once owned and lived at the Mission.

In 2007, over 300,000 visited the Mission, while the Mission’s 83 docents led 2,466 tours. That left most guests without a tour or a richer understanding of the Mission and its unique relationship to Orange County and California history. Now with the audio tour, every visitor has an opportunity to experience first-hand an interpretive experience with carefully selected content, music and sound effects.

Not only is the tour free with admission, it is featured as a podcast/download on the Mission's official website at www.missionsjc.com for all visitors to use in planning their next visit to the Mission. In the upcoming years, the Mission will expand the tour to include additional languages and add a special children’s tour as well.

Mission San Juan Capistrano salutes those involved in the fundraising, development, design, and efforts to make new history at the Jewel of the California missions. The organization also congratulates Antenna Audio for their excellent participation in bringing California history to life, loud and clear.