Introducing 2009 Teacher Appreciation Days: 2 for 1 Admission For Teachers

In appreciation of California teachers throughout 2009, Mission San Juan Capistrano now offers two for one admission on second Saturdays through December 12, 2009 to teachers with valid identification. Education Programs teachers can enjoy with their students include:

Voices of the Mission, a self-guided digital audio tour, is available in English, Spanish, French and German. A hand-held audio player is given to each visitor, and offers a 45-minute tour with history, interviews, music, and sound effects interpreting Mission San Juan Capistrano. The audio tour may also be downloaded for free at www.missionsjc.com.

Saved by the Mission Bell: A Child’s Journey through California History, is an audio tour designed for students, features the story of Mission bell ringer Acu, a misplaced man in California’s history, who seeks the help of two-modern-day 4th graders, Megan and Tommy, to return to his time in 1915. Along the way, the trio meets characters from the Mission’s past. A self-guided digital audio tour, is available in English, Spanish, French and German for free with admissions adults and seniors.

Events Always at the Mission

Voices of the Mission Award-Winning Audio Tour
Digital audio tour in English, Spanish, German and French with admissions adults and seniors.

Saved by the Mission Bell: A Child’s Journey through California History Audio Tour for Children
Available in English and Spanish for $12 per child.

Free Mission Garden Tours
Wednesdays - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Curiosity Carts
Tuesdays - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Native American Weaving Demonstrations
1st & 3rd Wednesdays each month - 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Living History Day
Second Saturday each month - 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Mission Weaver
Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Thursday, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Membership Appreciation Day
Third Wednesday of each month members show card for a free $5.00 credit at Mission Gift Shop.

“Return Home with the Swallows” program will present “The Year the Swallows Came Early” as well as a chance to meet the new book, “The Year the Swallows Came Early.”

On Saturdays, March 21 & 22, visitors can buy a custom painted Italian bowl, eat freshly grilled Italian sausage, or sit by the koi fountain and paint your own Italian bowl, eat freshly grilled Italian sausage, or sit by the koi fountain and paint your own Italian bowl. Activities for children include making an origami (paper) koi and creating a watercolor koi wash. There will be no shortage of music at the Mission this year, as the popular Italian celebration will be back. Guests can enjoy children’s author, Karen B Wminnick, author of Mr. Lincoln’s Whiskers.

The Mission’s biggest annual celebration, the Return of the Swallows, kicks off March 19. Enjoy the traditional ringing of the Mission bells; performances by Mission School children; Ronde Bonda’s singing of Leonard Benét’s 1939 hit song, “When the Swallows Come Back to Capistrano,” and a reading from the new book, “The Year the Swallows Came Early” as well as a chance to meet its author, Kathryn Flinn-Maurice.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

When I arrived as executive director in 2003 my son, Dylan, was 10 and my daughter, Lisa, was 4 years old. We had just finished (or survived) making Dylan’s mission year project the year before and Lisa was not even in school yet, attending pre-school part time. Flash forward 5 years over. The children have grown, developed and changed so much. A lot has happened since my arrival for the Mission. For instance, the Great Stone Church project which went on for a long time was finished with energies directed to carrying out much needed new projects. In creating a new agenda, the Mission Preservation Foundation completed its long planned campaign for Conservation of the Serra Chapel. All the funds were raised, professionals hired and coordinated, and the conservation painstakingly carried out. Today the Serra Chapel stands in pristine condition ready for Dylan or Lisa’s children in the years to come. New programming in areas of education, new site management initiatives, additional conservation and preservation treatments were all carried out with fantastic results and to much public appreciation.

When we ask ourselves “does our work matter?” I think about how it really does here at the Mission. For example, in these difficult economic times, and thus subsequently difficult personal times for many people, the Mission remains a respite. The Mission continues to be a sanctuary behind the walls of the OC. The Mission provides emotional shelter, inspiring education, and a sense of tradition and community intervened. And yet for all its meaning and purpose, this place of peace often goes unnoticed or uncelebrated by those who have unknowingly come to see it as a place that will always be there.

The fact remains that our children grow up and grow out. Old structures wither, fade, and erode. Some old buildings become reinvented or worse yet, torn down to make way for something new. We pray our children remember the hardships and the good times as they make way for their own progress and attempt to reach their dreams. We hope that buildings and spaces like the Mission are not forgotten in favor of something newer, flashier, and hi tech.

We re-think our experiences as parents along the way, we can ultimately be better at redirecting our appreciation about what defines time well spent, what is even the concept of time, and why we care about leaving behind a legacy by preserving the past.

In a flash you see that once cherished baby face replaced by the smirk of an adolescent, and really fast, it is time. If you have just finished surviving making your second mission model project we need to remember that time is unstoppable, and all that remains to represent our time is what we leave behind.

If you want to see time fly by quickly, merely look into the eyes of your children.

Happy New Year,

Mechelle Lawrence-Adams
Executive Director

NEW EXHIBIT: Ladies of Lincoln’s Era
February 2 – March 31, 2009
San Juan Capistrano

The Ladies of Lincoln’s Era Exhibit highlight 12 courageous women of the 1860’s, a period which forever changed American history. Included in the exhibition are quilts made by the women of this era, a copy of a Lincoln signed document, a Civil War field hospital vignette, and an interactive element encouraging today’s youth to leave their mark.

LECTURES: Ladies of Lincoln’s Era Lectures and American Doll Event, too!
Thursday, March 12, 2009 (See page 5 for details.)
11:00 a.m. – “Darkly Adorned: Mourning and the Civil War” presented by Kevin Jones, Museum & Galleries Curator for the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising Museum in Los Angeles.
12:00 p.m. – “Mr. Lincoln’s Whiskers” presented by Karen B. Winick, a historical children’s author.
1:00 p.m. – “The Threads of Truth, Honoring the Creators of American Quilts” Slide Presentation by Martha Morrison, quilt expert.
Refisements, re-enactments and Civil War era games from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

St. Joseph’s Day Festivities and Serra Pantry Food Drive
Thursday, March 19
Join us as historic bells are rung in honor of St. Joseph at 10:00 a.m. and Noon. In addition to an 11:00 a.m. press conference, this event features live music, entertainment by the children of Mission Parish School, and Renée Bondi singing Leon Rendu’s classic “When the Swallows Come Back to Capistrano.” A reading by Kathryn Fitzmaurice, author of “The Year the Swallows Came Early” guided tours, Mission trivia contests and Living History re-enactments round out the day!

An Italian Celebration of the Swallows Return
Saturday & Sunday March 21 - 22, 2009
In honor of our sister city, Capistrano, Italy, Mission San Juan Capistrano will host two days of Italian vendors, food, music and art. Join merchants and entertainers from Italy, Los Angeles, San Diego and Orange County for a true Italian Celebration! Stroll the Mission grounds, shop for a custom painted Italian bowl, enjoy a freshly grilled Italian sausage or listen to the koi pond and listen to lively Italian music, provided by the bands, Roman Holiday and Pat Long’s Big Band. The historic hills will ring at 2 p.m. Saturday and at Noon Sunday.

Imagination Celebration, Carp Diem: Koi Culture at the Mission
Saturday, March 21 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Guests will learn about koi, the history and culture of the fish, how to properly care for them. We will also celebrate the swimming koi by giving a name to the most beautiful koi of the day. The winner will receive a “Goldfish of the Day” custom-made koi fish from a local artist.

NEW EXHIBIT: An Italian Celebration
Saturday, March 21 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
San Juan Capistrano

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San Juan Capistrano
The Father Serra Statue Gets Special Treatment

The statue of Father Serra, which is today located near the bell wall, was erected in 1913 and dedicated to the first Father President of the California missions. The statue portrays a Franciscan friar pivoting a young Native American boy around by the shoulders towards his skyward pointing hand, and is symbolic of Father Serra’s missionary devotion to guide native americans towards Christianity.

Over the last 95 years, the statue has undergone many changes and relocations, and the erosive effects of weather. The statue once included a large cross and the bow held by the Native American boy (currently replaced with a walking stick). With the loss of these items, the intended symbolic context was lost too. Past restorations involved resurfacing the figural element with various materials such as hard plaster, cement, and paint base coatings.

In December 2008, the statue received a cleaning treatment that removed the fail-ture and reveal the original color of the statue. The cleaning also revealed there were portions of the Native American boy and the friar that were recast over time in an unknown white media.

Final conservation work is planned for the statue this year. There are also plans to return intended symbolic meaning and context to the sculpture by reproducing and installing a cross similar to the one seen in the above historic photo.

Conservation Work Begins on Processional Cross and Candlesticks

Conservation work has begun on a processional silver cross and two candlesticks used in religious services at historic Mission San Juan Capistrano. The items date to the late 1700s. The conservation treatment on these significant items will be completed in mid-February and they will be returned to the Chapel at that time. Griswold Conservation Associates, the company performing the work, will clean and polish the items, and repair the scratches, dents, tears and bent components.

“Even though we are technically finished on the Conservation of the Serra Chapel Project, there are a few remaining items of artwork of historic significance that will be able to be repaired due to us completing the larger Chapel rehabilitation on time and under budget,” remarked Mechelle Lawrence-Adams, the Mission’s Executive Director. “This conservation work will help restore them to their original splendor, to be better enjoyed by Mission worshippers alike.”

The work tasks of the Sacristy rehabilitation also included:

- Fabrication and installation of a complete set of custom cabinets designed to properly store all liturgical items.
- Installation of new electrical conduit to replace older obtrusively routed conduit and movement of Chapel lighting dimmer module.
- Painting and cleaning of non-decorative ceiling and walls.
- Window Restoration, removal of black out panels and installation of glass panes.
- New coat of paint to non-decorative areas of the walls and ceiling areas.

All of the older vestment cabinets were removed from the Chapel Sacristy and remain in the Mission’s museum collection. This was the final plan of conserving the Serra Chapel and because of generous donors the project ended on time and under budget.
Mission Celebrates Women’s History Month with Ladies of Lincoln’s Era Exhibit

Mission San Juan Capistrano is pleased to introduce its new Ladies of Lincoln’s Era exhibit, highlighting 12 of the most influential women of the 1860s, February 2 – March 31, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily in the Rancho Room. The exhibit features quilts made by women of the 19th century, biographies and photographs of the 12 courageous women, depictions of the Civil War field hospitals, and an interactive element that encourages young women of today to leave their mark. The Mission’s Artifacts Council researched and created the exhibit based on a few of the many women who made a difference in American history during the Civil War.

Ladies of Lincoln’s Era Lectures, Activities & Discounts
Thursday, March 12, 8:30 – 5 p.m.

Free admission is offered on March 12th for any child (aged 3-11) who brings an American Girl Doll.

10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. - Megan Dukett, Education Manager for the Mission, will lead two interactive workshops for children on games of the 1860s.

11:00 a.m. - Kevin Jones, costume curator for the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, will present a lecture and presentation, Darkly Adorned: Mourning and the Civil War.

12:00 Noon - Children’s author and illustrator, Karen B. Winnick, will present her book Mr. Lincoln’s Whiskeys, based on a true story and a slideshow on her historical research.

1:00 p.m. - Martha Morrison, an expert on American quilts and textiles, will present The Threads of Truth, honoring the Creators of American Quilt.

Mission San Juan Capistrano Audio Tour Wins First Place Honor

Mission San Juan Capistrano’s Voices of the Mission audio tour received first place in the National Association for Interpreters (NAI) Media Awards Ceremony at the annual conference in Portland, Oregon in November. Voices of the Mission, was one of four audio tours nominated for the award, the other nominees included the Smithsonian Institute’s National Gallery Walking Tour, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education’s Roadside Heritage Tour. The Mission has the honor to stand among other first place recipients like Mount Rushmore, the Statue of Liberty National Monument and the US Midway.

Mission San Juan Capistrano collaboratively worked with Antenna Audio, the leader in audio tour media production. Antenna Audio produced audio tours for the US Midway in San Diego; the Louvre in Paris, France; and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

The new Voices of the Mission audio tour is available in English, Spanish, French, and German.
Mission Honors Employees, Volunteers at 2009 Appreciation Luncheon

Mission San Juan Capistrano honored its staff and volunteers for outstanding service at the 2009 Volunteer and Employee Appreciation Luncheon at the El Adobe Restaurant in January. Special guests at the event included Tony Moiso, President of the Mission Preservation Foundation, and City of San Juan Capistrano council members Dr. Londres Uso and Laura Freese.

2008 Outstanding Service Award for Preservation - Pamela Hagen
2008 Outstanding Service Award for Education - Mitzi Birdsell and Bea Torres
2008 Outstanding Service Award for Inspiration - Ann Thiel
2008 Special Volunteer Recognition Awards - Jeannette McGregor
Mission Benefit Gala Committee - Diana Arrigoni, Barb Reier, Georgiana Hales, Dr. Mozelle Sukut, Madeline Swinden

Mission Badge for Scouts Groups Now Available

Mission San Juan Capistrano now offers a badge for boy and girl scouting groups. Scout leaders can sign up their troops for a group tour and Mission Matters program at San Juan Capistrano, and earn a special Mission San Juan Capistrano badge. Tours can be either self-guided or led by a Mission docent. Scouts’ self-guided tours can take advantage of the Mission’s new Saved by the Mission Bell: A Child’s Journey through California History audio tour for students.

Mission’s Docent Society Elects Dana Point Woman as New President

The Mission’s Docent Society recently elected Helen Gavin of Dana Point as its new President for 2009. Ms. Gavin has served as a docent since 1988. She enjoys volunteering, she explained, because “I like learning about history, I like my fellow docents, and I like giving tours to 4th graders.” Gavin added that she is a 7th generation Californian. Her great, great, great, great grandfather was born into the family of a Spanish soldier and baptized at Mission San Carlos in Carmel in 1780. Additional Docent Society officers elected for 2009 include: Karen DeBellis, Vice President; Laurie Jacobs, Secretary; Johni Pittenger, Treasurer.

Volunteers Needed for Educational Programs

Volunteers are needed to staff Mission San Juan Capistrano’s “curiosity carts” and assist with educational programs. Curiosity carts offer learning for students and visitors interested in seeing items up close, including branding irons, spurs, horseshoes, hoods, candles, pottery shards and objects used by the Native Americans. For information about becoming a volunteer, contact Pat March, (949) 234-1322 or pmarch@missionsjc.com.

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Welcome New Employees!

Megan Coughtry, Development Assistant
Elina Ramos, Environmental Services Technician

Congratulations!

Javier Mendez receives service award for 10 years of service.
Dee Vukelich receives service award for 10 years of service.

2009 Events continued from page 1

Music Under the Stars summer concert series kicks off with the Battle of the Mariachis and Grammy nominated Mariachi Divas on June 13. Popular returning bands include Alturas, Derek Bordeaux Group, Hot August Night and the Fab Four. New in 2009 are performers recreating the music of Jimmy Buffett, Elton John and Billy Joel.
Season table tickets for Mission Preservation Society members go on sale March 16. Tables and lawn tickets for Mission Society members go on sale March 30. General sales open April 12th. Purchase your tickets ASAP, as the series sells out quickly.

Movie Night at the Mission also returns this year on September 25. Enjoy a family-friendly movie and refreshments in the Mission courtyard starting at 5:30 p.m.
Christmas at the Mission closes out the year’s special events, with Christmas music, refreshments, and arts and crafts for children. For information, visit www.missionsjc.com or call (949) 234-1300.
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EJ Tracy, Board Member

Serra Chapel Conservation Project “The Sacristy Rehabilitation”

After three years of continuous conservation efforts, electrical and mechanical upgrades a completed historic Serra Chapel is now ready to enter into another 100 years of service.

As part of completing the Serra Chapel Conservation Project the Mission desired to greatly improve the functionality of the Chapel’s Sacristy by redesigning the cabinet layout to better serve the priests in their preparation of the daily Mass.

Architectural Resources Group working in close cooperation with priests, sacristans, and Mission staff designed new cabinets for vestments, books, and liturgical items. Handcrafted by The Wood and Iron Factory of San Diego, California to strict specifications, the finished cabinets are stunning. Constructed of red oak luxuriously stained with a deep mahogany, outfitted with specialty door pulls and matching hardware, the just under ten foot tall cabinets complete the tiny Sacristy located just behind the Chapel's 17th century Retablo.

With every project detail examined in depth and special attention focused on quality control, uniformity in fabrication, and proper installation, the caliber of craftsmanship achieved by the contracted parties involved is paramount.

The work tasks of the Sacristy rehabilitation also included:
- Fabrication and installation of a complete set of custom cabinets designed to properly store all liturgical items.
- Installation of new electrical conduit to replace older obtrusively routed conduit and movement of Chapel lighting dimmer module.
- Painting and cleaning of non-decorative ceiling and walls.
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If you want to see time fly by quickly, merely look into the eyes of your children.

**New Programming**

Remember Mission San Juan Capistrano in your Planned Giving.

To join the Mission’s Landmark Circle contact Beth Beier, Development and Marketing Manager at 234-1312 for information on becoming a part of a group of committed individuals who support the long range goals of continuing and sustaining needed education and preservation programming through their planned giving commitment.

**LATEST IMPRESSIONS**

The latest issue is now distributed with 180,000 copies of the Orange County Register as well as many community newspapers throughout Orange County.

The most recent featured artists include Michell Lawrence-Adams and Janis Guenther.

**Mission Fine Art Gallery's Art Exhibition & Sale**

Lasting Impressions

Now through March 30, 2009 in the Soldiers Barracks Gallery.

Lasting Impressions features the work of artists from the Mission Fine Art Gallery in San Juan Capistrano. Fine art paintings and photographs will be featured.

**Southern California Plein Air Painters Association**

April 4-9, 2009 – July 14, 2009 Soldiers Barracks Gallery 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily

Artists Reception: Friday, April 3rd, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
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Volunteer Opportunities: Living History, Docents, Gardening Angels, Artifacts Council, Women’s Guild, Mission Youth Leadership, Fort March (949) 234-1332

EVENTS ALWAYS AT THE MISSION

Digital audio tour in English, Spanish, German and French

FREE MISSION GARDEN TOURS

Wednesday – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

CURIOUSITY CARTS

Tuesday – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NATIVE AMERICAN WEAVING DEMONSTRATIONS

1st & 3rd Wednesdays each month – 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

LIVING HISTORY DAY

Second Saturday each month – 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

MISSION WEAVER

Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION DAY

Third Wednesday of each month members show card for a free $5.00 credit at Mission Gift Shop

ST. JOSEPH’S DAY FESTIVITIES AND SERA PANTRY FOOD DRIVE

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

This year is to include an Italian Celebration of food, art and music, featuring 40 Italian-themed vendors on March 21 & 22. Visitors can buy a custom painted Italian bowl, eat freshly grilled Italian sausage, or sit by the koi fountain and listen to Italian music. The historic Mission bells will again be rung on both days of the Italian Celebration.

In keeping with the tradition of St. Joseph’s Day, visitors are invited to bring canned food for Serra’s Pantry, which will be distributed to the needy.

As a partner with the Orange County Department of Education’s Imagination Celebration, come visit the Mission on May 18th for “Carp” Diem: Koi Culture. Visitors can enjoy presentations about koi, view paintings of the fish in the Mission’s fountains by noted artists and watch interpretive dances as they portray the grace and beauty of the koi. The day will be featured by Richard Wainwright’s colorfully illustrated book, Royal Koi & Kindred Spirits. Activities for children include making an origami (paper) koi and creating a watercolor koi wash.

There will be no shortage of music at the Mission this year, as the popular...