Return of the Swallows
Where they choose to live

ALSO:
NEW PRESERVATION OF WEST WING
SUMMER CONCERT TICKETS ON SALE
SUMMER CAMPS AND ADVENTURE SLEEPOVER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

This year’s Swallows Day and St. Joseph’s Annual festivities combined the traditions of the past with a few new offerings. The day began with Mission Parish School students performing, as they have for over 80 years, danced routines to mark the annual Return of the Swallows to Capistrano. The day continued with a press conference featuring a line up of special guest speakers, including our Foundation President, George O’Connell. The old bells rang in celebration to mark the day. Performances from such loved Mission personalities, as Jacque Nunez and the Tushmal Singers were enjoyed by all. Mariachis played to an appreciative audience.

This year our facilities crew set up temporary swallows viewing stations so that guests could see swallows nests up close. We also invited renown swallows expert Professor Charles R. Brown all the way from Tulsa, Oklahoma who served as a guest lecturer and presented his thoughts on what is happening with the migratory patterns of Capistrano’s most famous birds. Mission docents and volunteers generously greeted guests and helped provide information about the site. Our Italian translation of our Voices of the Mission audio tour debuted courtesy of Mission supporters, Vicky and Michael Carabini.

There are different meanings to “the return” of these special birds. Some people told me that the March 19th event serves as a reminder for them to return to the Mission to see all that has happened in a year’s time. Others told me that they want to take part in the celebration and to connect with the past. Still others told me that the day is about marking a special wish on a bucket list (most of these are incidentally named Joe and are visiting to celebrate their birthday!) Then there are the students and teachers who come throughout the school year, and land their field trip visit on a day that has a lot more going on than they planned!

The annual return of the swallows - and all that goes with it- has come to mark an annual season in my life. Each March, I note my children’s growth as we ride the float or participate in the performances, or I give them a few dollars for a churro or snow cone to enjoy. I note the changes in my staff and their progress and pride in hosting this meaningful event. I feel a sense of hope stirring within, as each day gets closer to March 19th.

2009 Service Team honorees with Mechelle Lawrence-Adams at the 2010 Volunteer and Employee Luncheon. (From L-R: Sam U’Ren, Catherine Hayes, Craig Springer, Ricardo Chaldez Jr., Mechelle Lawrence-Adams, Tony Hartvigsen, Mary Hill, Megan Dukett and Pat March)

I find myself praying that the birds will return so that guests longing to see a swallow will not be disappointed. As I ponder what it means to welcome back the birds, I can’t help but think perhaps their return represents similar feelings for other elements in our lives. Perhaps the anticipation of the birds’ return is the same feeling many of us have for a loved one’s safe return.

The return of the swallows culminates on this one special day each year, as it has for nearly 100 years. I hope you will return to the Mission this Spring, Mission San Juan Capistrano to discover your own meaning of the return of the swallows.

Mechelle Lawrence-Adams
Executive Director, Mission San Juan Capistrano

Use your Ralphs Rewards Card to Raise Funds for the Mission!

For more information, go to: www.missionsjc.com/donations/ralphs
Mission San Juan Capistrano

THANKS SUPPORTERS

On February 10, the Mission Preservation Foundation hosted a special event featuring a concert in the recently restored Serra Chapel, and a special reception to thank Mission supporters for their continued support and investment in Orange County’s only Mission.

“To know they loved the Mission and want to do something to ensure its long term sustainability. This inspires all of us to work just a little harder and with even greater dedication to let them know how much they are appreciated,” stated George O’Connell.

Those in attendance have donated funding toward scholarships for low income field trip students, preservation of the site, development of the museum, as well as a variety of other needs associated with maintaining and preserving Orange County’s premiere historic and religious landmark.

During the evening, George O’Connell, President of the Mission Preservation Foundation, introduced the Landmarks Club, a special group of supporters who have designated the Mission for estate gifts in their planning.

Three New Kinds of Mission Tours

ITALIAN AUDIO, WEEKEND GUIDED AND BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS

The new Italian language translation of the Mission’s award winning audio tour is now available and joins the collection’s five languages along with English, Spanish, French, German and Vietnamese. Visitors can experience music, history and storytelling about California history and hear of great stories and projects specifically about the Jewel of the missions, Mission San Juan Capistrano.

Also, the Mission is now offering weekend guided tours on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. The tours are directed by the Mission’s Interpretive Guide, and last about 45 minutes. These weekend tours do not require advanced reservations or a minimum group size. There is a nominal fee for the personal tours of $2 per adult and $1 per child, in addition to admission.

Joining the Mission’s repertoire of tour offerings are new “Behind the Scenes” tours available by advance reservation. These tours are led by the Mission’s Executive Director, Mechelle Lawrence-Adams. Participants will be able to hear and see art, artifacts, and preservation work with great detail. These tours are $20 per person with all proceeds directed towards the Mission’s preservation. Reservations can be made by emailing or calling Kathleen Witkowski at (949) 234-1306. For more information on tours, please visit our web site www.missionsjc.com.
Preservation

RENOVATIONS FOR THE WEST WING MUSEUM

Thanks to the generous support of private donations, the Mission Preservation Team started the much needed electrical, mechanical and fire protection planned upgrades to the 1975 West Wing Museum. Recently, the extensive process of upgrading the West Wing Building began with a complete set of “permit ready” architectural and engineering drawings meeting the critical needs of museum buildings. The project includes re-designing exterior doors, retro-fitting existing windows to improve and conserve energy and performance of the building’s heating and cooling systems. This will also meet current museum environmental standards with the addition of upgrades to the interior lighting systems and the installation of comprehensive fire protection systems. Making the West Wing the perfect location for all upcoming traveling exhibits. Work has begun and is scheduled for completion in the upcoming summer months.

“Unmasking Zorro” - A New Exhibit

LIMITED TIME ONLY - JUNE 1 THRU AUGUST 31

The Mission Preservation Foundation is pleased to announce its new summer exhibit “Unmasking Zorro”. This temporary exhibit will be on display from June 1 through August 31. Working hand in hand with Zorro Productions, this unique exhibit showcasing cinematic history of Zorro from past films and televisions will be on display. The exhibit will feature original costumes worn by actors Antonio Banderas and Catherine Zeta Jones from the 2005 film “The Mask of Zorro”. In addition, generations of film goers will enjoy viewing original film props and related items from the films of such stars as Douglas Fairbanks, Tyrone Power and Guy Williams. An array of related Zorro items from pop culture, film, tv, magazines and books will also be on display for the public’s enjoyment.

In collaboration with Zorro Productions, the Mission’s exhibit hopes to draw visitors and members of all ages to enjoy a summer visit to Orange County’s only Mission and learn about this famed masked hero. Come and celebrate Mission San Juan Capistrano’s second traveling exhibit for a limited time only in the newly refurbished West Wing Building. The exhibit is free to members and daily viewing hours will be limited from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. Please check our website for details.

Gold Panning

SATURDAYS

Since December, every Saturday approximately 100-150 people have participated in the Mission’s Gold Panning free activity. Jim Leone, a Mission volunteer and resident miner has been greatly successful at teaching children how to pan for gold and teaching them about the life of early California miners as part of the Gold Fever exhibit. The exhibit may have closed, but due to overwhelming success, this free activity will remain indefinitely, every Saturday for the public from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Music Under the Stars 2010 Concert Series

TICKETS ON SALE

Mission San Juan Capistrano presents the Music Under the Stars 2010 Concert Series. For a detailed list of performers, please visit our web site.

TICKET PRICES:
Reserved Table Tickets for groups of 6 or 10: $30 – $40
General Admission Lawn Tickets (Bring your own chairs): $20 for Members and $25 for Non-Members

CONCERT MAP:
Now online at www.missionsjc.com

ON SALE DATES:
March 29: Season Table Buyers
April 12: Mission Preservation Society Members and Current Volunteers
April 26: General Public

HOW TO ORDER:
Season table buyers, please call (949) 234-1317.
Mission members and general public may order online or call (949) 934-1300. Tickets may also be purchased at the front gate. Order forms for tables also available online at www.missionsjc.com. Tickets purchased online will be at the front gate “Will Call”. All major credit cards are accepted, no refunds, replacements or exchanges will be offered. Season table buyers are those who purchase at least one table to each of the six concerts and thereby receive priority booking. Reserved table pricing varies based on seating size and table location. General admission lawn ticket buyers should bring their own low-back chair and enjoy the show from our reserved lawn chair section or from one of our lovely benches. Lawn tickets are limited per concert, so early booking is encouraged! Restaurants will not be available for food service this year! Renew your Mission Preservation Society Membership before sales begin, by contacting Mary Hill at (949) 234-1300 or renew online at www.missionsjc.com.

Mission Debut!
SECOND EDUCATION HANDBOOK FOR STUDENT AND TEACHERS

Due to the great response to the Fourth Grade Mission Report Handbook on Mission San Juan Capistrano, the Mission Education Department developed a second resource intended for both teachers and students alike. The latest addition is a handbook that helps the reader understand the details of all 21 of California’s missions. This version is also recommended for students, parents and teachers studying any of the 21 California Missions including Mission San Juan Capistrano for their school projects and report. The report workbook feature activities, directions on making a mission model, coupons and more. To purchase your report workbooks, visit the online store at www.missionsjc.com. The book can be purchased at the entrance and Mission Gift Shop as well. Both report guides are an addition to the many free resources now available on the Mission’s website for teachers, students and their parents.

Kids Summer Camps
AT THE MISSION

Visit the official website events calendar for your camp and summer program information!

Ceramics Clay Camp
Sessions start June 21 till July 30, 2010
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Indian Summer Camp
Session 1: June 21 - June 25, 2010
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Adventure Sleepover - Night at the Mission
July 16 - July 17, 2010 • 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Free Summer Kids Activities!
June 22 - August 26, 2010 • 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Tuesdays: Crafts Wednesdays: Gardening
Thursdays: Toy Making
Save the Date
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2010

2010 Romance of the Mission Benefit Gala Concert & Dinner

6:00 - Pre-concert reception, Mission Front Courtyard
7:00 - Concert in the ruins of the Great Stone Church
8:30 - Four Course plated dinner, The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel

Reserved seating and VIP artist reception for Underwriters in the amount of $10,000 and above.
$300 per ticket – all inclusive
Ticket Payment Plan Available.
For more information call Barb Beier at (949) 234-1323.

- Swallows Factoid -
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Where are the swallows?
The Cliff Swallows begin to arrive in March from their winter home in Argentina. Between March and October they can be seen building nests in the eves. Due to urbanization, they seek out areas near water and food sources, such as a concrete under pass or bridge near creeks. They begin their migration back to Argentina in October.

2. Do they still come back?
The Swallows come back every March. When the Great Stone Church was stabilized, the preservationists removed the nests that had been constructed over a very long period. When the nests were removed, the swallows returned to other portions of San Juan Capistrano. Long ago the swallows came back to the Mission because it was the main and biggest building around. Today with the development of the community, alternative locations are available for them to build their nests.

- Return of the Swallows -
CLIFF SWALLOWS EXPERT

This year, in response to concerns about when the birds arrive, and where they choose to nest, the Mission hosted renowned cliff swallows expert Professor Charles R. Brown from the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Brown has received several awards honoring his work in ornithology and has published countless pieces on the topic of swallows; his most recent being in the Phi Kappa Phi Forum Magazine, “How Cliff Swallows Choose Where to Live” can be downloaded free on our web site at www.missionsjc.com

Dr. Charles R. Brown
Welcome
NEW EMPLOYEES AT THE MISSION

JOSE MEJIA
Environmental Services Technician

MAX GUTIERREZ
Security Officer

DAVID BORTZ
Guest Services Representative

There are many rewarding opportunities on how to become involved and support Mission San Juan Capistrano
For volunteer information please contact Pat March
(949) 234-1322 or visit www.missionsjc.com

Thank You to Our Generous Supporters!

Gifts given from January 6, 2010 - February 26, 2010

MSJC Women’s Guild
-In Memory of Stanley Borgenight
24 Hour Fitness
Accent Portraits by Diana
Aliso Creek Inn & Golf Course
Azarian US Gymnastics
Bradford Renaissance Portraits
Cafe Mozart
Ms. Mary Camargo
Campbell Hall Elementary
Chevron
Classic Party Rentals
Comerica Bank, Detroit MI
Connor, Fletcher & Williams LLP
CR&R Waste and Recycling Services
El Adobe de Capistrano
Fairmont International Academy
Paul Fenner Floral Designs
Mr. and Mrs. Max Gutierrez
Ms. Janet Marott
Mission Hospital Regional Medical Center
Ms. Daisy Neves
O’Connell Family Foundation
Ortega Equestrian Center
Ortega’s Mission Gift Shops, Inc.
Ms. Sian Poeschl
Pretend City Children’s Museum
Ralph’s Grocery Company
Ripley’s Believe It or Not!
Ms. Socorro Rivera
Shine
St. Mary and All Angels School
Mr. Benjamin B. Tan
The Greater O.C. Woman
Toyota / Scion of San Juan Capistrano
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Valenzuela
Wells Fargo Business Banking Group
Dr. Paul M. Whisenand Ph.D.
Wildflower Linens
Zoological Society of San Diego
When was the last time you visited?

UPCOMING

**Sixth Annual Battle of the Mariachis Festival**
Saturday • May 22, 2010

**Zorro Exhibit Unmasking Zorro**
The History and Legend of the Original “Curse of Capistrano”
June 1, 2010 - August 31, 2010

**Summer Camp Programs**
June 21 thru July 30
1 week and two week sessions

**Free Summer Kids Activities**
June 22 thru August 26
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Music Under the Stars Summer 2010 Concert Series**
Saturdays • June 26, July 10,
July 24, Aug. 7, Aug. 21, Sept. 4

**Adventure Sleepover**
July 16 thru July 17
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 a.m.

For Discounts, Tickets & Information
www.missionsjc.com

Event Hotline (949) 234-1315