SPRING IS HERE
FLOWERS IN BLOOM
& RETURN OF THE SWALLOWS

MISSION PRESERVATION FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER
NEW PAINTING ON DISPLAY
PAY IT FORWARD WITH ADOPT-A-CLASS
8TH ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE MARIACHIS
The Mission Preservation Foundation recently celebrated the completion of Phase I of the Gate House Preservation Project. We kicked off this historic project with a beautifully executed groundbreaking event on the memorable Wednesday morning of December 14th, 2011 and finished nearly 14 weeks later.

The 1990s remodeled and underfunded entry to the Mission has always seemed underwhelming. In fact, staff often sees visitors pass by because the entry is visually confusing. If first impressions matter as much as we think they do, then the Mission’s entry area has been working against us for decades.

A site like this deserves more. Fortunately, the Mission Preservation Foundation leadership felt strongly that Mission San Juan Capistrano deserves an entry that pays homage to the significance of this site, preserves the historic Sala building, and rehabilitates the original 1916 gate house building. Aside from the strong leadership provided by George and the Board, this project was successfully implemented because of the rich and varied talents of my friends and colleagues who worked tirelessly and responsively to my many concerns and goals. Those people deserving of recognition include: Matt McKinly, Project Manager, Ed Lohrbach, Architect, Glenn Gellatly, Architect, Jim Madden, Architect, Mike Imlay, Landscape Architect, and Sam U’ren. Thank you fellas, for making this project a reality and for your dedication throughout the past several years.

The next step for this Gate House Preservation Project is to invite your help to underwrite the remaining $600,000 needed to complete Phase II. This funding will allow the rest of the project to proceed and will support the relocation of the gift shop use in order to preserve the historic Sala building and incorporate it as a museum and interpretive space.

The last 16 weeks have been a whirlwind of activity, energy and spirit for me at home as well. For it was also on that same December 14th when my husband Joe and I - along with my children Lisa and Dylan - were gifted with our newest family member, a baby boy we named “Jack Artemas Adams” (The “Art in Artemas” being in tribute to Monsignor Arthur Holquin); who represents unfinished business in my heart and brings an immeasurable amount of love, joy and happiness to our family. Yes, December 14th is a day that I will always remember as one that had me in one moment celebrating the Mission and just a few hours later, celebrating the beauty of a new life, both counting on me to give my all without hesitation.

Well that’s about it for this update. I invite you to check out the first phase improvements and help us move forward with finishing the project. With your help, we should be finished in the Spring of 2013. And forever, we will elevate the entry experience to pay greater respect to the landmark that is Mission San Juan Capistrano. By the way when you do visit, be sure to ask me to show you some baby photos, I might just have a few….

See you on the path,

Mechelle Lawrence-Adams
Executive Director
Chief Preservation Officer

Congratulations to long time serving Mission Preservation Foundation Board member Bill Cvengros, and his wife Joan for being honored at this year’s Swallows Day Parade, as The Official Grand Marshalls!
Mission Preservation Foundation Welcomes New Board Member

The Mission Preservation Foundation is proud to announce its newest Board Member Bruce Brainerd, General Manager, The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel. Bruce is an active member of the community, with proven leadership. He serves as a board member for the Ocean Institute and Vice-Chairman for the Dana Point Tourism Business Improvement District. He also supports multiple local charities.

The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel has long been a dedicated community partner. “The Mission and its historical significance inspires me to preserve its legacy. I am proud to expand our relationship by serving on the Foundation Board,” said Bruce Brainerd, General Manager of The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel.

“The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel has been a long standing supporter of the Mission, and has always been a very special part of what the Board is working to achieve. It makes total and appropriate sense to have Bruce become a board of director on the foundation. We are all excited about working with him to continue to serve Orange County in unique and special ways that only two incredible landmarks in history and hospitality can,” said Mechelle Lawrence-Adams.

Mr. Brainerd’s addition to the Board is a positive reflection of his commitment for Orange County’s only mission. Welcome Bruce.

Preservation New Acquisition for Exhibit

In late 2011 Mr. and Mrs. Brandon Birtcher donated a portrait of St. John of Capistrano to the Mission. This unsigned oil on canvas painting dates to between the late 18th and 19th centuries. The painting was in need of conservation and framing. Making the work possible is generous underwriting by long time friends of the Mission, Warren and Jan Siegel.

Ms. Aneta Zebala, painting conservator, is currently removing layers of discolored varnish and overpaint. Overpaint was a common technique used in painting conservation during the 19th and early 20th centuries wherein conservators would paint over damage, covering the artist’s original work.

Upon completion of its preservation treatment, the painting will be displayed in the Mission Treasures: Historical Collection Revealed, available for viewing daily from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Mission San Juan Capistrano’s Preservation Foundation celebrated the completion of Phase I of the Gate House Preservation Project with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of the Mission entrance on Monday, March 26.

Monsignor Arthur Holquin performed the honors of cutting the ribbon, as Mission Executive Director Mechelle Lawrence-Adams was joined by dignitaries such as President of the Mission Preservation Foundation Board George O’Connell, San Juan Capistrano Mayor Larry Kramer, and San Juan Capistrano Council Members: Sam Allevato, Laura Freese, and John Taylor, and City Manager Karen Brust to mark the occasion.

Phase I of the project included the construction of the Mission’s new group entry, plaza and wall along Camino Capistrano.

“I am excited to witness the start of construction on the first new building at Mission San Juan Capistrano since the 1950s,” said George O’Connell, President of the Mission Preservation Foundation Board. “Together we are making history and insuring that this great landmark will be around for many generations to come.”

The word “philanthropy” comes from the Latin word, philanthropia, which in part means “general love for, or benevolence toward, the whole of humankind.” Few things bring more pleasure to philanthropic individuals than making meaningful gifts that will make a difference to their favorite organizations.

The Foundation celebrates the 34 philanthropic current Landmarks Club member estates to date who have chosen to continue to support Historic Mission San Juan Capistrano beyond their lifetimes by including the Mission in their estate plans.

These members believe in the value of Mission San Juan Capistrano and included in their estate plans by promising a future gift of a bequest, life income agreement, retirement funds, life insurance, cash gift, or trust arrangement. These important gifts will help to ensure that Mission San Juan Capistrano will continue as a place of peace, inspiration, education, and preservation for generations to come.

To let us know if you have already included Historic Mission San Juan Capistrano in your estate plans, or would like more information on Landmarks Club membership, please contact Barb Beier, Development Director, (949) 234-1323 or bbeier@missionsjc.com.
0n Friday, September 14, 2012, Mission Preservation Foundation will host this year’s Romance of the Mission, honoring Jan and Honorable Warren Seigel. This year’s gala features concert artist Mr. Davis Gaines performing in the ruins of the Great Stone Church followed by a beautiful candlelight dinner by The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel in the Central Courtyard of the Mission. Underwriting opportunities and ticket payment plans are available, please call (949) 234-1323. If you did not receive a “Save the Date” post card, please let us know and we will make sure an invitation is sent to you for this special event by emailing Barb Beier at bbeier@missionsjc.com.

The Mission’s Cliff Swallows

ased upon years of scientific research and the study of swallows, Dr. Charles Brown, world-renown cliff swallows expert, has offered a professional recommendation that he believes will attract more swallows from the creeks where they have been re-establishing their nests as a result of the seismic stabilization of the Great Stone Church. Using strategically placed speakers on the Mission grounds, “the hope is to play calls and songs that will attract the interest and notice of passing cliff swallows,” Dr. Brown said. “Once they see this site, there’s a good chance they will be interested. It’s a matter of attracting them in; we know they are overhead and in the area.”

Dr. Brown said this process has worked with the Purple Martin, which is another type of swallow. “The recording would be courtship songs that males use to attract females,” Dr. Brown said. “And males would be attracted too because they are very social birds. A systematic program of playing it a few times a day, when the weather is good and during the times they would be foraging, I think there’s a good chance they will come in.” The vocalization experiment will take place this spring. For updates or information, please visit our website.

Recently Restored Painting

he recently conserved 18th century Mary Magdalene painting is now on display as part of the “Mission Treasures: Historical Collection Revealed” exhibit. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Again, thank you to our friends Jean and Mike Beckman for returning this painting to glory through their generous underwriting.
New expert blogs and check out our new timeline

Mission San Juan Capistrano is debuting three new expert blogs online as additional resources for the public, especially designed for students and teachers. Experts at Mission San Juan Capistrano will feature topics such as museum, preservation, education and cliff swallows. In addition to online blogs, the Mission has a new timeline on Facebook that dates back to 1776 and includes important milestones and images. Visit our website or our official Facebook page for more information.

Adopt-A-Class! Fourth graders need you

The Mission’s “Adopt-A-Class” scholarship program was spearheaded in 2005 to help low-income children to be able to take part in the fun and learning that a field trip to Mission San Juan Capistrano can provide.

The Mission’s docents provide guided tours to the over 54,000 school children who visit annually, however, with school funding being limited, a field trip is often too expensive.

Please help us provide an inspired learning experience by funding a field trip for California fourth graders, call (949) 234-1323 to get involved.

Thanks to the generous support of the Thomas J. and Erma Jean Tracy Family Foundation, the Eighth Annual Battle of the Mariachis Festival, a celebration of the talent, interpretation and inspiration of the best in the West will take place on Saturday, May 12, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

A few reserved tables are still available online at www.missionsjc.com. General admission tickets will be available for purchase the day of the Festival at the Gate House on Ortega Highway.

New Employees

Welcome to Mission San Juan Capistrano

Charlene Burda, Security Officer
Danielle Peterson, Guest Services
Ray Rhue, Security Officer
Katie Harper, Guest Services

Ralphs is giving up to $3,000,000 to non-profit organizations this year, and with your help, Historic Mission San Juan Capistrano can earn a share of it for preservation.

Every time you shop for groceries and swipe your card, the Mission will automatically start earning.

For any other questions visit www.missionsjc.com/donations/ralphs.php
Barb and Don Beier-In Honor of Jack Armes Adams
Barb and Don Beier-In Memory of Henry Hoppie
Barb and Don Beier-In Memory of Ona Elizabeth O’Connell Reid
Debra and Dwayne Bellow-In Memory of Berchman & Verre La Cour
Ted Bowsefield-In Memory of Marilyn Bowsfield
Blanche Brooks-In Honor of William Brooks, Jr. & Sr. and Ginger Brooks
Vince Caserta and Ann Vollmer-In Honor of Mission Tour Guide, Jim Dennis Catello-In Memory of Mary Pazo
Ellen Christopher-Day-In Memory of William E. Christopher
Vicki Collins-In Memory of Mae Villarana
Dean Daggett-In Memory of Sister Dorothy Heffernan, SSJ
Marie and John DiDonato-In Honor of Victor DiDonato
Patricia C. Dooley-In Memory of G. Dooley Sr. and Joseph G. Dooley Jr.
Patricia C. Dooley-In Memory of Edmund M. Connor Jr.
Amerlia Espiritu-In Memory of Jose Paschal Jr.
Kelly and Dominic Fergus-Bentall-In Honor of Peter Fergus-Bentall
Jean Fisher-In Memory of Harold Agan, Grandfather
Alexander Forster and Michele Forster-In Memory of Nadine Forster
Eileen Garrigan-In Honor of Gaye and Art Bircher
Joy and Rudy Horsch-In Memory of Bill McGhee
Joy and Rudy Horsch-In Memory of Carol Westervelt
Mary Elisabeth and Robert Kaiser-In Memory of Zach, Grandson of Carol & Mel Clibsy
Mikyung Kim-In Honor of Mikyung Kim
Teresita and Hubert Koenn-In Honor of Constancio & Amanda Romero
Judith and Joseph MacKinnon-In Honor of Mary Ellen and Michael Murphy
Mike Martin-In Memory of Linda Martin
MSJC Docent Society-In Honor of Mission SJC Facilities Staff
Patrick Newton-In Memory of John J. Moller
Lois and Al Notin-In Memory of John Garrigan
Ann Nunes-In Memory of Gladys Lydiksen
Yvonne and John O’Neill-In Memory of Debra Kathleen Martinez
Lisa and Robert Ohlund-In Honor of Mechelle Lawrence-Adams & Mission SJC Staff
Susan and Robert Pesavento-In Memory of James J. Pesavento
Yolanda and Ponce-In Memory of Sarita Macias - Elena Ponce
Rainier Welding, Inc.-In Honor of Enrique Forster
Christine Robinson-In Honor of Mildred Pitchford
Mary Lou Rodemall-In Honor of Mechelle Lawrence-Adams

Ashley and Andre Rodrigue-In Honor of Verdell Yerba & Family
Sherry Santor-In Honor of Bette and Nino Bonanno
Anthony Scarno Jr.-In Memory of Maria Scarno
Dana Schnell-In Honor of Karin Schnell
Juel Sicilian-In Honor of Norman Prestage
Robert Smith-In Memory of Rosamond Essa Griffin
The Shea Foundation-In Honor of Patrick L. Meek Family
EJ Tracy-In Honor of Robert & Dempsey Ollison
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Christina Zayas-In Memory of Esther Modesti
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Francisco Acevedo
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We regret any misspelling or errors. Names are published as records indicate.

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