Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

AT THE MISSION
DAILY ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

SPECIAL HOLIDAY GUIDE
FOR MISSION STORE

FORSTER SADDLE ON DISPLAY
MISSION TREASURES

SALA PRESERVATION BEGINS
CAMPOSANTO TRIBUTE DEPARTS
Executive Director’s Message
The Mission’s Many Means of Serving

At the end of a long day, my husband Joe and I often talk about our respective jobs serving as the executive director of a historic landmark and the president of two science museums.

Often our conversation centers back to how honored I am to be at the receiving end of calls from people who are facing significant challenges in their lives looking for solace. Their understanding of the Mission as a historic landmark is then reinforced to me that they also appreciate this 238-year-old place as a spiritual place. I can hear in their voices that the power and meaning of this place is on their mind. Somehow in their fog I get to be momentarily “there for them,” directing them to a priest, a candle, or place on the grounds and in some cases in person, giving a hug.

This year as we saved old paintings, raised funds for conservation, celebrated the good times with our guests and members, educated tens of thousands of students, my phone rang intermittently to cause me to take pause. So as the calendar year approaches its end, it’s timely to remember that the Mission is a place for appreciating the beauty of life. I know this because many times when those calls came in, I would look out my office window to see our gardening angels working and I remember that we as stewards of historic landmarks can be angels in others’ lives simply by making historic places like this accessible.

With each passing year, I feel more deeply that historic places like Mission San Juan Capistrano have the power to transform a moment, a life, and a community. The Mission is not a roadside attraction to be lumped in with other attractions; it is a place of purpose and power. It’s value is immeasurable.

And coincidentally, as I wrote this column, I got a call from a friend whose husband lost his battle with cancer, and all I could do was to promise to visit the Serra Chapel for her and for him.

Know that in 2015, I will continue to take your calls, and will work hard to ensure that we never let up on our efforts to save the Mission so that it can serve others.

As we approach the new year let me say thank you for making it possible for the Mission to be a place of beauty, inspiration, service and solace and a place to celebrate that life is beautiful. Your gifts of support matter.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from all of us! See you on the path,

Mechelle Lawrence Adams
Preservationist,

- 2014 -
Dedication - We Remember
Alice O’Neill Avery
Steve Freese
JoAnne Sanchez
Louie Silva
Beverly Smith
Sala Preservation Project Continues

Phase II of the Sala Preservation Project is now underway.

The scope of work, which began in October and is expected to last through September of next year, will cost an estimated $600,000, of which all is being funded through gala, private donations and store net proceeds. The project includes a wide-ranging array of repairs and improvements:

- Wall Repairs / Exterior Finishes / Decorative Stone
- Seismic Retrofit Upgrades
- Electrical System Upgrades
- Interior Finishes Conservation
- Moisture Mitigation / Site Work
- Roof System
- Sacred Garden Fountain Repair

Donations to complete phase II and begin planning for phase III of the project are needed and currently being accepted. To donate to this project, please contact Barb Beier at (949) 234-1323, or donate online at missionsjc.com.

Last Chance! Camposanto Exhibit

Camposanto: A Tribute to the Mission Cemetery History will be history soon. The cemetery exhibit, which is on display daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the historic Sala building, will close for good on January 5, 2015.

The exhibit pays homage to the landmark Mission Cemetery, which is located east of Serra Chapel. The camposanto -- or “holy field” -- was a common term Franciscan padres used for “cemetery.”
Forster Saddle Now on Display at Mission Treasures

addle up and ride on over to Mission San Juan Capistrano’s “Mission Treasures” exhibit to check out a mid-19th century saddle that was owned by John Forster -- also known as Don Juan Forster (1814-1882).

During the 19th century, in exchange for hides and tallow, merchants supplied Californio ranchers with manufactured goods and luxury items like this saddle which could cost as much as 150 hides. Don Juan Forster likely purchased the saddle in the 1850s, and the saddle stayed in the Forster family’s possession until the 1970s when Jerome Forster (1933-2012) put it on loan for a Smithsonian Institute exhibit about western saddles in North America, and thereafter graciously placed it with Mission San Juan Capistrano for its collection.

This beautiful California-style saddle demonstrated Don Juan Forster’s wealth. Like other Californios, he used his large landholdings to raise cattle and became wealthy by trading hides and tallow with English and American merchant ships.

In 1845, Forster purchased Mission San Juan Capistrano at auction from his brother-in-law, then Governor Pio Pico for a mere $710. For 20 years, Forster and his family called the Mission home (1845 to 1865) until it was determined that control of the Mission should be returned to the Catholic Church.

Visit the Mission Treasures exhibit, open daily from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

MISSION TREASURES
HISTORICAL COLLECTION REVEALED
OPEN DAILY 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. IN THE WEST WING

California Missions Foundation Grant Awarded

ission San Juan Capistrano was recently awarded a grant from the California Missions Foundation (CMF) to support important art conservation efforts for the Mission’s historic painting collection.

In 2013, a prior CMF grant supported a condition assessment to be undertaken for the historic painting collection. This year, the CMF grant announced its support for the conservation of one of the paintings that was examined in last year’s assessment, a 19th century oil, “Our Lady of Sorrows,” artist unknown, has been chosen for this conservation treatment.

The treatment will be performed by Balboa Art Conservation Center in San Diego and is set to begin before the end of the year. It will be completed in 2015. Mission San Juan Capistrano is grateful to the CMF for its continuing support of the Mission’s museum art collection.

There are many more paintings in the Mission’s museum collection that are in need of conservation. To get involved or to join our Art Guild, please contact Barb Beier at (949) 234-1323 or email bbeier@missionsjc.com.
How California Got It’s Name

By Megan Dukett
Education & Interpretive Program Manager

In 1533, Hernán Cortés ordered the exploration of the Pacific Coast of New Spain (present-day Mexico) to search for the fabled Strait of Anián (Northwest Passage). During the voyage, Fortún Ximénez, a pilot of one of the ships, led a mutiny and killed the captain. Yet he and his fellow mutineers managed to explore new areas, including present-day La Paz of Baja (Lower) California. Ximénez and his mutineers believed the land was the “Island of California,” a fictional place depicted in the popular romance novel of the day called *The Adventures of Esplandian* and written by Garci Rodriguez de Montalvo. The story was about a woman named Califa, a queen of Amazonian women who lived on a mystical island called California. The “Island of California” thereby got its name, mixing both fact and fiction in the minds of Europeans.

An excerpt of *The Adventures of Esplandian*: “Know ye that at the right hand of the Indies there is an island called California, very close to the part of the Terrestrial Paradise, which was inhabited by black women without a single man among them, and they lived in the manner of Amazons. They were robust of body with strong passionate hearts and great virtue. The island itself is on the wildest in the world on account of the bold and craggy rocks.”

Yet Spanish explorers soon realized California was not an island. Francisco de Ulloa explored the Gulf of California in 1539 and Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sailed the Pacific Coast of California in 1542, both proving California was not an island but a peninsula. Despite the new and accurate reports from Spanish explorers, European map makers of the 1600-1700s still showed California as an island. The mythical “Island of California” idea would persist for over 200 years. It was not until the late 1780s, well into Alta (Upper) California’s colonization led by Father Junipero Serra, that European map makers finally showed Baja California as a peninsula.

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History in the Making

Mission San Juan Capistrano has formed a Heritage Tourism Association to support downtown visitor attendance.

Over 300,000 annual visitors come primarily to see Mission San Juan Capistrano, but along the way they often discover San Juan Capistrano’s historic downtown area.

Mission San Juan Capistrano invited businesses and nonprofits located within the Los Rios Historic District and Mission Business District to join in its inaugural San Juan Capistrano Heritage Tourism Association/Marketing Co-op. To date, the response has exceeded expectations and has already raised $35,000 in new marketing funds to develop greater visibility of the co-op area.

*The following is a glimpse of a partial list of HTA Members, as of November 25th:*

**Founding Members:**
Mission San Juan Capistrano
Cedar Creek Inn, El Adobe de Capistrano
Esslinger Building, Los Rios Plaza
Mission Promenade, Rancho Capistrano Winery
Sundried Tomato Cafe
Swallow’s Inn

**Members:**
3:16 Bakery
Best Western Capistrano Inn
Blenheim Equisports
Camino Real Playhouse
Eco/Garden/Expo
Five Vines Wine Bar
Mission Fine Art Gallery
Hidden House Coffee
Nest
Old Barn Antique Mall
Rancho Mission Viejo Rodeo
Residence Inn Dana Point
San Juan Capistrano
Ruby’s Diner, Sky Ranch Patio
SJ&C Fiesta Association
SJ&C Friends of the Library

**Sponsors:**
SJC Historical Society
Taqueria El Campeon
The Tea House on Los Rios
The Vintage Steakhouse
Walking Tour Guides & Montanez Adobe
We Olive + Wine Bar -SJC
West Coast Film Festival
Whim Design
Zia Delivery

**Friends in Support/Underwriters:**
Rancho Mission Viejo
Serra Plaza
Spurs & Satin

No Mission donations are used for this association. Membership marketing benefits will launch officially with collateral and online outreach by January 2015. For more information, contact the Mission at (949) 234-1312.
Gift Giving at The Mission Store

ELEVATION
PROCESS
VARIEL
1,200 - 1,400 METERS
NATURAL
CATUAI, BOURBON
NET WEIGHT: 12 OZ
TASTE NOTES: TOASTED ALMOND, DARK CHOCOLATE, CARAMEL

NAME
BRAZIL BOBOLINK
COFFEE ROASTED LOCALLY FOR MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
CIRCA 1776
CALIFORNIA LANDMARK #200
REGION
BOBOLINK
MISSION BLEND
BLEND
Holiday

MISSION BLEND COFFEE
Available exclusively at the Mission Store
Roasted locally by Hidden House Coffee Roasters

Mission San Juan Capistrano and Hidden House Coffee Roasters have partnered together to create a special Mission Blend Coffee.

Hidden House Coffee is located in the Los Rios Historic District of San Juan Capistrano, the oldest residential street in California dating back to 1794. Coffee has a long history in the area; it was first introduced during the Mission era by Spanish s’oldiers who imported it like other rare items such as chocolate from Mexico.

Retail: $20.00  Special Member Price: $10.00

Plus, Members receive 10% off at Hidden House by showing member ID.

Visit the Mission Store to purchase limited edition Mission Blend Coffees. Open Daily 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Christmas at the Mission

Christmas always comes early at Mission San Juan Capistrano. The historic Mission, the birthplace of Orange County, kicked off the holiday season by hosting its annual “Christmas at the Mission” on Saturday, Dec. 6th.

A magical night under the stars allowed revelers to visit the Nativity scene, meet Father Christmas, and enjoy the beauty of the Mission’s gardens, all lit up for Christmas.

Christmas at the Mission was held in conjunction with the City of San Juan Capistrano’s annual Tree Lighting ceremony and community-wide holiday celebration.

Events and activities included live music performances throughout the Mission, ringing of the historic bells, Santa’s Workshop with cookie and ornament decorating for kids, photos with Father Christmas and food vendors serving tamales, burgers, coffee, hot cider, hot cocoa, sweets and more.

Some of the performance groups included the Dickens Carolers, Chamber Singers, Orchestra Musicians and Mariachis.

Goodwill and holiday cheer were spread by donations received through the Serra’s Pantry Food Drive. Collections for Serra’s Pantry Food Drive continue through December 19. Donate to the food drive and receive an admission ticket good for a return visit to the Mission in 2015!

Families enjoyed the fun, festive and memorable evening together at the old Mission!

SAVE THE DATE! Join us next year for Christmas at the Mission on Saturday, December 5, 2015.

Now Offering Daily Hands-on Activities

Mission San Juan Capistrano wants to provide students and families with an authentic place for inspired learning about California history. Learn more about the 21 California Missions with our backpack program featuring educational learning materials available for on-site check out. Visit the Mission Clubhouse featuring hands-on activities such as life size basket weaving, spin the wheel of Mission jobs, build a Roman arch and word play!

Daily hands-on activities include:

**Panning for Gold**
Monday through Friday • 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Weekends • 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
$3.00 per person, $1.00 for members

**Adobe Brick Making**
Monday through Friday • 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Weekends • 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
$3.00 per person, $1.00 for members

**Backpack Resource Program**
Offered Daily • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Mission Clubhouse**
Open Daily • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Koi Fish Feeding**
Offered Daily • 12:45 p.m.
$1.00 per person, FREE for members
Music Under the Stars 2015 Lineup Announced!

Mission San Juan Capistrano announces the lineup and on-sale dates for its 2015 Music Under the Stars summer concert series.

This year the Mission will host six Saturday evening concerts in its beautiful Central Courtyard featuring live music, picnic dining, and dancing.

Season table packages go on sale beginning **Wednesday, February 4** at 9:00 a.m. online at missionsjc.com. Table and general admission tickets go on sale **Wednesday, February 18** at 9:00 a.m. to Mission Preservation Society Members. Members receive discounted rates and advance purchase benefits. Members may purchase online or by calling (949) 234-1317.

On **Wednesday, March 4**, all sales become open to the general public. For more information on how to purchase, please visit our website at missionsjc.com or call (949) 234-1317.

**This year's concert series lineup includes:**

**June 27:** “Jump Into Summer” series kick-off concert with Jumping Jack Flash: Celebrating the Rolling Stones

**July 11:** The Long Run: Experience the Eagles
*Opening Act: Fortunate Son: A Tribute to John Fogerty and Creedence Clearwater Revival*

**July 25:** Derek Bordeaux Group: Motown, Soul & R&B

**August 8:** Hot August Night: Tribute to Neil Diamond

**August 22:** Cash’d Out: The Next Best Thing to Johnny Cash including June Carter Cash duets
*Opening Act: True Willie: America's Most Authentic Willie Nelson Tribute*

**September 5:** The Fab Four: Ultimate Tribute to the Beatles with “Ed Sullivan”
*Opening Act: DJ Peter Papadopoulos and Dancers*

Eleventh Annual Battle of the Mariachis Table Sales

Table reservations for the 2015 Eleventh Annual Battle of the Mariachis Festival go on sale beginning January 14, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Mission Members have the chance to purchase tickets one week early beginning January 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. Thanks to the generous support of the Thomas J. and Erma Jean Tracy Family Foundation, this highly anticipated festival features a full day of live musical performances and great food as Mariachi performers compete for cash prizes before a panel of judges. Purchase tables and tickets online, by phone (949) 234-1321 or at the Gate House.

**MISSION MEMBER BENEFITS!** Mission Members receive a one-week pre-sale before tables go on sale to the public! Members also receive a 10% discount on table purchases. To receive these benefits and others, become a Member today!

**SAVE THE DATE!** Join us for The Eleventh Annual Battle of the Mariachis on Saturday, May 9, 2015.
HELP US SAVE HISTORIC MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO
California Landmark #200

JOIN the 2015 CLUB

2015 Club Opportunities:
☐ $20.15  ☐ $20.15 a month for 12 months  ☐ $215  ☐ $2,015
☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $250  ☐ $500  ☐ Other $____________

Help us save historic Mission San Juan Capistrano for future generations! Become a part of the 2015 Club by giving a one-time gift of $20.15 or make twelve payments of $20.15, or give an amount of $215.00 or $2,015.00. You also have the option of giving $50, $100 or $500. A gift in any amount will make a difference. One hundred percent of your gift goes to its intended purpose.

Make your annual gift. Donate online at missionsjc.com or by returning the enclosed envelope.

Your tax-deductible donation to Mission San Juan Capistrano provides funds for the preservation of this historic landmark. A non-profit organization under IRS 501(c)(3). Tax ID #33-0833283 and #95-1904079.

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BMumma@missionsjc.com
Subscriptions are included with membership in the Mission Preservation Society.

Mission San Juan Capistrano
26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
(949) 234-1300  www.missionsjc.com
Please remember Historic Mission San Juan Capistrano in your Planned Giving.
Join the Landmarks Club. Membership is your gift to the future of the Mission.
501 (c) (3) ID# 33-0833283 For more information contact
Development Director Barb Beier (949) 234-1323
HOMESCHOOL FAMILY DAY
EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

New! Home School Package

Mission San Juan Capistrano is excited to present “Homeschool Family Day,” an opportunity for homeschooling families to enjoy a special visit to the Mission.

Homeschool Family Day is offered the third Wednesday of each month. The Mission held its first Homeschool Family Day in October, which was a great success and well-attended.

Students and their families may attend Homeschool Family Day simply by buying regular admission tickets, or they have the option to purchase The Homeschool Package that includes activities 50 percent off the total value.

The Homeschool Package costs $12.16 per person and includes: Admission, Audio Tour, Adobe brick making, Panning for gold, Koi fish feeding, Clubhouse ID card, and Passport Explorer.

The Homeschool Family Day package may be purchased online at missionsjc.com or at the gate.

JOIN TODAY!
MISSION PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Purchase a new membership or renew and receive 50% off a Mission Cookbook or Limited Edition Ornament

$9.99

Help the Mission! Shop at Ralphs & Amazon

Ralphs is donating up to $2,500,000 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. Sign up today at missionsjc.com/donations/ralphs.php

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organizations selected by their customers.

Shop today at smile.amazon.com and select Mission San Juan Capistrano in the pick your own charitable organization field.

For questions, contact Mary Jayne Pugh in the Development Department at (949) 234-1325 or mpugh@missionsjc.com.

MISSION PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Join us for our upcoming 2015 docent training dates:
January 21, January 28
February 4, February 11
Classes will be from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (must attend all classes)

For more information or to register, please contact Pat March at (949) 234 1322 or email pmarch@missionsjc.com

Volunteers receive discounts, free admission, and the opportunity to be a part of California Historic Landmark #200.

Be a part of History
BECOME A DOCENT

EDUCATE INSPIRE SHARE
Thank You to Our Generous Supporters and 2014 & 2015 Club Members!

Donald Alves  
In Memory of Yoshito & Mary Haratami
Donald Alves  
In Memory of Patricia Ann Alves
James Bedner  
In Memory of Violet Norma Allison Bedner
Barb and Don Beier  
In Memory of Waldor L. Boehner
Nelson Bone  
In Honor of Tony Forester
Lynn and Brian Chichi  
In Honor of many happy years in San Juan Capistrano
Sharon and John Cortney  
In Memory of Karen Cortney
Linda Davis  
In Honor of Gilbert Aguirre
Valerie Flouton  
In Memory of Diane Serrao
Valerie Flouton  
In Memory of Mary Adams
Donna Marie Frederick  
In Memory of Raymond Ruddy
Daisy and James Funk  
In Honor of Jack Artemis Adams
Karen and Manuel Pustes  
In Memory of Severo Mercado
Theresa and Byron Jonk  
In Memory of Severo Mercado
Linda Klein  
In Memory of Dale Klein
Lozano Construction  
In Memory of Donald Sabatino
Maureen & Gary Lynam  
In Honor of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Saint-Aubin
Anthony Panzica  
In Memory of Jackie Panzica
JoAnn Sykes  
In Memory of Gene Sykes
Mary Sykes  
In Memory of Gene Sykes
Teress and Jim Weber  
In Memory of Marie Frye
Dolores Yorba  
In Memory of Michael J. Yorba

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Advanced Presentation Support
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Kristine and Mark Howlett
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Barbara and Quentin Wall
Liz and Jim Weber
Wildflower Linens
Elisabeth Willback
Christine and Ed Woznicki
Margaret Yorba
Linda York and Daniel Driscoll
James and Paula Zalewski

FEATURED MISSION STORE AUTHOR, Cecilia Velástegui has a new bilingual children’s fable, Lalo Loves to Help and Howl of the Mission Owl, which will be available for a FREE download from any e-bookseller from December 15-31, 2014. Her acclaimed, bilingual story Olinguito Speaks Up is available for purchase at the Mission Store.
JOIN
the
2015
CLUB
Enroll today at missionsjc.com

Visit the Mission Store!

* a local landmark shopping experience *
Mission Members receive a 10% discount on most merchandise

CALENDAR

Docent Training Classes
January 21 & 28, 2015
February 4 & 11, 2015
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

St. Joseph's Day & Return of the Swallows
Thursday • March 19, 2015
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Special Cliff Swallows Presentation
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

57th Annual Swallows Day Parade
Mariachis at the Mission
Saturday • March 21, 2015
Parade Begins 11:00 a.m.
Mariachis 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Panning for Gold & Adobe Brick Making
Weekdays • 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Weekends • 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Koi Fish Feeding
Daily • 12:45 p.m.

Curiosity Carts (Hands-On Learning)
Tuesdays & Thursdays
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

For Discounts, Tickets & Information
Event Hotline (949) 234-1315 or
www.missionsjc.com