



The INNsider



MISSION INN FOUNDATION & MUSEUM

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August/September 2006

Coming Events:

The Gilberts Goodbye

Thursday, August 17th

All Docent Meeting

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Mission Inn Run

Sunday, November 12, 2006

All Docent Meeting

The semi-annual ALL DOCENTS MEETING is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, at 6:00PM. (check the Lobby Board for Location). This date is also the first evening of the new training class and we encourage all the new docents in training to attend. Our new Docent Chair, Dan Hantman, promises to have an interesting guest speaker.

These meetings also avails us of the opportunity to discuss any problems we have had on tours, clarify any policies and procedures, share our experiences, (good or bad). And as a special bonus, the Training Committee invites you to attend the first training session of the new Class of 2007, which will be at 7:00 PM. Please try to attend; no reservation is required.

It's Not Goodbye, It's Auf Wiedersehen To Norm and Milly Gilbert

It is true - this wonderful couple is leaving the Inland Empire and moving to Huntington Beach to enjoy a life of leisure in their new home.

We would like to honor and thank them for their devotion and contribution to the Mission Inn Foundation for the past 12 years. They have both unselfishly given their time and efforts, not only to conduct tours, but also serve on many committees and the docent council. They will truly be missed by one and all and hope they will visit us from time to time.

Please plan on joining us for a farewell get-together in their honor on **Thursday, August 17th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM** at the home of Jane and Don Morabito.

Fliers, sign-up sheet and directions to the Morabito home are in a folder at the rear of the Museum desk. Also provided are envelopes if you care to make a small donation for a gift.

If possible, please let us know if you plan on attending by Tuesday, August 15th.

Any questions, contact:
Gretchen Cheney 683-4995

Notes From our Chairs

To me, being on the INNSider Committee has been fascinating. Just as I am getting used to being/thinking about the chairmanship, the year ends....I'm off the council and enter: Donna Grossman. We all know Donna's hard work from the past and we are fortunate she said "yes" to being our new chair.

My thank to all of you who submitted articles, it has been very much appreciated. Remember, we love to have new voices express their thoughts and contribute information for the INNSider. Articles do not have to be long, it's the info that counts. So-o-o-o when you read an article that pertains to Riverside and the Mission Inn....if you enjoy it, others will too.

Have a great summer.

Dauris Slaughter
INNSider Chair

RECRUITMENT

The Recruitment Committee has been holding productive meetings and is gearing up for September, when yet another group of trainees begin the remarkable journey of becoming Mission Inn Foundation Docents. Chaired by Dan Hantman, the committee is tossing around some exciting new ideas on different ways of reaching out to prospective recruits. The emphasis is not only on Docents, but also on Museum Assistants and Inventory volunteers. This is an inspired group, so look for some exceptional new Mission Inn devotees in the coming months. In the meantime, if you have an idea or two that you would like to share regarding recruitment, please contact Dan at 787-9765.

The Training Committee, along with John Worden, has been seriously busy planning the new schedule for the 2006-2007 DIT Training.

We are pleased to report it has been confirmed for September 13 to December 27. The 2007 year training has been tentatively scheduled, and will be confirmed. From my eyes, the procedure has been fascinating.

There are super people on the committee, such as Steve Lech, Jerry Gordon, Dan Hantman, Cora Lee Brown, Robyn Rogers and the incoming chair of the committee, David St. Pierre. I particularly would like to thanks Steve Lech for being our facilitator and Jerry Gordon for the many time he has given presentations. Everyone has given their particular insight making our committee special. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your dedication and perseverance.

With David as the new chair of Training, Committee will be in very capable hands.

Dauris Slaughter
Training Committee Chair

Concert in Citrus Park

Although it was hot enough to sizzle a couple of eggs, docents and their guests braved the heat to attend this event on Friday evening, July 14th.

The beautiful surroundings of the park with the shade trees and a slight breeze made for a most enjoyable evening. For those of you with a sweet tooth, you missed the chance of a lifetime as there were so many yummy desserts provided. We had a good old-fashioned gab session, while partaking of all the good food, before the music of The Riders of The Purple Sage started their great performance. It was indeed a very relaxing outing for all who attended. We missed all of you who were unable to make it and hope you will attend further events.

Just a word to the new docents and volunteers and a reminder to the veteran docents and volunteers, the purpose of the Special Events Committee is to provide a social atmosphere for all docents, volunteers, and museum assistants so they may interact with each other. The better we know each other, the better we can act as a team to provide the public with the goals of the Foundation.

Hope to see you at our coming events.

Gretchen Cheney, Chair
Special Events Committee

Policies and Procedures/Inn-Laws Revised

The work of the Ad Hoc Policies and Procedures/Inn-Laws Committee is completed for another three years! It was the responsibility of the committee, comprised of Dan Hantman, Joyce Lyons, Anne Greule and Chair, Cora Lee Brown, to review these two documents which govern the Docent Association, updating, clarifying, and rewording. As Joyce Lyons, out-going Docent Council Chair, put it, "tweaking" each document to reflect current practice.

One major change appearing in this revision is the election, for the first time, of the Docent of the Year by the entire Docent Association membership at its March meeting.

Copies of the revised Policy and Procedures and Inn-Laws will be made available for your consideration. If you have comments, suggestions, concerns you may request a place on the monthly Docent Council agenda to voice your opinions. Final approval of the documents will be by vote of the Docent Association at the September All Docent meeting.

Cora Lee Brown, Chair
Policies and Procedures Revision Committee

OUR NEW COUNCIL CHAIR, DAN HANTMAN

By Dauris Slaughter

If, by chance, you see a tall smiling gentleman walking along in either Riverside or Canyon Crest Area, wearing a straw hat, carrying his appointment book and “trash picker”, he would no doubt be Dan Hantman....a very special man.

I Found Dan to be a caring, thoughtful, methodical and happy man.....a person who generally wears his Docent badge to entice his clients and contacts to take tours of the Mission Inn.

Dan was born and raised in the Los Angeles area. At the mature age of three, he decided he wanted to be a lawyer. Talk about what you want to do in life! Dan has two brothers and is the only one in his family to attend college.

Upon graduating from High School he enrolled in the Peace Corp and was sent to Thailand....this was during the time President Kennedy was in the White House. Dan taught English for two years in Provence, which was close to the area the recent Tsunami hit.

He simultaneously became fluent in Thai. He enjoyed Thailand and the people immensely and decided to continue to live there....for four more years, He obtained another position setting up English-Language Schools in the whole of Thailand, becoming the Provincial Officer throughout the country.

After living in Thailand for six years, he returned to the U.S. and enrolled in The University of San Fernando Valley College of Law. He graduated in 1975, fulfilling his childhood dream of becoming a lawyer. Dan passed the bar on the first test!!! The following year he relocated in Riverside.

He was hired as a Senior Citizen Attorney by the Riverside Legal Services, now known as the Inland Counties Legal Services. The Executive Director, Donald Taylor, asked if he had a place to stay. The answer was no, and he directed Dan to the Mission Inn....the city had just purchased it and was renting rooms. He lived there from 1976 to 1980, acquiring a wonderful group of friends at the Inn, some of which he still keeps in touch. He fell in love with the Mission Inn and every time he returns, feels as if he is going to his old home.

Dan went into private practice in 1984 specializing in Social Security and Senior Services Law. He stated he does “Toaster Law”....whatever pops up!

Dan has become very active in the community. One of his unique titles is the “Trash Good Samaritan”. He has adopted a mile stretch on Central Avenue in Canyon Crest, having his name on a sign along the road. Once or twice a month, he takes

his trash picker and cleans the areas of trash, depending on the need. One can often see Dan walking around with his handy picker in the downtown Riverside, ready to pick up trash to “help keep our city clean”. Dan is so active in civic affairs that I became acquainted with him just seeing him throughout Riverside. His giving never ends. He is also known as the shopping cart Good Samaritan. He is sort of a Johnny Appleseed person, always doing good things!!!

Some of his many endeavors include: The Sierra Club, the Riverside International Relations Council, Sister City Programs with: Sendai, Japan; Cuautia, Mexico; Gangnam-gu, Korea; Ensenada, Mexico; Jiangmen, China; Hyderabad, India. and Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Also, Airport Commission, UCR Citizen University Committee Lecture Program, Friends of Mount Rubidoux, Friends of the Fox Theater, The Orange Blossom Festival, Senior Citizen Housing Taskforce, the Lawyer Referral Service, the Juvenile Law Section, Estate Planning Probate and Trust Section, Continuing Legal education Committee, and the Women’s Law Section. Dan has sat as Judge Pro Tem for the Riverside Small Claims Court and the Riverside County Juvenile Court. Did I mention he was president of the Riverside Chamber of Commerce and is still a member? Wow! It sounds as if Dan could use a clone!!!

When asked what enticed him to become a docent, he shared that having lived at the Mission Inn and his love for the Inn was the compelling reason. Before becoming a docent, he would give informal tours. Dan became an official docent when he graduated with the 2001-2002 class. Having his office so close to the Mission Inn is certainly a plus. When he has a tour during the week, he just closes the door and off he goes.

It’s not all work and no play for Dan. He loves volleyball, hiking, surfing, and once climbed Mount Kilimanjoro in Tanzania which is 11,310 feet in altitude. This was no small accomplishment! Plus, he traveled to Jordan to participate in an archeological dig with Dr. Larry Geraty, President of La Sierra University.

Dan believes “the renovation of the Mission Inn has returned the spirit of Frank Augustus Miller to downtown. Duane and Kelly Roberts have brought life back into Riverside for which those who love the Mission Inn and Riverside will be eternally grateful. The Mission Inn was like a little oasis with too much of the area being either closed or run down”. Downtown Riverside has come back to life like the Mythical Phoenix.

In July Dan will be the new Chair for the Docent Council. With his love for the Mission Inn, plus his energy and vision, he will bring his unique style to the Council and the Council will no doubt continue to flourish under his leadership. What a pleasure to interview Dan and have him for a friend. Dan loves people, saying “They are so wonderful.” It is obvious he truly means it.

REAGAN LIBRARY TRIP

On June 3rd 29 docents and guests boarded the bus for the Reagan Library in Simi Valley. We had a really great trip and the guided tour was excellent. Of course the big hit of the tour was seeing Air Force One. Following the tour we had lunch at the Reagan Cafe. There was plenty of time, before the bus left for home, for all of us to visit the gift shop. Most everyone found at least one of two treasures to take home for souvenirs. Everyone enjoyed the trip and we all came home a bit wiser about the history of President Ronald Reagan.

Gretchen Cheney, Chair
Special Events Committee



From Left to Right:

Don and Jane Morabito,
Joyce Lyons,
Margaret & Larry Benner,
Gretchen Cheney,
Bill & Michelle Lufkin,
JoAnn & Merwyn Schwartz

Museum and Tour Reminders

Please remember to announce to your tour guests at the **BEGINNING** of the tour that there is **NO photography** allowed. Not just flash photography.

A **Long** Tour is a **Wrong** Tour. Be sure that you keep your tour length to **exactly 75 minutes**—never 1 1/2 hours or longer. Many of our tour guests may have lunch or spa reservations, or be parked in a two-hour zone. There may be other tours in the museum waiting for the keys that are in **YOUR** pocket. There is never any reason to extend a tour beyond the prescribed time limits. All docents should carry a timepiece and consult it often along your route. Consider enlisting the help of your fellow to keep your group on pace. Repeat offenders may be referred to the Peer Review Committee.

New “**Active Docent Rosters**” are available at the museum desk, be sure to pick up yours, the next time you come by! Be sure to check it for accuracy. Call Virginia (951)781-8241 with any changes or updates.

History Research Committee Now Forming

Would you like to help document the facts and stories we tell on the Mission Inn tours? Local historian and fellow docent Steve Lech initiated discussions with Mission Inn Foundation staff to address the challenge we all face – that very little of the information learned and given on tours is documented. As Steve puts it, “This has led to choruses of ‘I heard it this way,’ or ‘in training, we learned it that way.’”

The challenge of history documentation extends beyond the tour program. Our exhibits, programs, and special projects, such as our extensive education-focused website project, all require the utmost care in verifying and documenting the information that we then share with the public. As Executive Director John Worden summarized the need for the committee, “As much as Frank Miller was a businessman extraordinaire, he was also a marketing genius whose creation, the Mission Inn, played liberally with history from the very start. Compound this by periods of multiple ownership and bankruptcy, and we realize that are always seeking to enhance historic accuracy – kudos to Steve for taking the initiative.”

With Steve Lech as its first “charter” member, John has appointed Steve Spiller, our Museum & Collections Manager, as chair of the History Research Committee. The purpose of the committee will be to provide assistance to Mission Inn Foundation staff to research and document the accuracy of the historic material related to the Mission Inn. Of course, a primary focus of the committee will be on the material used in the docent training program.

The committee has been established as an ad hoc subcommittee under the auspices of the Education Committee of the Board of Directors, led by Ofelia Valdez-Yeager, Executive Vice-President for Education.

If you would like to join our efforts, please contact Steve Spiller. His direct line is 341-6530.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your membership support is essential to our purpose of preserving the unique collections of the Mission Inn and helping others to learn about this extraordinary site. We invite you to join us in supporting this historic landmark. Please remember that members are entitled to a free museum publication and a 10% savings on Museum Store purchases. We ask that all volunteers with the Mission Inn Foundation & Museum maintain a current membership. Membership is for a year from renewal date - \$15.00. Please send your check payable to the Mission Inn Foundation, 3696 Main Street, Riverside 92501. **Questions about your membership status? Call Virginia, (951) 781-8241 Also please review your mailing label for accuracy. Include any necessary changes. THANK YOU!**

Name:	Date:
Address:	
City/Zip:	
Phone:	E-mail:

Mission Inn Foundation - Mission Statement

The Mission Inn Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the public trust in the Mission Inn, a privately-owned National Historic Landmark hotel in Riverside, California. The Foundation interprets and promotes the cultural and social significance of the Inn and its collection within the context of local, regional and national history.

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The INNSider Volunteer Newsletter
Mission Inn Foundation & Museum
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The MISSION INN MUSEUM is open daily
9:30 am to 4:00 pm
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