

DICKENS DIARY

Official Newsletter of the Riverside Dickens Festival • Volume 18 - Issue 2

2016
Festival
Feb. 27 - 28

Not Just a February Street Fair

Join us for these exciting events this fall.
Proceeds will benefit the Riverside Dickens Festival.

Tales from the Victorian Crypt II

Creepy 19th Century stories told in the graveyard by their authors.

Saturday, October 17, 2015 • 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Evergreen Memorial Cemetery

4411 Evergreen Way, Riverside, CA 92501

Admission: \$25 at www.dickensfest.com

Danse Macabre Masked Ball

First Annual Masked Ball

Saturday, October 24, 2015 • 7:00 P.M. to Midnight

First Christian Church

4055 Jurupa Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

Admission: \$25 at www.dickensfest.com

Oliver's Soup Kitchen

Enjoy a bowl of delicious hot soup and bread provided by local restaurants!

Saturday, December 12, 2015 • 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Calvary Presbyterian Church

4495 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501

This fund-raiser benefits the Riverside Dickens Festival
and Calvary Presbyterian Church's efforts to feed local under-served residents.

Admission: \$25 at www.dickensfest.com

**Riverside Dickens Festival
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2015 - 2016**

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Dickens Diary is published three times a year by the Riverside Dickens Festival, Inc., at the address below. Editorial submissions and queries may be sent there. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

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info@dickensfest.com

For more information on the Festival visit our website today!
www.dickensfest.com
This is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, EIN:33-0617090

President's Report

by Bruce Spieler

Over the summer I did some reading on Charles Dickens and came upon some little known facts (at least to me) about the beloved author. He was a bit compulsive, as he had to touch objects three times for luck. He was an amateur magician, like myself, and *Little Red Riding Hood* was his favorite boyhood story. He is quoted as having once said, "Little Red Riding Hood was my first love. I felt that if I could have married Little Red Riding Hood, I should have known perfect bliss." He was certainly an interesting fellow and a gifted writer. No wonder we are still reading and enjoying his works today.



We all have a story and the Riverside Dickens Festival Board of Directors and Chairs are busy with their story for this year. We were pleased with the response to our request for volunteers and we can always use more. Chair positions are still available. We have lots of upcoming activities and we can use your help

Martin Chuzzlewit is our featured book for 2016. The main theme of the novel is selfishness. The novel is notable for two of Dickens' great villains, Seth Pecksniff and Jonas Chuzzlewit. Why not start reading the book now, and then join our book discussion in January?

You won't want to miss our upcoming fund-raisers. On Saturday, October 17, we are hosting a spooky night with Mr. Poe at Evergreen Memorial Historic Cemetery. Then on Saturday, October 24, grab a mask and waltz the night away on polished, sarcophagus-gray cement at our inaugural event, "Danse Macabre Masked Ball". On December 12 we are hosting "Oliver's Soup Kitchen". Enjoy a bowl of soup and all proceeds will support Riverside Dickens Festival and help feed and clothe Riverside's needy.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Dickens Diary*. Our next issue will be out in January. In the meantime, watch for more information on our website at www.dickensfest.com

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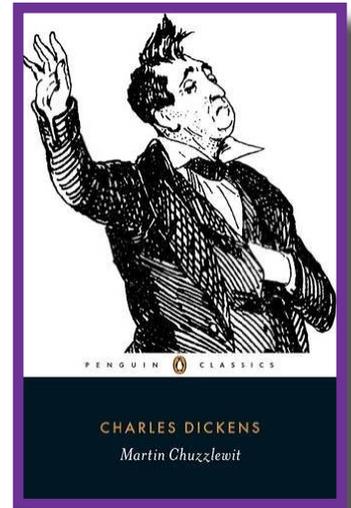


2016 Dickens Festival Novel

The Life and Times of Martin Chuzzlewit (commonly, *Martin Chuzzlewit*)

Dickens' sixth novel, was published in monthly installments from January 1843 to 1844 after Dickens had taken a year off to visit America for the first time. Dickens believed this to be his greatest novel but it was less than enthusiastically received. The novel deals with the greed of Old Martin's relatives, chiefly, Mr. Pecksniff, hoping to inherit his wealth.

For additional information about *Martin Chuzzlewit*, visit David Perdue's Charles Dickens Page, a very rich website with many resources for Dickensians at all levels and for teachers.



More Mayhem and Murder at the Festival

What if President Lincoln's assassin had been captured instead of killed? This question is the subject of a new play, *The Trial of John Wilkes Booth*, which premieres at the 2016 Riverside Dickens Festival in the Ford's Theatre. Richard Reed, Esq., a long-time festival volunteer and local attorney has authored this play especially for the festival.

Back by popular demand, Reed's other two plays will return to the 2016 festival. *The Trial of Jack the Ripper* and *The Trial of Lizzie Borden* explore the two most famous unsolved mysteries of the Victorian Era and give audience members the opportunity to help solve them based on the evidence presented during the play.

The plays will be performed in the Historic Courthouse on Main Street for the bargain price of \$10 each. Tickets may be purchased in advance beginning in December at www.dickensfest.com. All performances are expected to sell out!

BE WARNED: These shows are not for the faint of heart. Children under 13 will not be admitted.

Meet and Greets

Join us at Barnes & Noble Booksellers at the Galleria at Tyler in Riverside to learn about festival activities. Representatives dressed in Victorian attire will be in attendance to meet and greet you.

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

November 14, 2015

December 19, 2015

January 9, 2016

February 13, 2016

Don't Miss our 2016 Fashion Shows

Saturday, February 27, 2016

"Coming to America, or, Pretty in Purple"
in which the models will portray
their American ancestors
and/or showcase
their purple creations.

Sunday, February 28, 2016

"The Steampunk Character and
Costume Extravaganza"
featuring the models' unique and
creative clothing and accessories.

The Evensong Legacy

Many of our British friends have described how much they enjoyed attending Evensong after a leisurely afternoon tea. Thus, with the Dickens Festival already having a tea, an Evensong seemed a natural event to include. John T. Hamilton was enlisted to create an Evensong performance and for four years he directed the group that performed these beautiful concerts. When John was unable to continue Steve Kester graciously stepped in so that this event would not be lost. Steve was impressed with the quality of the group and was ready for the year round challenge of directing a musical group. Lo and behold the Raincross Chorale was born, a child of the Riverside Dickens Festival.

Sadly, Steve Kester passed away in January. The festival's Evensong as well, as the chorale's spring and fall concerts, are now under the direction of Bill Brakemeyer. So, the legacy of a professional quality chorale that has had a major impact on Riverside's musical scene continues. The chorale's contribution transcends performance, as the chorale is also a major source of scholarships for emerging vocal talent.

Scheduled again for Sunday afternoon, Evensong provides a relaxing and spiritual end to another successful and exciting Dickens Festival.

Join us for Evensong
Sunday, February 28, 2016
4:00 p.m.
First Congregational Church
Corner of Mission Inn Avenue and Lemon Street
\$10.00



In Memoriam

Three very dedicated and hardworking supporters and workers for the Riverside Dickens Festival have passed away this year. Their presence will be missed by all of us who work year around to ensure a successful festival for our visitors.

Irmy Tilton

Irmy Tilton, age 97, a longtime supporter of Riverside Dickens Festival passed away on May 2, 2015. A Riverside resident since 1949, Irmy raised her children here. She was the Director of Cosmetology at Riverside City College for 20 years. One of her sons, Dennis is a former Dickens Festival president.

Irmy is remembered by many for her portrayal of Miss Havisham, the wealthy spinster in Dickens' *Great Expectations*, in the city's Orange Blossom Festival parade. She was a consistent and generous donor to the Dickens Festival and until recently, when her health prevented it, Irmy was a loyal festival attendee. Tilton Circle, a venue where festival performers may rest, is named for Irmy. She will be greatly missed.



Tom Wilson

Tom Wilson was a resident of Riverside County for over 38 years and was involved in producing events for over 20 years. Tom's background in marketing, sales and promotion and as printing manager of Riverside County for 19 years served him well. He was a partner with the Cross-roads Riverview Park, which hosted an annual Renaissance Faire.

Tom was the Vendor Manager for the 1997 Dickens Festival creating the London Marketplace and became the Operations Manager beginning with the 2009 festival and up through the 2015 festival. Tom was a stalwart advocate for the Riverside Dickens Festival and will be missed by all.

Janet Funderburk

Janet Funderburk, past president of Riverside Dickens Festival passed away on June 8, 2015, just shy of her 67th birthday. A graduate of Ramona High School in Riverside, Janet earned a BA from CSU Long Beach. Janet's career with the Red Cross took her to Vietnam and Germany and she spent 23 years stationed in the United States. Along with her husband Henry, she was very active at First Congregational Church and was a co-founder with her husband of Steppin' On Up, a non-profit dedicated to distributing shoes to those in need.

Janet served two terms as president of Riverside Dickens Festival. She was generous with her time and donations. She is remembered as an energetic positive force on the Board of Directors and will be sorely missed.



Tea Aficionados enjoyed the Queen's Tea in May

Attendees of the Queen's Tea in May were treated to a delicious afternoon tea prepared by Elaine Ricketts and served to guests by members of Jobs Daughters. Her Majesty Queen Victoria accompanied by Prince Albert and members of the Royal Family, listened attentively while Mr. Dickens portrayed by Paul Jacques, presented interesting information about some of the women characters in his novels.

See if you can match the character with the novel in which they can be found. (answers below)

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. Sally Brass | 1. <i>David Copperfield</i> |
| B. The Marchioness | 2. <i>Martin Chuzzlewitt</i> |
| C. Sairey Gamp | 3. <i>Little Dorrit</i> |
| D. Betsy Trotwood | 4. <i>The Old Curiosity Shop</i> |
| E. Miss Havisham | |
| F. Little Dorrit | |

To learn more about Dickens' characters, visit David Purdue's Dickens Page at www.charlesdickenspage.com.



Answers: A. *The Old Curiosity Shop* B. *The Old Curiosity Shop* C. *Martin Chuzzlewitt*
D. *David Copperfield* E. *David Copperfield* F. *Little Dorrit*

Afternoon Tea A Great English Tradition



Anyone who has visited England, has British friends or reads British mysteries knows how important tea is to the English. It seems to have been so even long before Dickens' time. For any crisis as well as for any visit from friends or strangers alike the offer of a "cuppa" is imperative. In addition, the music hall genre seems to have been invented in the British Isles. So, what could be better in celebration of the life and times of that most British of authors than to combine these two traditions?

Each year during the Riverside Dickens Festival, First Congregational Church presents The Royal Victorian Tea Room featuring a scrumptious afternoon tea along with an original and hilarious script created by the talented church member Christopher Marsh. This year's performance is titled "A Dickens of a Time: The Songsmith's Dilemma".

Be sure to make time in your festival schedule to have tea and enjoy the humor and imagination unique to Mr. Dickens and Christopher Marsh and his troupe.

The Royal Victorian Tea Room (est. 1994)

First Congregational Church

2054 Mission Inn Avenue, (corner of Lemon St.)

Riverside, CA 92501

Saturday, February 27, 2016: 11:00 AM, 1:30 PM and 4:00 PM

Sunday, February 28, 2016: 11:30 AM and 2:00 PM

\$25.00 per person

Reservations may be made in January.

Watch for further information.



Greater Riverside Area Dickens Fellowship

A Proud Branch Member Since 2009

GRAD meets regularly throughout the year to discuss all things Dickensian. This year's focus has been the featured book of the Riverside Dickens Festival, *Martin Chuzzlewit*.

If you are interested in attending a GRAD meeting or joining this group, please contact Tim Clark at poochclark@earthlink.net. A future meeting on November 14 will feature a presentation by Susan Purkart on Dickens' *The Cricket on the Hearth*.

Grand Dickens Parade

Join the Grand Dickens Parade on Saturday and Sunday at noon as a costumed character from this year's featured book, *Martin Chuzzlewit*. Others not representing a specific character but dressed in Victorian attire are welcome to join in the fun. Check the festival program for the starting location. Led by Mr. Dickens and Mr. Pickwick, the parade will end with Mr. Dickens introducing his characters to Her Majesty Queen Victoria and the crowd of onlookers.

A complete list of characters along with a summary of *Martin Chuzzlewit* may be found at David Perdue's Charles Dickens Page at www.charlesdickenspage.com.



Inviting all Students!



ESSAY CONTEST RULES AVAILABLE

Middle and high school students and teachers in public and private schools in Riverside and San Bernardino counties are invited to participate in the 2016 essay contests. Rules may be viewed at www.dickensfest.com.

HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLASSES ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2016 FESTIVAL

This opportunity to perform at the Riverside Dickens Festival is open to public and private high schools in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Up to six performances utilizing a script, which is an adaptation of scenes from Dickens' novel, *Martin Chuzzlewit* approximately 25-30 minutes long, will be staged at the festival on a first-come first-served basis depending on the school's date of registration.



For more information visit www.dickensfest.com.

2016 Hotel rates

A limited number of hotel rooms are available to festival goers at special rates subject to change, plus local and state tax, during the festival, February 26 - 28, 2015. In order to receive the group rate, guests should make inquiries and reservations early by contacting the hotel directly and identifying themselves with the Dickens Festival Group. Guests are responsible for all costs incurred while staying at any of these establishments. The Dickens Festival assumes no responsibility for arrangements, accommodations or costs.

Hyatt Place

\$119 for king

Discounted parking \$10 per day

Breakfast included

3500 Market Street • Riverside, CA 92501

1-888-HYATT HP (888-492-8847)

Cut-off date: January 22, 2016

The Mission Inn Hotel and Spa

Starting at \$143 for single/double

Request: Riverside Dickens Festival

3649 Mission Inn Avenue • Riverside, CA 92501

951-784-0300 x850 or 800-843-7755

Cut-off date: January 27, 2016

Marriott Riverside

\$125 single/double

3400 Market Street • Riverside, CA 92501

(951) 784-8000 • (800) 228-9290

Cut-off date: January 29, 2016

Save the Date!



LONG NIGHT OF ARTS AND INNOVATION

October 8, 2015

5:00 pm to Midnight

Historic Downtown Riverside

Riverside Dickens Festival
will participate in the
2015 Long Night of Arts
and Innovation.

Don't miss it.

For more details visit
www.longnightriverside.com

Our volunteers make it all happen!

It is not possible to put on an event of the magnitude of Riverside Dickens Festival without a cadre of great volunteers. Riverside Dickens Festival is grateful to all the 2015 volunteers and is especially grateful to the members of UC Riverside's Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society headed by Gunner Boelman; and National Society of Collegiate Scholars headed by Ursula Garcia who together gathered over 60 student volunteers over the weekend. Becoming a volunteer means giving up your time to make something great happen for others. Many dedicated volunteers have been willing to do just that to keep the festival alive and "happening".

If you would like to volunteer at the festival in February or at other events between now and then, please contact us. There are 3 ways to do that:

- Send us an email on our website at www.dickensfest.com.
- Email Christine Foreman, Volunteer Coordinator at iqprint@aol.com.
- Leave a message at our office by calling (951) 781-3168.

Bookfair Supports Dickens Festival

Please support us at our annual Bookfair by shopping at any Barnes & Noble (even online) on November 14th and 15th.

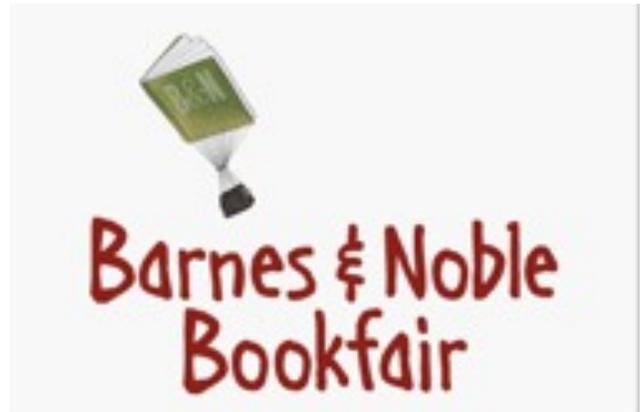
Here is how it works:

Simply make a purchase at any Barnes & Noble locally, nationally or online using this Bookfair code: 11663218.

Make sure that the cashier knows you are supporting the Dickens Festival bookfair. The Dickens Festival will get a percentage of what you spend.

Shop for books, CDs, DVDs, calendars, educational toys and games and gifts for the holiday season while benefitting the Riverside Dickens Festival! It's that simple!

Questions: call Nicole at (951) 358-0898
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
3485 Tyler St.
Riverside, CA 92503



**Supporting
Riverside Dickens Festival
Saturday and Sunday
November 14 - 15
Barnes & Noble
3485 Tyler Street
Code # 11663218**

**Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase.
A percentage of the new sale will be contributed to your
school/organization. Please use code # for online purchases.**

The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, magazine subscriptions, video games, purchases made at cafes owned and operated by Starbucks, and other items Barnes & Noble may exclude from time to time in its sole discretion may not be eligible for Bookfair sales. Institutional discounts may not be applied.

See BN.COM/bookfairs for more details and to shop online.



The Riverside Dickens Festival is made possible through grants, sponsorships and donations.

Your contribution is very much needed, appreciated and tax deductible.

The Riverside Dickens Festival is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, EIN: 33-0617090.

Please mail your contributions to: Riverside Dickens Festival, Inc. • P. O. Box 113 • Riverside, CA 92502-0113

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Discover___

Card number: _____ Expires: _____ CVV_____



Thank you to the following supporters of our Festival.

If your name isn't here, you can support the 2016 Riverside Dickens Festival
by mailing a tax deductible check to

P.O. Box 113, Riverside, CA 92502-0113. (See form on page 10)

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Dickens Goes Electronic!



In addition to visiting us on our website, <https://www.dickensfest.com> please Like us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Riverside-Dickens-Festival/274454625903022> or Follow us on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/DickensFest>.

To help save trees and due to the high cost of printing and continuously rising postage rates, the *Dickens Diary* will be sent via e-mail and published in a downloadable format online at the Festival website, www.dickensfest.com.

Readers whose e-mail addresses are already on file and those who are sent to us subsequent to this announcement will receive their *Dickens Diary* online only. If your e-mail address has changed or you want to join our e-mail list for the first time, go to www.dickensfest.com and join at the bottom of the home page.

Alternately, those who wish to continue receiving a hard copy of the *Dickens Diary* in the U.S. Mail can do so by sending a check for \$6.00 payable to the Riverside Dickens Festival, along with your name and address to:

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