DICKENS DIARY

Official Newsletter of the Riverside Dickens Festival • *Volume 13 - Issue 1*

JAN 21-23 2011

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! A new date and place for festival

Ps-s-s-s-s-s-s-s-st! Want the inside info on the 2011 Riverside Dickens Festival?

Can you say, "Riverside Convention Center?" Yes, after 17 years on the streets, the festival is going under a roof. The days of hoping "if the sun comes out, so will the people" are over. Both sun and people came out beautifully and helped make this year's festival a rousing success.

Festival insiders, that's everybody who attends in 2011, will have to show up earlier than the first weekend in February for the new venue to succeed, "rain or shine." The 2011 festival will be Jan. 21-23.

This year, a new show and format for Pickwick's Pub were heartily applauded and the new Pub Night is to be improved even more for 2011. The Marquis of Granby Ale Pub debuted with exclusive, grown-up entertainment to go with its adult beverages and ended the weekend awash with praise. It will return for another round.

So will The Old Curiosity Shop, which not only fit right into the festival themed on the Dickens novel of that name, but showed it was an attraction in its own right.

Mr. Fezziwig's Ball sold out weeks in advance to maintain its status as one of the premier historical dance events in all Southern California. The colorful gowns and uniforms swirled to the music of Professor Axworthy's Philadelphia Quadrille Band. The human kaleidoscopery delighted a balcony full of spectators.

Just about everybody was there, the Queen, her prince, royal children, the Fezziwigs, the Gordon Highlanders, merchants, nobility from far and near.

Oliver's Alley found a real alley to call home and its popularity with younger festival visitors was matched by the enthusiasm of its volunteers, new and veteran. Their new challenge? To create an "alley" in the convention center.

Why the changes of dates and places? The Municipal Auditorium, a site for several festival events, is being closed for renovation. The move to the convention center was to keep as many festival activities together as possible,



John Mossman performed as the Town Crier at the 2010 festival.



In keeping with the theme of the 2010 festival, Sherry Young introduced The Old Curiosity Shop.

However, the First Congregational Church will continue to host its popular (often sold out) Victorian Teas at the church and Mrs. Cratchit's Kitchen will stay in its Universalist Unitarian Church home.

One final bit of inside information is within your wallet. Admission to the festival will continue to be free and all events will be free except for Pub Night, Mr. Fezziwig's Ball and the Fashion Show.

Oops! There is one more free item. Moving the festival indoors make concern about the festival weekend's weather "worry free."

The Riverside Dickens Festival was established in 1992 when Carolyn Grant and Joan Patton convinced the Friends of the Riverside Library that the city needed a literary event. By sheer will and endless hours of hard work these two women and their committee made the first festival happen on a very warm weekend in September. Since then The Riverside Dickens Festival has established its own board of directors, which raises funds and runs the event entirely with voluntary help. In 1994, the festival was moved to the first weekend in February to coincide with Charles Dickens' birthday, February 7 (1812).

The festival has grown over the years in stature and significance to become a greatly anticipated family event. The major emphasis is on Charles Dickens and his writings, but Victorian era culture is also broadly embraced. A strong expansion of historical perspectives for the festival have included California and Riverside timelines paralleling Dickens' life.

President's Message

It is with great pleasure that we are announcing some significant changes to the 2011 Riverside Dickens Festival. Some were forced upon us; the others are all part of making your visit more enjoyable First, date will move to January 21, 22 and 23, 2011. Please put it on your calendar so you don't miss this great event.

Second, the festival is moving to the Riverside Convention Center. Why, you might ask? The Riverside Municipal Auditorium is scheduled to undergo renovation, so "London" had to move in time and space for 2011.

Third, we will have only three paid events for the festival: Pub Night, the Fashion Show and Fezziwig's Ball. All of our other events will have no admission charge

Additionally, we plan on making the festival Bigger, Better and BOLDER.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2011!

Art Gage

Riverside Dickens Festival
Board of Directors
2010-2011

President	Art Gage
President Elect	KathyWright
Vice President	Janet Funderburk
Secretary	Cecile Johnson
Treasurer	Gerry Bowden
Past President	Annmarie Weaver

Bruce Spieler • ShelbyCraghead
Carolyn Grant • Deanne Irwin
Richard Reed • Debbi Walsh
Patti Brown

The 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 also. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

Editor • Marsha Loveridge
Coordinator • Carole Mauel
Office: (800) 430-4140
or (951) 781-3168
Fax: (951) 781-6817
3585 Main Street, Suite 204
P.O. Box 113, Riverside, CA
92502-0113
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

Please join us May 23, 2010 at 1:00 p. m.

for our

Queen's Tea

at

The Victoria Club. 2521 Arroyo Drive, Riverside, CA 92506

Jonathan Grossman. UCLA Associate Professor of Humanities, will entertain with a discussion of the perils of travel in the Victorian era.

Tickets are $35

Opportunity drawing and door prizes

Reservations are required and payment is due with your request.
Please send the following with your check or credit card information to: Riverside Dickens Festival, P.O. Box 113, Riverside, CA 92502
We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover

Name: ……..……..
Address:……..……
Phone:……Email:……..……
Number of reservations: ……Total enclosed: $……..…
…. Visa …. MasterCard … Discover
Card number:……..... Exp:……..…
List all guests in my Party……...
……..……
I would like to sit with……

Guest list at the door – Tickets will not be issued.
Please bring your heartiest appetite. A panoply of gustatory delights is sure to satisfy.
(800) 430-4140 – (951) 781-3168 – www.dickensfest.com
info@dickensfest.com

A Real Alley and Sunshine = A Successful Weekend

The weather finally cooperated and Oliver's Alley became the outstanding venue expected of it.

After two years of rain we were finally able to really strut our stuff.

Our move to the alley area between the Metropolitan Museum and the First Congregational Church added ambiance and gave us a more intimate feel. A number of parents commented on the comfortable, friendly atmosphere in the alley.

The improved games area featured the game of Graces, tops, marbles, pick-up sticks, and a Fish-in-a-Barrel game. Parents and teenage siblings joined the younger set in trying to master the game of Graces.

Graces is a Victorian-era game played by young ladies to teach them to be more graceful. What fun to see young men who looked as if they would be more at home on the football field trying to successfully return the decorated hoop to their partner.

This was the second year for the children's tea parties. While the partiers sipped tea (apple juice) and munched on Valentine cookies, one of our Tea Nannies talked to them about the manners and mores of young children during Victorian times. When the Tea Nannies were talking it was evident from the nodding heads of many parents that the sayings, such as – *Mind your P's & Q's, and Children are to be seen and not heard* – were certainly reminders from their own childhoods. As a remembrance of their tea party experience, each child received a take-home Tea Scroll that contained a brief synopsis of the information provided by the Tea Nannies.



A well preserved example of a wicker baby carriage from the middle 1800's complete with a real baby girl.



Tea Nanny Windy Hixson reads from the *Nanny Book of Manners* to the guests at the Victorian Tea room.



The Children's Victorian Tea room can seat 24 guests at one time for cookies and apple cider.

The Dress-up/Photo Tent continues to be a major attraction. Costumed volunteers helped the children select just the right ensemble for that unforgettable photo. Again this year Reggie Woolery of theUCR/California Museum of Photography provided cameras, lights and the expertise of Adonay Sanchez, one of his interns.

Girl Scout Troop 1623 from Moreno Valley volunteered on Saturday helping the children in the crafts area to color pictures of Dickens characters or to decorate a yo-yo. On Sunday the Riverside Art Museum joined us with a Victorian Mask craft that was very successful.

Karen Rae Kraut entertained in our storytelling tent on Saturday and throughout the two days Bill Howard and True Thomas of Bob's Yer Uncle beguiled children and parents with stories and songs.

The Crummles Troupe popped in on several occasions to give the children a bit of a Dickens' experience.

Oliver's Alley was conceived to provide children with a fun and free Dickensian experience and is funded in part by a Community Arts Partnership grant from the Riverside Arts Council.



The Crummles performing group.

Essay Winner 'We Must Learn Scrooge's Lesson'

Cole Bailey, a pupil in Sandra LaHood's language arts class at Central Middle School, won the annual essay contest to extract modern day meaning from Dickens' classic Christmas Carol. He chose to emphasize the need to care about and for others is as strong today as in the Victorian England of Charles Dickens. Provident Bank, having learned that lesson years ago, continued to sponsor the contest by providing the cash prizes awarded to the young writers.

By Cole Bailey

Although Charles Dickens' best known work *A Christmas Carol* was written in 1843, the lessons learned by the main character Ebenezer Scrooge are still relevant today. In the novel, Scrooge learned the importance of being charitable to others less fortunate than himself in order to save himself from self torment. Scrooge realizes this important life lesson after being visited by three ghosts, The Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present, and the Ghost of Christmas Future, or Yet to Come. Although Ebenezer Scrooge was a fictional character the lesson he learned regarding selfishness and giving is important for a contemporary society today, especially in today's tough economic crisis.

Ebenezer Scrooge's first visitation was from the Ghost of Christmas Past. The spirit forced scrooge to take a hard look at his past and the choices he made. The lessons learned from Scrooge can help us understand our current culture and events today. After seeing what could have been, Scrooge realized that his current life could have been drastically different. This lesson learned by Scrooge can serve as a lesson for individuals today. As Americans we need to look back on events where Americans reached out to help their fellow man and the good that came from doing so. Although I was not very old when September 11, 2001 or Hurricane Katrina happened, I do remember people reaching out and helping one another. The outpouring of support and kindness to these individuals in a time of need made a real difference for them. For many the help received from their fellow man was a life line. Just like Scrooge had to look back at the past, individuals today need to remember how reaching out to individuals can make a world of difference as we face tougher times today. The spirit's words to Scrooge are just as meaningful for us today as they were for Scrooge when he said "these were the shadows of the things that have been" (Stave 2, page 49). These words are important because they remind us how our actions in the past are just as significant to our current times.The second of three spirits to visit Scrooge was the Ghost of Christmas Present. Scrooge now had to face how his selfish actions affected other individuals especially the Cratchit family. Mr. Cratchit, an employee of Scrooge, works for bare minimum wages and hardly makes enough to put food on his family's table. The Ghost of Christmas Present accompanies Scrooge to the home of the Cratchit family on Christmas Day as they are enjoying their meager Christmas dinner. Although they do not have a lot, the family is happy. Scrooge observed, "They were happy, grateful, pleased with one another, and contented with the time" (Stave 3, page 68). Scrooge learned a powerful lesson that is appropriate to contemporary society today. Many families today face the same circumstances as the Cratchit family. Contemporary families need to realize that the greatest gift of all is being surrounded by their loved ones. It is not how many gifts are under the Christmas tree, but rather spending quality time together during the holidays and all year long.

The third and final spirit to visit Scrooge was the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. During this nightly encounter, Scrooge's dismal future hits him like a ton of bricks after seeing his neglected gravestone. He learns that his selfishness and lack of charity to others less fortunate than him have brought him to a lonely end. It is at this moment at the cemetery that Scrooge realizes he must change his ways if he is to alter his future when he pleads to the spirit, "I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach" (Stave 4, page 102). Scrooge's epiphany that it is never too late to change frees him from his dismal future. Scrooge comes to understand that in order to free himself from personal torment he must reach out and help others less privileged.

After this final visitation, Scrooge transforms into a new man. Scrooge reaches both into his heart and pocket to help his fellow man. Through this transformation, Scrooge comes to understand how rewarding and fulfilling life can be when one reaches out to his community of friends and family. Scrooge's life altering experiences are relevant to our society today and individuals need to take heart of this lesson. Many individuals are having are suffering in these hard economic times. For example, many are losing their homes and/or jobs; they find it more difficult to make ends meet and purchase basic items. We need to reach out and help our fellow families, neighbors and friends. There are many ways to reach out and help. For example, donating one's time or money to a charity, sponsoring a local family in need, or just being there as a shoulder to lean on are all meaningful ways to help. Just like Scrooge felt the joy after reaching to help his fellow man, by donating food and toys to the Crachits, individuals today can experience that same joyful feeling after giving of oneself. So during these though economic times, one must remember that the lessons learned by Charles Dickens' fictional character Ebenezer Scrooge that one must be charitable and give to others less fortunate so as to save oneself from personal torment are pertinent to our contemporary times.

Victorian Dance Summer Social

Dancers! Robin Bancroft's Annual Summer Social will be on Saturday, July 31, 2 - 4 p.m. in Smith Hall, All Saints Episcopal Church, 3847 Terracina Drive, Riverside, west from Magnolia Avenue.

The cost is $8.

Robin will be reviewing dances from past balls.

Modern summer afternoon tea attire is welcome for comfort if you wish. Victorian dress is always OK.

"Aida" at Landis Auditorium

One of our greatest Dickens collaborative partners is Performance Riverside.

Rey O'Day, the producing artistic director at the Landis Theater, promotes the Dickens Festival during introductions to the performances held a month before our festival.

O'Day has provided an avenue for the festival to advertise our seasonal events.

We are looking forward to their great show coming up in June, "Aida"by Sir Elton John and Tim Rice.

Evening performances are June 11 and 12 at 8 p.m. and matinees are June 12 and 13 at 2 p.m.

For tickets and information call (951) 222-8100.



Riverside Dickens Festival board members and other enthusiasts, dressed in their Victorian best, rode the Pickwick Express train to San Francisco last December to the annual Great Dickens Christmas Fair at the Cow Palace.

San Francisco Here We Come

By popular demand, the Pickwick Express will take off, December 3, literally, via Southwest Airline, to the Great Dickens Christmas Fair in San Francisco December 4 and 5, 2010.

Sights and sounds of the Christmas holiday are abundant at the annual celebration of Dickens life and times at the historic Cow Palace in San Francisco.

This fair features hundreds of costumed players, colorful characters from literature and history, and winding lanes filled with shops, pubs, and delicious fare. The 100,000 square foot exhibition hall is transformed into a Victorian Christmas card come to life.

Information for AMTRAK will be provided for those who prefer to travel by train. Hotel accommodations will be in the Union Square area.

Theater on Friday evening is an option.

In June, the cost and itinerary will be announced to those who have registered with coordinators Roberta and Bruce Spieler. Phone 951-682-3881 or email: toursofthetown@hotmail.com.

Don't be left behind! Call now!

Thank you to all who supported the 2010 Riverside Dickens Festival

City of Riverside • Riverside Arts Council • inlandarts.com • Target
Riverside County Supervisor Robert "Bob" Buster

John & Judy Anderson • Anonymous • Stephen & Eileen Ashwal • Barnes and Noble Ltd. • Chuck Beaty • Chris Beers
John & Brenda Beers • Sandra Beyermann-LaHood • Geraldine Bowden • Ruth & Jack Brewer • Deborah & Donald Brithinee
Patti Brown • Frieda Butler • Hattie Byland • California Baptist University • Merri Lynn & Edward Casem
Citizens Business Bank • Janet Clark • Tim Clark • Jo Ann & Don Coble • Marie-Jo & Michel Coclet • Linda Dilday
Jim Duong • Jane Eubanks • Farmer Boys, Don Tucker • Joan Fish • First Congregational Church • Roseanne Flores
Rebecca Foreman • Friends of the Riverside Library • Janet & Henry Funderburk • Barbara & Frederick Gable • Art Gage
Merla Gaut • Janet & John Gless • Carolyn Grant • Doug Grant • Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce - Downtown Division
Gresham, Savage, Nolan & Tilden • Richard & Eileen Hamel • Hansen Beverage Company • Dick & Margaret Haynes
William Hays • Heritage House Docents • Frank & Lucy Heyming • Historic Mission Inn • Independent Quality Printing
Irwin Family • Sally Johnson • Venita & Kirke Jorgensen • Joy Junkert • Anthony & Carolyn Kameen • Carol Kisch
Laura & John Klure • Donna Knox • Marsha & Ron Loveridge • Helene Luley • Ed & Carole Mauel • Mission Inn Museum
Judy Montgomery • Doris Morton • Ho Nguyen, Park Dental Group • Kelly & Charles Noble • Nikki Ott • Party Rentals
P.E.O. Chapter J • Premier Service Bank • Wilma Printy • Provident Bank • Susan Purkart • Richard Reed • Barbara Reul
Elaine Ricketts • Riteway • Riverside Art Museum • Riverside Community Arts Association • Riverside Downtown Partnership
Riverside Fire Department • Riverside Municipal Auditorium • Riverside Metropolitan Museum • Riverside Public Library
Riverside Public Utilities • F. J. Roberts • Rodolfo & Irene Ruibal • Kathryn Safford • Jerome & Doris Selmer
Dauris Slaughter • Nancy Smith • Roberts & Aloha Smith • Bruce & Roberta Spieler • Starbucks (3434 Arlington)
Stater Bros. (Woodcrest) • Studio 33 • Barbara & Thomas Taylor • Dennis & Diane Tilton • Irmy Tilton • Henry & Carol Tong
UCR/California Museum of Photography • Universalist Unitarian Church • Al & Jan Wainscott • Sarah & Charles Walker
Debbie Walsh • Annmarie Weaver • Robyne Williams • Paul & Barbara Wilson • Tom Wilson • Richard & Donna Wing
Katherine Wright & Dwight Tate • Dolores Zweig-Lambert

We would love to add your name to this list.
Support the 2011 Riverside Dickens Festival by mailing a check to P.O. Box 113, Riverside, CA 92502.

RIVERSIDE DICKENS FESTIVAL