Official Newsletter of the Riverside Dickens Festival • Volume 17 - Issue 1

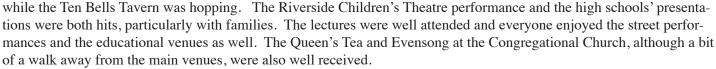
Festival Feb. 21 – 22

# Ríverside's Main Street Mall Transformed Into Victorian England

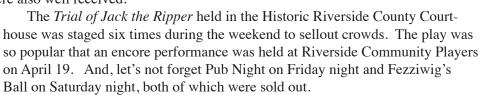
We have a new home on Main Street!! The Main Street pedestrian mall provided a park-like atmosphere with trees and benches that added shaded resting areas, giving visitors the opportunity to enjoy the colorful characters and the scenery. Everyone enjoyed the energy generated by the crowds that poured in from all around southern California and beyond. It was estimated that over 20,000 people attended this year's festival taking part in the fun and festivities. This year many more of the crowd were outfitted in 1860's attire; both Victorian and Steampunk costumes crowded the walkways.

The festival opened in our customary fashion with the Gordon Highlanders raising the British flag in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Victoria and her entourage along with Mr. Dickens, Mr. Pickwick and various other Dickensian characters.

Oliver's Alley came alive with activities for the children, the Authors' Salon featured various writers of the era, special entertainment bustled in the St James Theatre, and the London Marketplace brought period finery for sale







Thank you to all who made this weekend possible: donors, sponsors, board members, committee chairs, volunteers, lecturers, actors and performers, and vendors. A special thank you to all of our visitors. This was our 21st year and you are why we put on the festival. Come and see us for the 22nd Annual Riverside Dickens Festival on February 21-22, 2015 with *Little Dorrit* as the featured book. Check out our website at www.dickensfest.com from time to time for updated information. We have numerous events throughout the year.

It has been my pleasure serving as president for the last two years and I wish the best of everything to the new president Bruce Spieler and the Board of Directors.



Janet Funderburk • President of the Riverside Dickens Festival

#### Riverside Dickens Festival Board of Directors 2014 - 2015

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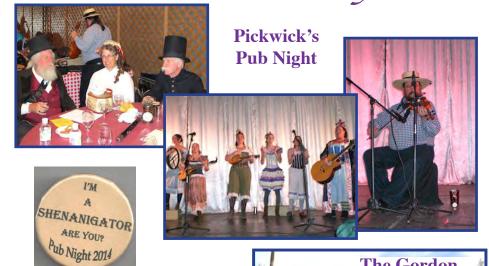
Dickens Diary is published three times a year by the Riverside Dickens Festival, Inc., at the address below. Editorial submissions and queries may be sent there. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

Editor - Marsha Loveridge Coordinator - Cecile Johnson Reporter - Kathy Wright Photographer - Michael Elderman

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 info@dickensfest.com

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

# Festival Gallery



Daily Costume Parade









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P.T. Barnum and Tom Thumb







# Olíver's Alley - Fun for Everyone



## Oliver's Alley was a big hit again this year with children and adults alike!

The teas in Dame Fuzzy's Tea Room were almost all at capacity and featured a new theme this year. A grown-up Alice returned to Wonderland to discuss manners and customs in Victorian times with the children who attended. The Mad Hatter and other characters dropped in from time to time including a group of students from Paul Jacques' (our wonderful Mr. Dickens) class at Mt. San Jacinto College, dressed as various Wonderland characters.

A new doll-making craft was added this year where children enjoyed making over 200 cloth dolls created from donated material scraps. These were the sort

of dolls that middle class children of the time would have played with. In addition to the doll making, the children made a Cup and Ball game, learned to play marbles, pick-up sticks and jacks in the games area, and selected clothing from the dress-up trunk to have a photo taken.





Aloha Smith as Peggotty, David Copperfield's nanny, told stories and demonstrated the art of spinning. Her husband Bob joined her to engage the children in singing and Patti Amelotte stopped by to demonstrate her hammered dulcimer.

Once again we had outstanding volunteers from Ramona High School, the Interact Club at Rubidoux High School and the Octagon Clubs at North and Norte Vista High Schools.

Oliver's Alley is one of the festival's most popular venues with many visitors so it will move to a larger area in 2015 and the viewing gallery for parents will return.

## GRAD Notes



**Greater Riverside Area Dickens Fellowship** offers more opportunities to learn about and appreciate the life and times of Charles Dickens.

GRAD, a branch member of the Dickens Fellowship, which was founded in 1902 as a worldwide association of people who share an interest in the life and works of Charles Dickens, meets regularly to discuss Dickens' works and times. Information regarding events and activities featuring other Victorian authors, social events, manners and customs is also shared and participation encouraged. Contact Tim Clark at poohclark@earthlink.net for more information.

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Mr. Fezziwig's Ball





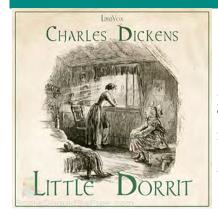






**Fashions Galore** 

## <u>Little Dorrit</u> is the featured book for the 2015 Festival



Join us February 21 and 22, 2015 for Little Dorrit.

The featured book for 2015 is *Little Dorrit*, Dickens' 11th novel, which was published in 19 monthly installments between December 1855 and June 1857. The story recalls Dickens' childhood memories of his father's imprisonment for debt.

For a preview of *Little Dorrit* and a look at various aspects of all Dickens' works visit David Perdue's Charles Dickens Page at charlesdickenspage.com.





**Authors** 



Mark Twain portrayed by Ken Stansbury Edgar Allan Poe portrayed by Travis Rhett Wilson Charles Dickens portrayed by Paul Jacques

#### Ralphs Community Program Supports Riverside Dickens Festival

Do you have a Ralphs Rewards card? Do you know that Ralphs will match your Reward points as a donation to Riverside Dickens Festival? To enroll in this generous program, go to the Community Contribution page at www.ralphs.com and click on the "enroll" button. Follow the instructions to register your card with Riverside Dickens Festival (use NPO number 93799). It's easy and every trip to a Ralphs store will help the Festival. Thanks for your support!



## Queen's Tea The Murder at Earl of Grey's Hound Manor

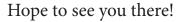


Sunday, May 18, 2014
Evergreen Masonic Center
5801 Chicago Avenue, Riverside
Silent Auction begins at 12:30 p.m.
Seating begins at 1:00 p.m.
\$45.00 per person

The eccentric owner of Grey's Hound Manor has been murdered. The guests gather at the gloomy mansion for the reading of his will. Each one is a suspect and each one suspects the others. Mixed metaphors and alliterations will have the audience barking up the wrong tree until the mystery is solved.

The ever popular Silent Auction will begin at 12:30 p.m. and tea will be served at 1:00 p.m. at a new location, Evergreen Masonic Lodge located at 5801 Chicago Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506.

Tickets are \$45.00 per person and are available on line at www.dickensfest.com or leave a message at (951) 781-3168 to make your reservation.







# Knighthood and Damehood Honorees are Longtime Festival Participants

In past centuries, knighthood and damehood were bestowed upon British citizens by the Queen for military merit alone. Today it recognizes significant contributions to national life. Likewise, the Knighting Ceremony at the Riverside Dickens Festival honors persons who have consistently supported the festival through their volunteer service, financial contributions or efforts that contribute significantly to the success of the festival. Traditionally the ceremony takes place at Mr. Fezziwig's Ball each year where upon Queen Victoria confers Knighthood or Damehood as the honorees kneel before her, she then taps the flat side of a sword on each of their shoulders. The new Knight or Dame then stands up and is presented with his or her sash and rosette denoting their induction into the Royal Order of Mt. Rubidoux.

Honored this year as Sir and Dame of the Royal Order of Mount Rubidoux, Tom Wilson and Pat Long were recognized for their tireless and unwavering dedication to the festival. Using their considerable business acumen and professionalism, Tom and Pat have provided vendors and operations expertise, which has contributed to the financial stability of the festival over the years.

In addition, professional photographer Michael J. Elderman who is also known as "the eyes of Riverside" was vested into the Royal Order of Mt. Rubidoux. Since the very first Riverside Dickens Festival in 1993, Michael has generously offered his services at no charge, resulting in a photographic history of the festival and pictures that are used for advertising and promotional purposes.

Congratulations Dame Pat, Sir Tom and Sir Michael!

Knights and Dames of the Order of Mt. Rubidoux:

1995 - Sir Ron Loveridge

1996 - Sir Raymond and Dame Eva Orbach

1998 - Sir Dan Bernstein

1999 – Sir Bill and Dame Carolyn Grant

2000 - Sir Al and Dame Jan Wainscott

2001 - Dame Geraldine Bowden Dame Irmy Tilton

2002 - Sir John and Dame Brenda Beers

2003 – Sir Doug and Dame Mary Austin

2004 - Sir Ed and Dame Carole Mauel

2005 - Sir Chuck Spitler Dame Rebecca Foreman

2006 - Sir Chuck Beaty

2007 - Dame Marsha Loveridge

Dame Nikki Ott

2008 - Sir Michael and Dame Robin Bancroft

2009 - Sir Dwight Tate and Dame Kathy Wright

2010 – Dame Annmarie Weaver

Sir Henry and Dame Janet Funderburk

2011 - Sir Brian Jackson - Studio 33

2012 - Sir John Tavaglione

2013 - Sir Rick and Dame Deanne Irwin and Family Dame Susan Purkart

2014 - Sir Michael Elderman

Sir Tom Wilson and Dame Patricia Long

\*\*For additional information about Knighthoods visit The Official Website of The British Monarchy at http://www.royal.gov.uk/MonarchUK/Honours/Knighthoods.aspx.



**Knight Michael Elderman** (on the right, above) **Knight Tom Wilson and Dame Patricia Long** 

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## Literary Omnivore leads Book Discussions

Riverside Dickens Festival is fortunate to have an accomplished college instructor as its book discussion leader. Cindy Bendshadler has led the book discussion for several years including in 2014 when the featured book was *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Recently, Cindy shard a little bit about herself and some of her thoughts about the book discussion and the festival.

**Q.** What is your educational background, area of expertise and current position at RCC? How long have you been there?

A. After graduating from North High School here in Riverside, I completed my BA at Scripps College with a major in English Literature and minor in Classics, followed by a MA in English literature from the University of Pennsylvania. I am something of a literary omnivore, but Victorian, Ancient Greek, and children's literature are closest to my heart. My college thesis was an exploration of religious and evolutionary themes in Victorian children's literature, and I have taught both Children's Literature and World Mythology at RCC. I began teaching at RCC in 2000, but I resigned my Assistant Professorship this past year in order to focus more on my family. I plan to continue teaching on a part-time basis.



**Cindy Bendshadler** 

Q. How did you learn about the Riverside Dickens Festival? And, the book discussion?

**A**. I had read of the festival in *The Press-Enterprise*, but I learned of the book discussion through a flyer. At the time, the discussion was led by Susan Purkart, whom I knew from San Bernardino Valley College.

Q. For which Dickens' novels have you been the discussion leader?

A. Tale of Two Cities, Hard Times (twice actually), David Copperfield, A Christmas Carol & The Chimes, and The Mystery of Edwin Drood.

Q. Do you have a favorite Dickens story? Why is it your favorite?

**A**. I adore *Bleak House*, perhaps because Esther and John Jarndyce are, to my mind, two of the most sympathetic of Dickens'characters. Also, it has such a wonderful mix of cutting social commentary, a labyrinthine mystery, and beautifully drawn characters both comic and tragic.

Q. Have any particularly interesting or out of the ordinary questions/comments/ideas come up in your group discussions?

**A**. This may be a trick of memory, but I think our last discussion of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, stimulated the most widely varied and disputed views. Some readers resolutely hoped Edwin still lived while others insisted he was dead. Some were convinced that Jasper was utterly in control of the murder while others were equally certain that Jasper was unsure of his own guilt. Obviously, the fact that it was never finished allows for that. Sometimes the most spirited discussions come when we begin to tie the novels we are reading to contemporary situations, such as comparing medical and recreational marijuana use today to the medical and recreational uses of opium in *Drood* and Victorian England.

Q. For various reasons, sometimes fear of talking in front of others, people are reluctant to join a book discussion. What would you say to encourage them to join in?

A. We try to be careful not to pressure anyone to share beyond their comfort level, and will occasionally break into small groups to make it easier for the shyer participants to talk. Furthermore, some of my best experiences in a book discussion are not talking but listening to what others have to share and discovering questions about a novel I had not thought to ask. It's not about having the "right" answer either, or being graded on one's performance.

Q. Anything else?

**A.** I love that the Dickens Festival is now focusing on a specific novel as a theme for each year. I hope this stimulates more people to read the novels, even if they aren't able to participate in the book discussion. Also, in addition to the wonderful dramatic and comic performances at the festival, I highly recommend attending the lectures, which have been both enlightening and entertaining—and, of course one ought to be assessed by the festival's phrenologist. I was much relieved to learn that I am not a sociopath.

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### A huge thank you to our Volunteers

It seems almost trite to say of volunteers "we couldn't do it without you." In this case, though it's true, more than true in fact. Because we're talking about over 120 volunteers who helped make the 21st Riverside Dickens Festival a fun weekend for all who attended.

In the months leading up to the festival, volunteer board members, committee chairs and committee members worked tirelessly to prepare for the weekend, which began on Friday night with Pickwick's Pub Night at the Life Arts Center. On Friday night, volunteers were on the downtown mall setting up displays, restrooms, trash cans, stages and more. Then at 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning when Queen Victoria and Charles Dickens were present when the Highlanders raised the British flag to open the festival, all the volunteers made good things happen for the throngs of festival-goers who came to downtown Riverside for the fun. And, what's more, the volunteers came back Saturday night for Mr. Fezziwig's Ball and stayed past midnight; and, then there they were, back again on Sunday for the final day of activities. And, finally, after the last visitor had left to go home, there was a crew of dedicated volunteers who worked until after 9:00 p.m. packing, sweeping, and hauling everything away so that on Monday morning the mall was clean and neat for the many workers entering the downtown buildings to begin their work week.

Why do they do it? Each volunteer has to answer that for him or herself but one good bet is because all of them believe that it's a good thing to be engaged in their community, to be of service and to do things that make a difference and life more pleasant for all of us.

If you are one of the 120+ volunteers who helped make the 2014 Riverside Dickens Festival the extraordinary community event that it was, we say a "Thank You, we couldn't do it without you" and please come back in 2015!

"The highest of distinctions is service to others."

-- King George IV, 1762-1830 --



#### Many kudos given to Riverside's Best Festival!

Riverside Dickens Festival has a 21-year history of providing the community with a free, entertaining and educational family-friendly literary event. As the years have gone by the festival has grown and activities are held throughout the year in addition to the festival weekend in February.

The Board of Directors is happy to share the many recognitions that have been bestowed on the festival, which has been referred to as Riverside's Best Festival on more than one occasion.

Mayor's Ball for the Arts

- 1998, 1999, 2003, 2005, 2010

Riverside County Shelter Home Program

- 1996, 1997

Riverside Downtown Partnership

- 2001, 2003, 2013

Riverside Orange Blossom Festival

- 2000

Inland Empire Reading Council and International Reading Association

-2008

Riverside Cultural Consortium

\_ 2011

The Press-Enterprise Readers' Choice

- 2011, 2012, 2013



## The Dickens Diary goes Electronic!

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 on-line at the Festival website, www.dickensfest.com.

Readers whose e-mail addresses are already on file and those who were sent to us subsequent to this announcement receive their Dickens Diary on-line 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 on the home page.

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

Riverside Dickens Festival • P. O. Box 113 • Riverside, CA 92502-0113

## Hip Hip Hooray for the 2014 Essay Contest Winners!

Each year middle school and high school teachers in surrounding districts are invited by the Education Committee to have their students respond to an essay prompt that revolves around the themes found in one or more of Dickens' works. Winners are presented with gift cards to Barnes and Noble Booksellers, which are provided through the sponsorship of Provident Bank.

The students' complete essays may be read on the Riverside Dickens Festival website at www.dickensfest.com.

#### Middle School

Card number:

1st Place Allison Dickson, Amelia Earhart Middle School Ms. Suzanne Priebe, teacher 2nd Place Kristyn Reyes, Amelia Earhart Middle School Ms. Karen Dutcher, teacher 3rd Place Rylie Horn, Amelia Earhart Middle School Ms. Karen Dutcher, teacher **High School** 1st Place James Jordon, River Springs Charter School Ms. Janice Strockis, teacher 2nd Place Christian Diegorodriquez, River Springs Charter School Ms. Janice Strockis, teacher 3rd Place Jeffrey MacMillan, River Springs Charter School Ms. Janice Strockis, teacher

# Winner of Lexus for a Weekend

Festival fan, Valerie Foucrier, is the winner of the drawing for the use of a beautiful Lexus donated by Lexus of Riverside. Valerie's name was drawn at the end of the day on Sunday, the last day of the festival. Valued at \$850 Valerie's winning ticket entitles her to choose from one of three models of Lexus for a weekend, Friday through Monday with unlimited

mileage. In addition, a basket of personal and car items valued at \$100 was included.

Congratulations Valerie!

And, thank vou to Lexus of Riverside for its generous donation.



Henry and Janet Funderburk



#### Provident Bank Supports the Riverside Dickens Festival

Provident Bank's Community Partnership Program, presented a check for over \$2,000 to the Dickens Festival last year. If you have an account with Provident and would like to support the Riverside Dickens Festival, please notify the bank that you want to support us through the Community Partnership Program. It is easy to sign up

and it is absolutely free to participate. Your account will not be affected in any way.  Provident Bank supports many organizations and activities in Riverside. In addition to the Community Partnership Program, the bank has generously sponsored the Festival's middle and high school essay contest each year since their inception.				
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### Thank you to the following supporters of our 2014 Festival.

If your name isn't here, you can support the 2015 Riverside Dickens Festival by mailing a tax deductible check to P.O. Box 113, Riverside, CA 92502-0113. (See form on page 11) The Riverside Dickens Festival, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, EIN:33-0617090.

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