

DICKENS DIARY

Official Newsletter of the Riverside Dickens Festival • Volume 17 - Issue 2

2015
Festival
Feb. 21 – 22

Gerald Dickens Returns to Riverside

The Riverside Dickens Festival welcomes back to Riverside internationally acclaimed actor, director and producer Gerald Charles Dickens, a great-great grandson of literary master Charles Dickens. In 1993 Gerald Dickens created his first one-man show, a theatrical performance of *A Christmas Carol* inspired by Charles' own energetic readings of the 1860s. A fascination with the life and works of his great-great grandfather, led Gerald to write and direct further one-man shows including *Mr. Dickens is Coming!*, *Nicholas Nickleby* and *Sketches by Boz*. He regularly performs in major theatres and arts centers as well as at hotels and stately homes. He has appeared at arts and literary festivals, schools, colleges and universities both in the UK and the United States, and the Riverside Dickens Festival. He has also been entertaining cruise ship passengers worldwide since 2007.

During his two-day stay in Riverside, Mr. Dickens will perform three works in different venues. Order your tickets early as these events are expected to sell out!



Sikes and Nancy—This is Victorian theater at its most dramatic. Most of Charles Dickens' readings were safe, well-known and often comic passages from his novels, but in 1869 he introduced *Sikes and Nancy*. When Dickens performed what he called "The Murder" he judged the success of the evening by the number of ladies who had fainted with horror. Today it has lost none of its power. This performance is the first time in Riverside. Dessert and Wine performance and reception with book signing

A Christmas Carol—Dickens' beloved and heartwarming story of redemption has defined how Christmas is celebrated around the world for over 100 years. In Gerald's adaptation of this classic tale he plays over 30 characters using his vocal and physical talents to bring each scene vividly to life. Popular at any time of year, Gerald's performance has received standing ovations all over the world. Luncheon and performance with book signing

Top Hole!—Based on the legendary and much loved golfing stories of PG Wodehouse, the creator of the popular characters Jeeves and Wooster, this clever 2-act play is based on four of the funniest golfing tales written between 1922 and 1937. With full permission of the Wodehouse estate, this performance is the United States premiere of *Top Hole!* Buffet Dinner and performance with book signing.

For tickets, use the order form in this issue of the *Dickens Diary*, or on the festival website at www.dickens-fest.com, or call (951) 781-3168 or 1-800-430-4140. A special 3-in-1 package at the rate of \$150, a savings of \$35, is available for guests who wish to attend all three events.

Mr. Dickens will be available to sign a special selection of books and gifts following each performance. While all photographs, audio and video recordings are prohibited during the performances, photos are permitted and encouraged at the signings. Mr. Dickens' performances are produced by Byers' Choice LTD, makers of the nationally-known Carolers and Kindles figurines, located in Chalfont, PA. For more information on Mr. Dickens' 2014 tour calendar, visit www.byerschoice.com or phone (215) 822-6700.

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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.

Reporter - Kathy Wright
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Editor - Marsha Loveridge
Some photographs courtesy of
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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
organization • EIN: 33-0617090

President's Report by Bruce Spieler

My name is Bruce Spieler and I am proud to be the current president of the Riverside Dickens Festival. I would like to thank Janet Funderburk for being president of the Dickens Festival for the last two years. She has done a fabulous job running the organization.

I have been involved in the festival since Eileen Hamel was president from 2000 to 2002. Eileen worked hard to get my wife Roberta and me involved in the various activities of the festival, which we enjoyed. During this time we took our granddaughter to observe the beautiful dancing at the annual Mr. Fezziwig's Ball. She loved it. She told us, "Next year I want to dance at the ball." At the time, she was a busy fourteen year old, and we thought that she would forget about the dance in the months from February to October, when dance classes started. But no, she did not forget! In October she reminded us that dance lessons should be starting soon, and would we p-l-e-a-s-e- take her. Of course we did and the rest is history; we have enjoyed dancing at most of the balls during the past 14 years. We have since introduced our grandson to the festival, including the dancing. It's a family tradition we all enjoy.

A unique upcoming event is scheduled in the fall on November 14-15, 2014. Internationally acclaimed actor Gerald Charles Dickens, great-great grandson of Charles Dickens, will be in Riverside to perform for high school students and the public. His performances give our community a rare opportunity to enjoy a brush with literary history. It's a do-not-miss event. See more details in this edition of *Dickens Diary* and on our website about this exciting opportunity.

We are currently making plans for our 22nd annual festival in 2015. Pub Night is February 20 and the Festival is February 21-22. We are happy to be returning to the park-like atmosphere on Main Street, near City Hall. Charles Dickens' *Little Dorrit* is the featured book. The 2015 festival will provide our traditional activities, sprinkled with new surprises to keep you entertained. The colorful and always entertaining London Market Place, educational environments, and street entertainers will turn Main Street into a London-like setting. Oliver's Alley will provide lots of free entertainment and activities for children. The Victorian fashion show is always a favorite, as are the various speakers giving lectures on the times of Dickens. Plans are underway for a new play in the Historic County Courthouse. Interesting sights will abound with entertainment and fun for all ages. Please visit our website, www.dickensfest.com for the latest information.

I look forward to a busy and exciting year as president. I hope you are already marking your calendar to attend our upcoming events this fall and I hope you will attend our festival -- and make it a tradition, too!

Bruce A. Spieler
President



Sponsors



Gerry Bowden Arts and Innovation Honoree

Gerry Bowden, one of the most ardent supporters and active board members in the early years of the festival, was honored by the Riverside City Council as the July 2014 Arts and Innovation Honoree of the Month. Patrick Brien, Executive Director of the Riverside Arts Council, told the Council and attending audience that Gerry is “synonymous with service to the community.” In addition to the Riverside Dickens Festival, some of the organizations benefiting from Gerry’s hard work and commitment to a city she loves are the Riverside County Philharmonic, Affiliates of UC Riverside, American Red Cross, St. Andrews Newman Center, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission and Youth Accountability Board. Additionally, Gerry taught business education for 20 years at Moreno Valley High School.



Further, Mr. Brien shared that “Gerry was first introduced to the Dickens Festival in 1992 after she saw members passing out brochures in Palm Springs. Impressed by the fact that they were already marketing themselves although their first festival would not debut until the following year, Gerry became involved and remains an integral part of the group to this day.” Over the years, Gerry served as president and treasurer and is currently a board member whose dedication is unmatched and valued by all who know her.

Gerry, congratulations on this well-deserved recognition from all your Dickensian friends!

Our Volunteers Make it All Happen!

Volunteers are needed to help make the 2015 Riverside Dickens Festival a success. If you have any time to give on the weekend of February 21-22, please contact Chris at iqprint@aol.com or visit the website at www.dickensfest.com. An accurate e-mail address or telephone number will ensure that you receive information about specific volunteer needs. A limited supply of period costumes will be on loan to volunteers this year.

Dance Class Schedule 2014 ♦ 2015

Learn to Dance With Us!
Beginners Welcome!

Classes

(all Wednesdays)

Oct. 15, 22, 29

Nov. 5, 12, 19

Dec. 3, 10, 17

Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28

Feb. 4, 11

Classes begin at 7 p.m. and end at 9 p.m.

Cost is \$7 per person per class



Classes are held at All Saints Episcopal Church, located at 3847 Terracina Dr., Riverside.

Directions: Exit the 91 Freeway at 14th Street. Turn right at the end of the ramp if you are traveling West on the 91 and turn left if you are traveling East on the 91. Turn left on to Magnolia. Terracina will be on your right: the church is on the corner of Magnolia and Terracina. Turn right on to Terracina.

The church opens its parking lot to RCC students: therefore, space is limited. However during break the lot usually has cleared some, and we can move our cars from street parking to church parking if necessary. For more information -RiversideVictorianDance.com

Grand Dickens Parade

Join the Grand Dickens Parade on Saturday and Sunday at noon as a costumed character from this year's featured book, *Little Dorrit*. 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 of the parade.

For additional information or to ask questions about costuming, contact Vicky Pickett at vikky.pickett@verizon.net.

Meet and Greet

Join us at Barnes & Noble Booksellers at the Galleria at Tyler in Riverside on the following dates from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. You will have the opportunity to visit with representatives of the Riverside Dickens Festival, dressed in Victorian attire, and to learn more about the festival's activities."

October 11, 2014

November 18, 2014

December 13, 2014

January 10, 2015

Big surprises in store at the popular Fashion Show

In keeping with the *Little Dorrit* theme of imprisonment, the 2015 fashion show titled "Criminal Minds" will feature some of Victorian England's most notorious characters. The show will be full of characters you'll love to hate and Sunday's performance will feature Steampunk villains both real and imaginary. You won't want to miss one of the festival's most enduringly popular events and come prepared to boo and hiss!



Fagin



Scrooge



Bill Sykes



The Riverside Dickens Festival means Entertainment!

People have always known how to have fun, even in Victorian times. We will bring you a steamship full of that fun on the festival weekend, February 21-22, 2015.

There will be singers and musicians, dancers and jugglers, magicians and comic entertainers -- all dressed in costumes of the time. Some acts will appear on stage, and some on the street. Last year we presented a wonderful theatre production in the Historic County Courthouse, and in this coming festival we'll present two plays for you. There's something delightful happening every moment!

In celebrating the life and times of Charles Dickens, we always remember ours is a literary festival. Several talented actors will appear as Victorian-era authors on stage at our Hyde Park Corner, and in a special venue called the Authors' Salon. On both Saturday and Sunday, several of the most prominent authors will gather to debate a great issue of their times. Festival-goers will be entertained by the comic side and the serious side of each literary figure.

Familiar to festival-goers are our festival favorites returning this year including: Queen Victoria, who commands authority over all she surveys; Charles Dickens, who presides passionately; Mr. Pickwick, who lights up every place he visits; The Gordon Highlanders, who bring their bagpipes, their precision marching and their Gatling gun for brilliant demonstrations of pageantry; Christopher "Rusty" Yates, who performs circus tricks, sings and joins with a marvelous dulcimer player to entertain all ages; Sportive Tricks, a wonderful Victorian folk music group, who sings boundlessly entertaining tunes; and Bob's Yer Uncle and Simon Spalding who bring their folksy songs to the festival.



Joining the festival favorites mix this year will be some outstanding performers including Christa Stevens, a sparkling voice who loves Victorian-era music. You will surely enjoy a variety of street performers doing magic, juggling and other talents that will amaze everyone. And for adults in the crowd, come to the Ten Bells Tavern to drink a pint, and to see an array of performers from the bawdy Belles of Bedlam to Les Follies Rouge can-can dancers.

The Riverside Dickens Festival means ENTERTAINMENT!
Come enjoy the fun!

The Queen's Tea

The Murder of Earl of Grey's Hound Manor

The eccentric owner of Grey's Hound Manor had been murdered. All the guests of the gloomy mansion gathered for the reading of his will. All were suspects and each suspected the others.

This was the setting for the attendees of the spring Queen's Tea held on May 18, 2014 at Evergreen Masonic Center. Mixed metaphors and alliterations had the audience as well as Queen Victoria alternately groaning and laughing as the cast for the afternoon's antics entertained them all.



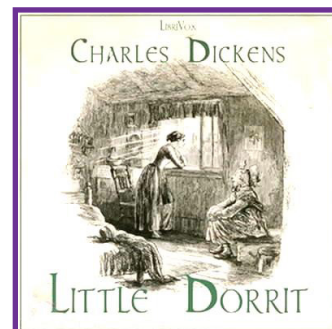
Book Discussion ♦ Little Dorrit

Popular book discussion leader, Cindy Bendshadler is back for the 2015 discussion of *Little Dorrit*. Ms. Benshadler, who describes herself as a “literary omnivore” who favors Victorian, Ancient Greek and children’s literature, will lead the discussion at Riverside Main Public Library in January 2015.

Call (951) 788-7008 to sign up. The fee, which includes a copy of the book, is \$15.00 and payable prior to the first date.

What: Book Discussion of *Little Dorrit*
Where: Riverside Main Public Library Auditorium
3581 Mission Inn Ave. • Riverside, CA
When: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

January 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2015

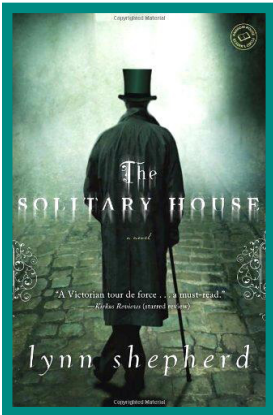


Dickens Readers' Corner

The Education Committee is pleased to recommend these books for your reading pleasure and edification.

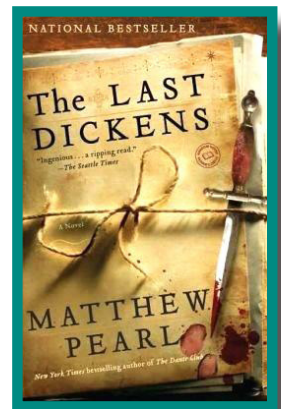
If you have other suggestions for this space in the *Dickens Diary*, please contact us on the website at www.dickensfest.com.

Fiction

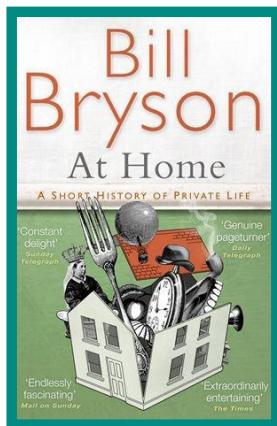


The Solitary House by Lynn Shepherd. This novel plays off Dickens' novel *Bleak House* offering a view into Lawyer Tulkinghorn's corrupt business dealings. Hardback.

The Last Dickens by Matthew Pearl. This book continues where Dickens left off in his unfinished book *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, dealing with the quest in New York City to find the missing end of the novel. It's a page turner with an exciting conclusion. Paperback.

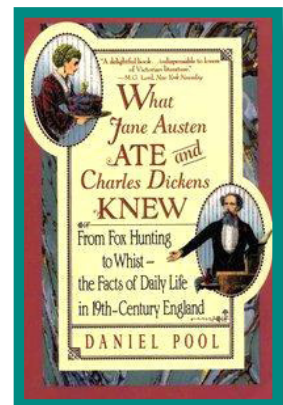


Non-Fiction



At Home: A Short History of Private Life by Bill Bryson. This is a wonderful resource book about Victorian private life. Room by room, Bryson explains in fascinating detail how life was lived in a Victorian parsonage. Paperback.

What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew by Daniel Pool. For those who like to read Dickens and other 19th century novelists this is another great resource illuminating Victorian social history. It includes a wonderful glossary to help the reader with terms such as "ague" and "wainscoting". Paperback.



Scholarship Awarded

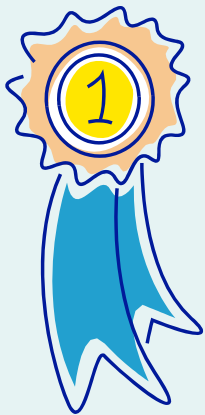
La Sierra High School Student is Scholarship Winner



Jessica Camacho, a 2014 La Sierra High School graduate, is the recipient of the 2014 Annmarie Weaver Memorial Scholarship. With a 4.23 GPA, Jessica will attend UC Irvine majoring in English and journalism. The daughter of immigrants from Mexico, she is the first of her siblings to go to college. Her particular interests lie in issues related to worldwide poverty and health. She was selected in part because of her extensive volunteerism, particularly in working on neighborhood clean-up projects, a tutoring club at school, and through her church. In addition, she received high praise from her counselor and AVID teacher for her academic work and character.

In collaboration with Greater Riverside Dollars for Scholars, the Annmarie Weaver Memorial Scholarship is awarded (when funds are available) to a student who exhibits commitment to community service as exemplified by former board member Annmarie Weaver, and to social issues that are reflected in the writing of Charles Dickens. Interested high school seniors may visit www.greaterriverside.dollarsforscholars.org for more information.

Inviting all Students!



ESSAY CONTEST OPEN TO MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
Middle and high school students and teachers may find the procedures and rules for the 2015 essay contest on the festival website at www.dickensfest.com. Follow the link labeled "Essay Contests", or leave voice messages at (951) 781-3168 or 1-800-430-4141.

HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA PERFORMANCE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

Interested drama teachers or coordinators of any public or private high school in Riverside and San Bernardino counties wishing to participate must contact Mandy Hyde (mhyde@calbaptist.edu) to register by October 17, 2014.



Details may be found on the festival website at www.dickensfest.com.

2015 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 20-22, 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

\$99 for king • Discounted parking \$5 per day • Breakfast included
3500 Market Street • Riverside, CA 92501
1-888-HYATT HP (888-492-8847)
Cut-off date: January 23, 2015

Marriott Riverside

\$109 for single/double
3400 Market Street • Riverside, CA 92501
951-784-8000
Cut-off date: January 20, 2015

The Mission Inn Hotel and Spa

Starting at \$139 for single/double
3649 Mission Inn Avenue • Riverside, CA 92501
951-784-0300 x850 or 800-843-7755
Cut-off date: January 21, 2015



GIVEBIG
RIVERSIDE COUNTY

One way you can support the Riverside Dickens Festival is by participating in Riverside's third annual Give BIG Riverside County online event on November 13, 2014.

Go to <http://www.givebigriverside-county.org>, select search "participating nonprofits" and type in Riverside Dickens Festival. Select "donate" and enter the amount you wish. As little as \$10 helps us compete for prize donations! You can even enter your donation now to be automatically made on November 13!

The Riverside Dickens Festival happens because of donations by people like you.

Thank you for your support!

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 on-line 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* 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 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:

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

Bookfair Supports Dickens Festival

Please support us at our annual Bookfair by shopping at any Barnes & Noble (even online) on November 22nd and 23rd.

Here is how it works:

Simply make a purchase at any Barnes & Noble locally, nationally or online using this Bookfair code: 11420007. Make sure that the cashier knows you are supporting the Dickens bookfair.

The Riverside 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 is that simple!

Any questions? Call Alissa at (951)358-0898
Barnes & Noble
3485 Tyler St.
Riverside, CA 92503



**Supporting
Riverside Dickens Festival
Saturday and Sunday
November 22 - 23
Barnes & Noble
3485 Tyler Street
Code #11420007**

**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: _____

*We Need Your
Contribution*

Thank you to the following supporters of our 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 10)

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Susan & Ralph Davis - Brian Dick - Linda Dilday - Erik Downs & Rachael Hamilton
Robert Drachslin - Marilyn Drury-Katillo - David Ehlers - Michael Elderman
John Evans & Lou Ann Roseling - Evergreen Masonic Center - Dr. Stuart Lee Farber
First Christian Church of Riverside - Michael Fitchett - Karen Fleisher - Nancy Forcier
Kimberly Foreman - Rebecca Foreman - Valerie Foucier - Sandee & Pat Freemon
Janet & Henry Funderburk - Merla & Bart Gaut - Laura Gazaway - Janet & John Gless
Sharon Goldstein - Jacqueline Gordon - Greater Riverside Area Dickens Fellowship
Carolyn Grant - Doug Grant - Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, Downtown Business Council
Janet Green - Eileen & Richard Hamel - Nancy Hart - Stephen Heath
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Bessie Ridley - Riverside Downtown Partnership - Riverside Public Library
Riverside Public Utilities - Karin Roberts - Rodolfo & Irene Ruibal - Georgia Russell
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Janet Simpson - Barbara Simpson-Lara - Dauris Slaughter - Aloha & Roberts Smith
Jeannette Smith - Roberta & Bruce Spieler - Scott Taber - Dwight Tate - Taylor's Appliance
Luvada Tennant - Diane & Dennis Tilton - Irmay Tilton - Joseph H. Trinh, DDS - Jo Turner
Pat Vidano - Andrew Walcott - Jan & Al Wainscott - Margaret Walker - Debbie Walsh
Bonnie Werner - Jocelyn Whitfield - Robynne Williams - Ruth Wilson - Katherine Wright

Riverside Dickens Festival

Gerald Dickens Returns to Riverside

Ticket Order

EVENT	NO.	PRICE	TOTAL
Gerald Dickens - Friday, November 14, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.			
Evergreen Masonic Center - 5801 Chicago Ave., Riverside			
<i>Sikes and Nancy</i> - Dessert & Wine Performance Adult		\$50.00	\$
Students with School ID		\$25.00	\$
<i>Children under 13 not admitted.</i>			
Gerald Dickens - Saturday, November 15, 2014 - 11:30 a.m.			
Riverside Convention Center - 3637 5th St., Riverside			
<i>A Christmas Carol</i> - Luncheon * (Includes parking) Adult		\$70.00	\$
Students with School ID		\$35.00	\$
<i>Not appropriate for those under 13.</i>			
Gerald Dickens - Saturday, November 15, 2014 - 6:00 p.m.			
Oak Quarry Golf Club - 7151 Sierra Ave., Riverside			
<i>TOP HOLE!</i> - Buffet Dinner * Adult		\$65.00	\$
<i>Not appropriate for children.</i>			
SPECIAL - All Event Ticket - \$35 savings		\$150.00	\$
TOTAL TICKETS ORDERED			\$
Donation			\$
TOTAL			\$

DEADLINE TO ORDER TICKETS - NOVEMBER 9, 2014 - Guest list at the door - No tickets will be issued.
NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

*** Please indicate Regular or Vegetarian meal choice. *Priority will be given to those whose special dietary requests are ordered in advance. "Day of" requests will result in a delay of your food service.***

Meal Choice: _____

Guests in my party: _____

I wish to sit with: _____

We accept: Checks, VISA, MasterCard, Discover

Card No. Exp. CVC

Please make checks payable: Riverside Dickens Festival. Mail order form with your check or credit card information to Riverside Dickens Festival, P. O. Box 113, Riverside, CA 92502.

Tickets may also be purchased at our website www.dickensfest.com.