

DICKENS DIARY

Official Newsletter of the Riverside Dickens Festival ♦ *Volume 19 - Issue 2*

2017
Festival
Feb. 25 – 26

Festival in Full Swing this Fall

To appropriate an old cliché my dear father often used (with relish) the Riverside Dickens Festival is in full swing! But wait (I hear you cry) how can that be? Aren't we months away from the festival? What could possibly be "swinging" now?

I am so glad you asked. You already know how our dedicated performers, scholars, writers, carpenters, students and many other volunteers work all year to create the most entertaining, educational and delightful (in our humble, unbiased opinion) annual festival in the Inland Empire. But as grand as it is, the festival is only part of what we do. In fact, we are bringing the world of Dickens to Riverside in many ways throughout the year.

In June, our inaugural "Perpetual Motion Steampunk Ball" took fantastically clad patrons on a musical journey through the 19th century. In October we will present "Tales from the Victorian Crypt", an evening of spine-tingling Victorian ghost stories at the Evergreen Memorial Historic Cemetery. "Danse Macabre", our Victorian Halloween party featuring the Whirled Peas Band at First Christian Church in Riverside will also be back.

Then, in November you may join the line at "Oliver Twist's Soup Kitchen" to enjoy a simple meal and festive entertainment while supporting the Dickens Festival and the Calvary Presbyterian Church hot meals program.

So you see, you don't need to wait until February to enjoy the festival. You can join us all year! And, please do join us. It is not nearly as much fun without you!

Becky Foreman, President

Save the Date! February 25 & 26, 2017

2017 Festival Pin

Picturing the S.S. Britannia steamship on which Charles Dickens traveled to America in 1842, the 2017 pin will be available for \$6.00 at the Information Booth during the festival. Pins from previous festivals will also be available at a reduced price.

Add to your collection or start one with one of these beautiful pins.



**Riverside Dickens Festival
Board of Directors
2016 - 2017**

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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
Editor - Marsha Loveridge

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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 organization, EIN:33-0617090

Three Great Events this Fall
Order tickets online now!
info@dickensfest.com



**October 14 & 15, 2016
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Evergreen Memorial
Historic Cemetery
Tickets - \$25.00**

Featuring the tortured souls of several unrequited lovers along with our special ghost Edgar Allan Poe. Come to the graveyard for an evening of Romance, Love, and Death --- but not necessarily in that order.



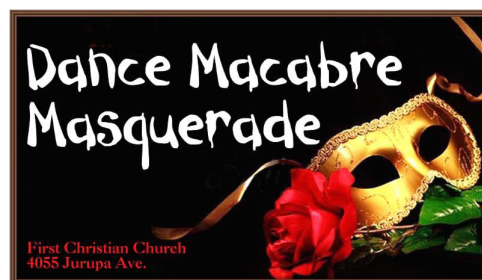
At Oliver Twist's Soup Kitchen, there is more than just bread and soup. There will be singers, piano players, costumed waiters + Charles Dickens and his friends.

Sample gourmet soups and breads donated by local Riverside restaurants.

Hosted by and for the benefit of the Riverside Dickens Festival and Calvary Presbyterian Church for their Hot Meal Program.

November 5, 2016 • 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**Calvary Presbyterian Church • 4495 Magnolia Avenue • Riverside
Tickets Now on Sale \$25 • Children under 10 - Free**



**October 22, 2016
First Christian Church
4055 Jurupa Avenue
Tickets - \$25.00**

**Come for the dancing,
stay for the games.
The doors open at 8:00 p.m.
Realize your costume fantasies,
indulge your dreams of disguise,
and, remember
- come as you aren't.**

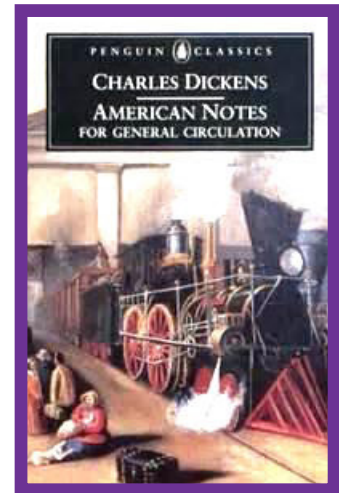
Sponsors



2017 Dickens Book - American Notes

At the height of his popularity on both sides of the Atlantic and just before his 30th birthday, Dickens arrived in Boston in January of 1842. During his travels he visited hospitals for the insane, prisons, schools for the blind and deaf, attended sessions of Congress and visited the White House, which was occupied by President William Tyler. Dickens wanted to know more about slavery in America and thus visited Richmond, Virginia where he was horrified by the treatment of slaves and the attitudes of their owners. Dickens wrote *American Notes* within four months of returning to England in June and later sent young Martin to America in his next novel *Martin Chuzzlewit*.

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



Support the arts and have fun too!

Attend the first Riverside Art and Music Festival

Saturday, September 17, 2016

Riverside Arts Council and Riverside Downtown Partnership have combined forces to present the region's largest fundraiser in support of the arts. The funds raised benefit the Community Arts Partnership grant program of which the Riverside Dickens Festival is a recipient, and other educational and arts events and activities for the public.

Exhibits, interactive demonstrations and performances by local artists and arts organizations will be fun for the entire family. Local bands **Naïve Thieves** and **Castle Pines** will open for the Los Angeles-based **Halo Circus** band. For more information visit www.riversideartandmusicfestival.com.



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.

October 1, 2016

November 5, 2016

December 3, 2016 (Also the Bookfair and enjoy a reading of *A Christmas Carol* by our Mr. Dickens, Paul Jacques)

January 7, 2017

February 4, 2017

Thanks to Barnes & Noble for their ongoing support.

Don't Miss our 2017 Fashion Shows

Nancy Smith, fashion show maven, says this year's fashion shows will be "all things fantastic!" Nancy is hard at work creating what promises to be another spectacular experience that festival goers and especially fashion show aficionados will not want to miss.

"**Victorian Dreamers**" will feature masquerade and fantasy costumes of the era and "**Steampunk Fantasia**" will bring flight of fancy and figments of the imagination to those in attendance.

Don't miss out! Purchase tickets on line at www.dickensfest.com after December 1.

Raincross + Master = Raincross Master Chorale Evensong Once Again

The joining of Riverside Master Chorale and Raincross Chorale creates a strong and accomplished group. With a new name and expanded forces, Raincross Master Chorale is scheduled to present the Evensong program on Sunday, February 26 at 4:00 p.m. at First Congregational Church.

Expect nothing less than a beautiful program by Director Bill Brakemeyer and the talented chorale including festival board member Dick Wing as they share their passion for music and the Evensong tradition in particular. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at www.dickensfest.com after December 1 and at the door.

Other Raincross Master Chorale programs of interest are "Music Then and Now" on October 30 and to celebrate the Christmas season and Festival of Lights, "The Messiah" on December 3. Both programs will be at 3:00 p.m. at Calvary Presbyterian Church.

For more information about Raincross Master Chorale visit www.raincrossmasterchorale.org.

Old Riverside Foundation presents Twelfth Night January 7, 2017



Twelfth Night is a traditional Christmas celebration, steeped in history and tradition in many European countries. The early European settlers of the United States naturally brought many of the traditions of their home countries with them, including all the celebrations of the winter and Christmas season.

In the same manner, early residents of Riverside (incorporated in 1883) established the traditions of their day, so a Victorian Twelfth Night became one of Riverside's early celebrations. Ironically, back in the 1870s Queen Victoria had banned Twelfth Night as a feast day because it had become a time of mischief and over-indulgence rather than a religious celebration.

The Old Riverside Foundation has brought back the tradition with some of the old feel and some newer ideas. Traditionally, Twelfth Night is on January 5th (the 12th day after Christmas), and has for centuries been the culmination of the 12-day Christmas season. Guests are encouraged but not required to dress in Victorian or formal attire.

This year's Twelfth Night is Saturday, January 7, 2017.

Tickets will go on sale in September at www.olderiverside.org. Watch for more details on the website.

Our volunteers are Indispensable!

Volunteers are needed to help make the 2017 Riverside Dickens Festival a success.

If you would like to volunteer at the festival on February 25-26, 2017 contact our coordinator now!

High school and college students who want to earn community service hours are welcome!

A limited number of period costumes and accessories will be on loan.

Contact us: 1. Email Christine Foreman, volunteer Coordinator at iqprint@aol.com
 2. Send us an email on our website at www.dickensfest.com

Our Mr. Twain

Born and raised in Riverside, Ken Stansbury has been involved with the arts community for over 35 years. A muralist, retail interior designer, opera set designer, air brush illustrator, writer, musician, poet, builder of marketing warfare/brand launch models, property rights activist, and now American author and contemporary of Charles Dickens, Mark Twain for the Riverside Dickens Festival.



From his current home in Vermont where he is researching the life of American Revolution era frontier woman Ann Story for the writing of a historical narrative of her life, Ken recently shared some of his thoughts about the festival and how he became involved.

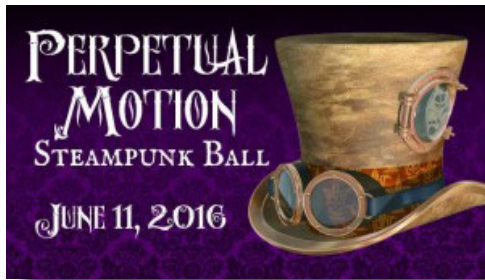
Q. How did you become involved with the festival?

A. My dear friend Richard Reed asked me to “pinch-hit” as Mark Twain when the festival lost its previous Twain. I figured I could do this for a good friend this one time. I’d grow the mustache, lecture on *Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court* and spar in debate with Dickens, Wells and Poe. Sounds like grand FUN—once, just once. I shaved the mustache as soon as it was over. Months before the next Dickens Fest Richard told me, “You’re our Twain now. Start growing the mustache!” I balked, but other friends involved behind the scenes made it clear that I had no choice. It was like a Victorian mob not taking “no” for an answer. I grew the mustache and dug into “The Gilded Age.”

Q. So, why do you keep doing it after all these years?

A. This mustache is my ministry work to American literature. I have grown to really love portraying Mark Twain while hating the mustache. I take the study of his work, research of his life and accurate portrayal of him very seriously. I’ve been Twain as auctioneer for charity events and have done it for the Aldrich Library’s Senior Day in Vermont.

Not only does Ken portray Twain in person, he recently wrote a piece as Mark Twain, Special Correspondent for the Dickens Diary. Read Ken’s story of “A Secret Knighting” on page 11 of the Diary.



The inaugural Steampunk Ball took place on June 25th at the American Legion Hall in Fairmount Park. Everyone in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the evening with Steampunk regalia and paraphernalia in high form. Attendees requested the ball be scheduled again next year!



Get Ready for the Grand Dickens Parade

It's not too soon to start thinking about which of Dickens' characters you want to be for this year's costumed character parade. On Saturday and Sunday of the festival weekend, the parade, led by Mr. Dickens and Mr. Pickwick, will make its way through the festival venue ending on the steps of the Historic Courthouse where Mr. Dickens will introduce his characters to Her Majesty Queen Victoria and the crowd of onlookers.

So, get ready and start scouring the thrift stores or get out your sewing machine so you can participate. Other visitors not representing a certain character but dressed in Victorian attire are also welcome to join in the fun.

A complete list of characters may be found at David Perdue's Charles Dickens Page at www.charlesdickenspage.com.



The Royal Victorian Tea Room & Music Hall



Twenty-Three Years of Delicious Tea and Hilarious Entertainment

For twenty-three years, in collaboration with the Riverside Dickens Festival, First Congregational Church has served a delicious afternoon tea accompanied by an original musical performance written and produced by Christopher Marsh and troupe. In 2017 patrons can expect nothing less.

Join in the fun and enjoy a “cuppa” along with scrumptious homemade comestibles on both Saturday and Sunday of the festival weekend.

First Congregational Church

2054 Mission Inn Avenue (corner of Lemon St.)

Riverside, CA 92501

Saturday, February 25, 2017: 11:00 A.M., 1:30 P.M. and 4:00 P.M.

Sunday, February 26, 2017: 11:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.

\$25.00 per person

Reservations available December 1

at www.dickensfest.com



Greater Riverside Area Dickens Fellowship

A Proud Branch Member Since 2009

GRAD meets throughout the year to discuss all things Dickensian.

Next meeting: Saturday, November 12, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Tim & Emily Clark • 21 Del Santello • Lake Elsinore, CA 92508

Discussion: *American Notes* • Leader: Vikki Pickett

\$20 per year dues or \$30 per couple.

Contact Tim Clark at poohclark@earthlink.net for additional information.

Riverside Dickens Festival Scholarship

The Dickens Festival Board of Directors created this scholarship in recognition of people who have over time, been active volunteers and supporters of the festival and whose involvement has significantly enhanced the success of the festival and helped to advance the festival goal to promote literacy. This scholarship will be awarded annually, or as funds may be available.

Eligibility: Graduating seniors at high schools in Jurupa, Riverside, Alvord and Moreno Valley unified school districts are eligible for this scholarship.

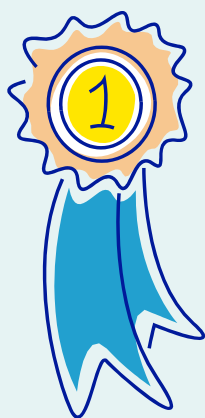
Criteria: Applicants shall meet the following criteria

- 3.0 or better cumulative GPA
- Intend to study literature, writing, drama, social work, social justice or other subjects consistent with the life and works of Charles Dickens
- Demonstrate participation in unpaid community service as a volunteer during the high school years.

Complete an application, which includes a recommendation from a teacher, counselor, administrator, employer or community service supervisor/official; a current transcript and an essay describing educational goals and career aspirations.

How to apply: Visit www.greaterriversidedollarsforscholars.com to apply after December 15 or request information from high school scholarship contact person.

Calling all Middle and High School Students and Teachers!



ESSAY CONTEST RULES AVAILABLE

Essay contest rules for middle and high school students and teachers in public and private school in Riverside and San Bernardino counties is now available on the festival website.

HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLASSES ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2017 FESTIVAL

Likewise, high school drama classes will also find information about how they can participate by presenting a performance depicting scenes from this year's featured book, *American Notes*.

Go to www.dickensfest.com. Click on Educational Outreach.

For more information visit www.dickensfest.com.



2017 Hotels Rates

RESERVE EARLY!

A limited number of hotel rooms are available to festival goers at special rates subject to change, plus local and state tax. Reservations must be made by the dates indicated for each hotel.

In order to receive the group rate, guests should make reservations early by contacting the hotel directly and identifying themselves with the Dickens Festival Group.

Hyatt Place

\$149.00 single/double

3500 Market Street

Riverside, CA 92501

Contact Karla Pierce directly (951) 321-3502

Cut-off date: January 25, 2017

Marriott Riverside

\$125 single/double

3400 Market Street

Riverside, CA 92501

951-784-8000

Cut-off date: January 25, 2017

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.



Generous Donation from Provident Bank helps make the Festival Happen!

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors, Provident Bank representatives Monique McCray and Matthew Woolery presented President Becky Foreman with a check for \$728.56. The funds are derived from Provident's Community Partnership Program and will be used to support the implementation of festival activities. Since 2010 Provident has awarded \$7,091 to the festival!

Any person who banks with Provident Bank is eligible to designate an organization that also banks with Provident and meets certain requirements. Annual donations made to organizations are from Provident Bank, NOT from your account funds. Call today or go on-line for more information: (951) 782-6177 or www.myprovident.com.



Sign up for these programs and Ralphs and Amazon will make a donation to the festival.

Ralphs Community Program Do you have a Ralphs Rewards card? To enroll in this generous program, go to 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.

Amazon Smile Every time you make an online purchase on Amazon you can help the festival through its Amazon Smile program. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com>, select a charitable organization to support and Riverside Dickens Festival, Inc. should pop up on the list. When you're looking at an item to purchase it will say Eligible for Amazon Smile. Log on to Amazon Smile whenever you go to the website.

Bookfair Supports Dickens Festival

Shop at Barnes & Noble on December 3 at our annual Bookfair.

Simply make a purchase at any Barnes & Noble store, locally, nationally or online using **Bookfaircode: 11926698**. Or in the store, make sure the cashier knows you are supporting the Dickens bookfair.

Shop for books, CDS, DVDs, calendars, educational toys, games, and gifts for the holiday season while benefitting the festival. The Riverside Dickens Festival will receive a percentage of what you spend!

December 3rd is also Educator Appreciation Day. Any educators of pre-K through 12th grade will get a 25% discount and their purchases will still count towards the bookfair!

Questions: Call Nicole (951) 358-0898

Barnes & Noble Booksellers
3485 Tyler Street.
Riverside, CA 92503



Supporting
Riverside Dickens Festival
Saturday, December 3, 2016
Barnes & Noble
3485 Tyler Street
Riverside, California
Code # 11926698

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: _____

*We Need Your
Contribution*

A Secret Knighting

by Mark Twain, Special Correspondent.
Late in submission due to travel challenges.

A rumor was circulating among those in court privy to matters of interest. That rumor being this: after Mister Fezziwig's Ball, at a pub known for its exclusive and highbrow patronage, a clandestine meeting took place in which the Queen herself was party and presenter; acting in the most solemn and honored right of the crown did bestow Knighthood in a secret ceremony.

As a correspondent, I needed to dig further and go to the one source that could confirm or deny such scuttlebutt: the Queen herself.

I was granted an audience with Her Majesty, and after a brief but sincere effort at pre-apology for my forwardness as an American member of the fourth estate, I got right to the heart of my visit AND UNLOADED THE QUESTION WITH BOTH BARRELS, SO TO SPEAK. I EXPECTED TO BE DISCHARGED QUICKLY FOR BREACH OF DECORUM. The Queen smiled with pride and assured me that the rumor was true and that words such as 'secret' and 'clandestine' were far too suggestive of intrigue. Her Royal Highness explained that the confirmation of Knighthood upon one Richard Reed was best handled in private.

Although many in court know of the fondness Her Majesty feels for Sir Richard, for they are often seen speaking in private at many public functions, few, if any of the Nobility know of the exact nature or complexion of the service the man had performed for the Crown that would effect such confidence and affection from the Queen of England.

I could, from my simple understanding of royal customs and prerogatives, comprehend that Sir Richard's many years of loyalty and service included tasks and functions of the most sensitive and diplomatic nature. I could tell by Her Majesty's well-chosen words that her gratitude to Sir Richard for his performance of duty for Crown and Country was deep and heartfelt, while making it clear that these demonstrations of loyalty throughout the years by Sir Richard, which required both cunning and bravery, were not going to be material for public consumption.

Private Knighting has a long history in England and that fraternity of nobility whose deeds elevate them to the most inner-circles of power are several generations later revealed to have been most able to see and solve problems for the Kingdom long before they would manifest into any tangible difficulty for the realm. I took mental note that the Queen was aware of my knowledge of this select knighthood histories and I fully understood that I read what I wanted into a 'Private Knighting' ceremony, but that I was correct to assume that Sir Richard had performed such duties for Her Majesty that were of the most import in nature, the realm, and that all subjects of the Kingdom should be forever grateful for his service, and that no other information to explanation of Sir Richard's service would be forthcoming.

I was unable to get Sir Richard's side of the story as he was off on another mission of the unknown for Her Majesty. I wanted to ask him about how the Queen had set him up with new digs. New Knights always get a ranch as a gift from the Crown and I wanted to know how Secret Knight fared in the deal.



Thank you to the following supporters of our 2017 Festival.

If your name isn't here, you can support the 2017 Riverside Dickens Festival
by mailing a tax deductible check to
P.O. Box 113, Riverside, CA 92502-0113. (See form on page 10)
The Riverside Dickens Festival, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3)
non-profit organization, EIN:33-0617090.

City of Riverside • Riverside Arts Council - InlandArts.com
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Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, Downtown Business Council

Kathleen Hartman - Lucy & Frank Heyming - Windy Hixson

Deanne & Rick Irwin - Victoria Klein

Donna Knox - Kroger(Ralph's) - Marie Lamons - Judy & Bryan Mahoney

Ed Mauel - Packinghouse Brewing Co. - Richard Reed

Riverside Downtown Partnership - Riverside Public Utilities - Mary Schaefer

Christine Verdonck - Dick & Donna Wing

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:

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