

DICKENS DIARY

Official Newsletter of the Riverside Dickens Festival • Volume 20 - Issue 3

2018
Festival
Feb. 24 & 25

2018 Festival: Silver Jubilee! Look Inside for a Preview

President's Message

The festival started 25 years ago in September 1993. You could shoot a cannon ball down Main Street Pedestrian Mall and not hit anyone. It all began as a way to promote the library and to bring people to downtown Riverside. An education program was developed with the help of local educators and *The Press-Enterprise*. Middle and elementary school children had field trips to downtown on the Friday prior to the main days to see performances and to learn about Charles Dickens and his Victorian times. Later a street fair was added which was named the London Marketplace. The rest is history.

As president I am often asked, "What is the Riverside Dickens Festival?" I give my 30-second elevator speech. But it is a good question. What is the Riverside Dickens Festival to you?

Our mission statement says: The mission of the Riverside Dickens Festival is to promote literacy, provide educational entertainment and to expand awareness of social similarities between Victorian times and the present.

The Dickens Festival is a street fair with the London Marketplace, street performers, a character parade, fashion shows, and plays in the Riverside County Historic Courthouse. The festival is Oliver's Alley with games and teas for the under 12 set, Queen Victoria and Her Royal Court, and lectures and debates between Dickens and other authors. The festival is family entertainment on the Grant Family Stage, English food and the Tavern, Evensong, Victorian Tea Room and Music Hall, Ye Olde Book Shoppe, Mr. Fezziwig's Victorian Ball and Mr. Pickwick's Pub Night fundraiser, which will be a murder mystery this year. And don't forget the 4-week book discussion at the Arlington Library.

The festival means something different to everyone. What does it mean to you?

I hope to see you February 24th and 25th on the Main Street Pedestrian Mall near City Hall for the Silver Jubilee.

With Great Expectations,
Doug Grant, President



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

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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

Getting to Festival Venues

Historic Downtown Riverside on the Main Street Pedestrian Mall from University Avenue to Eleventh Street and the Historic Courthouse is the scene for the festival main days. Some events will be held at the First Congregational Church, just a short walk from the Pedestrian Mall at the corner of Lemon Street and Mission Inn Avenue and at the Municipal Auditorium - just across the street. Pickwick's Pub Night will be at the First Christian Church at the corner of Jurupa Avenue and Brockton Avenue.

From the 91 Freeway take the University Avenue off-ramp to various city parking garages and street parking on nearby streets. Parking is free after 5:00 pm on Friday and through the weekend.

Friday, February 23, 2018

• **Pickwick's Pub Night Fundraiser-- First Christian Church, corner of Jurupa Avenue and Brockton Avenue.**

Saturday and Sunday, February 24 and 25, 2018

• **Festival Main Days—Main Street Pedestrian Mall between University Avenue and Eleventh Street plus the Historic Courthouse.**
• **The Royal Victorian Tea Room & Music Hall—First Congregational Church, corner of Lemon Street and Mission Inn Avenue. On Saturday and Sunday there will also be other activities at the church: *Miss Havisham's Attic, Soirees Mystique* and *Dialogue with the Dead*.**

Saturday, February 24, 2018

• **Mr. Fezziwig's Ball—Riverside Municipal Auditorium, corner of Mission Inn Avenue and Lemon Street.**

Sunday, February 25, 2018

• **Evensong—First Congregational Church, corner of Lemon Street and Mission Inn Avenue.**



Major Sponsors



Information and tickets

For more information about the Riverside Dickens Festival and to purchase tickets visit our website at www.dickensfest.com.

Don't want to purchase tickets online? Please leave a message at our office at (951) 781-3168 before February 22.

2018 Entertainment Preview

Plenty That's FREE to See and Do at the Silver Jubilee – 25 Years of Wit & Wisdom

New entertainers and educational venues you won't want to miss!
Check the festival program for times and location. All FREE!

Kris Colt and Black Rose – Uniquely American Celtic. They bridge the gap between the Celts, uniting Scots and Irish music and their dominant influence on Americana musical culture.

The Lynx Show – A unique blend of comedy, magic and sword swallowing. From arrow dynamically designed jokes that fly over the kids' heads to hilarious audience participation.

Society of Civil War Reenactors, Code of the West and Civil War Refugees are new additions to the educational environments reenacting and recreating times gone by.

Inland Valley Youth Orchestra – Founded in 2000, the youth orchestra provides ensemble experiences for intermediate and advanced players in grades 6-12. Their repertoire includes orchestral and chamber music in eclectic genres.

Bob's Yer Uncle Balloonacy & Pennyfarthing Les Folies Rouge
Looney's Fortune Merry Wives of Windsor Sportive Tricks
Christopher Yates Sweetwater Creek Band
East India Society Professor James Gallivan, Phrenologist
Kimberland Forge Nostrabobus, The Great Graphologist
Rogue Privateers Orange Empire Railway
No Idle Hands Heritage House
California Writers Club



Pickwick's Pub Night Fundraiser New in 2018 - "Mr. Pickwick's Predicament" An interactive murder mystery

Mr. Pickwick invites you to join him for an exciting evening featuring the world premiere of "Mr. Pickwick's Predicament", an interactive murder mystery. Strange happenings are afoot in the famous one-night only Pickwick's Pub. You don't want to miss this exciting evening!



Chef Laurent Baillon of Just Pastries will again provide a scrumptious menu of Fish and Chips and Beef Stew with salad and dessert. The ever-popular Packinghouse Brewery Rileys Irish Red Ale and Black Beauty Cream Stout will once more be on tap. Mr. Pickwick tells us his pub will open as it did last year in the venue with the greatly improved sound. We look forward to another outstanding kick-off for the 2018 festival, please join us.

Pickwick's Pub Night Fundraiser helps support the many family-friendly, free and fun activities that happen throughout the Festival weekend. Gather your friends and purchase your tickets early while the Early-Bird discounts are in place and why not order extra tickets as a gift for friends or family.

MUST BE 21 and OVER

Friday – February 23, 2018 • Doors open 6:00 p.m.

\$50 – January 1, 2018 through January 31, 2018

\$55 – February 1, 2018 through February 20, 2018

or until sold out

First Christian Church • 4055 Jurupa Avenue

Corner of Jurupa and Brockton

To help save trees and due to the high cost of printing and continuously rising postage rates, the *Dickens Diary* is sent via email 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 email 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 homepage.

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 payable to the Riverside Dickens Festival, along with your name and address to:

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

Victorian & Steampunk Fashion Shows

Victorian Fashion Show • Always a Sell-Out!

Aficionados of Victorian fashion will want to get their tickets NOW for one of the most popular events at the festival! Always a sell-out, the fashion show will be held in the beautiful ceremonial courtroom at Riverside County's Historic Courthouse. The theme, "Family Fortunes" will answer the question "How did you acquire your fortune? Did you inherit it, marry it or kill for it?"

Order your tickets early as this event will definitely sell out!

Saturday, February 24 • 1:30 p.m. • \$10
Riverside County Historic Courthouse

Something Different - Steampunk Traveler's Checks

Inspired by 19th century industrial steam-powered machinery the Steampunk movement has caught on at the Riverside Dickens Festival. At the Steampunk Traveler's Checks event featured characters will travel from different times and places to share their unique, creative and fantastic costumes and equipment with the audience. A panel discussion and Question and Answer period will conclude the event.

Order your tickets early to insure you are not left out!
Sunday, February 25 • 1:30 p.m. • \$10
Riverside County Historic Courthouse

Calling All Authors! All FREE!

The festival hosts many authors and inventors who will chat, debate and stroll all weekend through the entire venue.



Mr. Poe performs at Riverside's Long Night of Arts and Innovation

Look for

Charles Dickens
H.G. Wells
Edgar Allan Poe
Louisa May Alcott
Jules Verne
Julia Ward Howe
Nikola Tesla
Thomas Edison
Jane Austen
Oscar Wilde
Harriet Beecher Stowe
Bronte Sisters
Emily Dickinson
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Mary Shelley
Phillis Wheatley
Mark Twain

Brassworks Returns to Celebrate Silver Jubilee



Saturday and Sunday, February 24 & 25
12:15 p.m. and 2:45 p.m.

\$10

Riverside County Historic Courthouse
Department 1 – 4050 Main Street

BrassWorks, a Riverside-based brass quintet, is delighted to return to the Riverside Dickens Festival and is especially honored to help celebrate the Silver Anniversary of one of the city's most popular, colorful and educational events. Their Dickens Festival repertoire is fit for a Queen and includes a rich selection of 18th and 19th century ballads, jigs, minuets, jaunts, suites, gavottes and, yes, gigue! Our quintet consists of two trumpets, French horn, trombone and tuba.

Trumpet: **Chris Watts** has taught (and conducted) music in the Riverside school district for the past twelve years. Students love him and work hard for him. Middle and high music teachers love him for equipping students with a solid foundation in the basics. **Phil Pacier**, our luxury Orange County import, is principal trumpet of the La Mirada Symphony, Orange County Wind Symphony, and the Symphonic Winds of the Pacific. He is also on the faculty at Santiago Canyon College, Cerritos College, Moorpark College, and College of the Desert.

French horn: **Ronda Barnes** began her dream job -- teaching as a band director at Sierra Middle School in 1994. In 1999, her career path led to her current position at Ramona High School, where she teaches her new-found love: Piano and AP Music Theory. Ronda is also honored to work with so many talented and passionate teachers and young artists as the Magnet coordinator for the Riverside Arts Magnet at Ramona.

Trombone: **Dan Bernstein**, retired Press-Enterprise columnist, is a member of the RCC Evening Jazz Ensemble and plays at Riverside's Kaiser Hospital in a music therapy program.

Tuba: **Daniel Manzo** has played tuba for more than 13 years, performing with the RCC Wind Ensemble, RCC Orchestra, RCC Jazz Ensemble, Moreno Valley Wind Symphony and CSUSB Orchestra. He is currently a lab assistant at UCR. He has also been the Finance Intern for the City of Rancho Cucamonga.

Dickens Festival 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>.

Fezziwig's Ball in Historic Municipal Auditorium

Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig will welcome you to their beautiful Victorian Ball on Saturday night of the festival weekend. Be among the 250 guests who don their finest Victorian attire to swirl around the room to the live music of Whirled Peas. Dance Master, Tom Willson, will guide the dancers through quadrilles, waltzes and polkas for this evening of elegant enjoyment.



Dancers will enjoy the fabulous hardwood floor, which was replaced during a \$9.5 million renovation of the building in 2011. The building, also known as Soldier's Memorial Building honors the 87 service members from Riverside County who died in World War I. It was designed by Arthur Benton and completed by G. Stanley Wilson who also worked on the Mission Inn, after Benton died. Both men were prominent architects who designed many homes and buildings in Riverside and surrounds. In the Mission Revival style, the auditorium was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

Tickets for the Ball are \$40.00 through January 31 and \$45 through February 24 or until sold out. Observers may sit in the Balcony for \$10 and Children 10 and under are free. Purchase tickets online.

A Mock Ball is scheduled for February 3 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at First Christian Church, 4055 Jurupa Avenue. Tickets are available for \$15.00 online at www.dickensfest.com.

And let's not forget...

There's so much to do at the festival if you want to see and experience it all, come both days.

Don't forget to look for these activities and events in the program and as you stroll the festival from end to end.

London Marketplace	Ye Old Book Shoppe
The Character Parade	Food Court
The Festival Tavern	The Royal Pavilion
California Writers Club Writing Workshop,	
"Write Smart, Write with Heart, Essay Tips	
Inspired by Boz" FREE	

The Trial of Jack the Ripper
February 24 & 25 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.





**BRING YOUR
LITTLE ONES
FOR FUN AND
GAMES!**



One of the most popular venues at the festival is Oliver's Alley. Children under 12 will enjoy the same games that children in Victorian times played—Cup and Ball, Marbles, Pickup Sticks, Jacks, Graces and they can make a cloth doll to take home. A photo venue gives them the opportunity to select Victorian-era clothing and hats and have their picture taken as a keepsake of their visit to Oliver's Alley. Storytelling and songs as well as a Children's Tea Party are all free.

Saturday and Sunday, February 24 & 25
Next to City Hall at 9th and Main Streets



2018 Lectures – Something for Everyone

Education Committee Chair, Susan Purkart is pleased to announce the lineup of lecturers for the 2018 festival. The topics are varied and will serve a wide range of interests. Please see the festival program for times and location. Lectures will take place on the Royal Victoria Theatre stage. See festival program for times.

“Victorian Beverages” -- Richard Foss, Victorian food and wine expert

“A Tale of Two Frankensteins” -- Miranda Butler, UCR Graduate Student

“Dickens’ Great Expectations” – Prof. Michael Cohen, UCLA

“Dickens 101” – Miranda Steege, UCR Graduate Student

“Dickens and Victorian Christianity” – Rev. Sharon Sheffield, Episcopal Priest

Dickens Festival active all year long

Not just a once-a-year street fair, Riverside Dickens Festival is out and about in the community. Dickensians have been busy presenting events and activities at schools and in the wider community. Enjoy these photos.



Meet Mr. Dickens at Loma Vista Middle School



Gerald Dickens presents *A Christmas Carol* and *Doctor Marigold*



Dickensian Strollers at the Festival of Lights



Tales from the Victorian Crypt IV



RDF PARTNERS WITH FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH TO PRESENT NEW AND RETURNING EVENTS

From the early years of the festival the historic First Congregational Church, the most significant Spanish Revival structure in Southern California has been a wonderful partner presenting both Evensong and The Royal Victorian Tea Room & Music Hall, both of which have a loyal following. These two events will continue along with three new ones that are sure to curry interest and perhaps a loyal following as well.

Purchase tickets online or at the venue. • First Congregational Church • 3755 Lemon Street (Enter on Mission Inn Avenue)

NEW—SOON TO BECOME FAVORITES

Escape from Miss Havisham's Attic!

You are wards of Miss Havisham and you have heard strange noises coming from the attic of Satis House. When you ask about the muffled cries, she says it's just the pipes and you should avoid that part of the mansion. While she settles in for her bath, you decide to investigate....what mysteries lay above the creaky ceilings inside Miss Havisham's attic? You have 25 minutes to find clues, solve puzzles and work alongside your friends to solve the mystery of the noises in "the pipes".

Saturday and Sunday—February 24 & 25 • \$10 per person—space is limited

Saturday—11a.m • 12:15 p.m. • 1:30 p.m. • 2:45 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. • Sunday—10:30 a.m. • 11:45 a.m. • 1:00 p.m • 2:15 p.m.

Soirees Mystique—A Delightfully Diabolical Deception!

Nineteenth century conjuror and clairvoyant Victor Ian Elan will take participants on a journey back to a time when the drawing room became the stage for intrigue and deception and wealthy patrons regularly invited magicians, mind-readers and mediums into their parlors to amuse and amaze intimate groups comprised of beloved friends and their invited guests. Participants will witness demonstrations in 19th century conjuring and observe experiments in Victorian mind-reading—all within a period perfect setting.

Saturday and Sunday—February 24 & 25 • \$10 per person—space is limited

Saturday—12:15pm and 2:45 p.m. • Sunday—11:45 a.m .and 2:15p.m

Dialogue with the Dead: Break on Through to the Other Side!

Professor Tango, Medium extraordinaire, leads audience members to watch and participate in a humorous séance featuring magical illusions and comedic performance elements. "Aunt Sally...Aunt Sally? Is that you?"

Saturday and Sunday—February 24 & 25 • \$10 per person

Saturday—11:00 a.m. • 1:30 p.m • 4:00 p.m. • Sunday—10:30 a.m. • 1:00 p.m.

RETURNING FAVORITES

Evensong presented by Raincross Master Chorale

A festival tradition since 1996, the Evensong service of music and readings follows the tradition of the English Prayer Book of 1549, developed by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer 1489 – 1556. The overarching theme is peace and light. Join us in the historic church sanctuary for a stunningly beautiful musical experience.

Sunday, February 25 • \$10 per person • 4:00 p.m.

The Royal Victorian Tea Room & Music Hall

Mr. Teacle returns with his colorful cast of characters to regale his guests with "A Dickens of a Time: Una Famiglia Drammatica". Created by Christopher Marsh (aka Mr. Treacle), the performance is sure to please guests while they are enjoying a delicious afternoon repast of homemade delicacies. It is recommended that tickets are purchased in advance.

Saturday and Sunday—February 24 & 25 • \$25 per person • \$15 Children 12 and under

Saturday—11:00 a.m. • 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. • Sunday—11:30 a.m. • 2:00 p.m.

Volunteers Needed

Want to volunteer? Here's how you can help to make the 2018 Riverside Dickens Festival a success.

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

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

Contact: Stephanie Billman, (562) 547-8254

or send us an email on our website at www.dickensfest.com

2017 Hotel Rates

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 before 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.

Marriott Riverside

\$120 single/double

3400 Market Street • Riverside, CA • (951) 784-8000

Applicable dates: 2/23/18 to 2/25/18

Last day to book: 2/2/18

Online reservations click on [BOOK YOUR GROUP RATE FOR RIVERSIDE DICKENS FESTIVAL](#)

Hyatt Place

\$139.00 single/double

3500 Market Street • Riverside, CA • (951) 321-3504

Mention Group Code:G-DKNS

Or online at

http://riversidedowntown.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html?corp_id=G-DKNS

Applicable dates: 2/23/18 to 2/25/18

Last day to book: 2/9/18

Book Discussion

In a lonely churchyard on Christmas Eve, a young orphan boy is visiting the graves of his parents, when suddenly he is grasped and threatened by a terrifying escaped convict. This is how Charles Dickens begins the unforgettable tale of *Great Expectations*, a story of great hopes and great disappointments. Join our group to read the book, see the video, and discuss them.



January 13, 20, 27 and February 3
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Arlington Library
9556 Magnolia Ave. Riverside, CA
\$20 (includes a copy of the book
and study guide)

To register call Susan Purkart
(951) 788-7008

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 _____ (on back)

We Need Your
Contribution

Thank you to the following supporters of our 2018 Festival.

If your name isn't here, you still have a chance to support the 2018 Riverside Dickens Festival by mailing a tax deductible check to P.O. Box 113, Riverside, CA 92502-0113. (See form on page 11)
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