

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVERSIDE DICKENS FESTIVAL



Dickens Diary is published four 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 - Stephanie Rasner

Office: (951) 781-3168  
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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

### President's Message

**Happy Winter Dickensian Enthusiasts!**

The frigid months are upon us but as we snuggle into our winter blankets, let us not forget Dickens Fest will soon be upon us!

This year we celebrate our 30th anniversary on Feb 25-26 as Riverside's one and only historical education FREE festival. We would love to keep presenting our festival as a complimentary way to experience living history for those near and far but the recent pandemic has reaped havoc in it's wake and we are in need from our faithful patrons to continue.

What does that mean for the festival? It means LOTS of wonderful ways for you to support us in our endeavor to keep bringing the festival back each year as a FREE experience. Below are just a few upcoming ways to participate.

#### Fundraisers DURING the festival:

**Children's Tea Parties:** Join us 3 times a day at the Oliver's Alley tea area inside the festival for children's tea. We have three themed tea parties to choose from for only \$7 for entry.

**Peter Rabbit Tea – Queen's Tea – Pickpocket Tea**

**Stevenson's Swashbuckling School:** Children and adults of all ages, join us to learn the art of the sword for a swashbuckling fight to remember. Robert Louis Stevenson teaches sword-fighting basics to one and all. Never has there been a better time to challenge your friends to a duel!

**Dickens After Dark:** Join us for a seedy adventure into the Dickens Victorian Underworld filled with unsavory characters, can can dancers, variety acts, boos, music, curiosities, burlesque, bawdy jokes and photo ops. Get your tickets now, this one sold out last year.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/441652353077>

**Fundraising AFTER the Festival:**

**Murder Mystery Sequel:** Sun. March 5th Can't get enough of our original murder mysteries? Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Invites you to the Stevensons' Ranch in Monterey for close encounters of the other-worldly kind with a super-natural seance with all his closest friends. Meet Harry Houdini, Wyatt Earp, Marie Laveau and many more for a trip to the American Wild West and a trip to the "other side" in this historical whodunnit... The Plot gets Thicker!

**Midsummer Night's Dream:** A Victorian Fantasy Ball: Sat. July 29 Ready for an ethereal evening amongst the Shakespearean Fae? Traditional Victorian dances (taught on the spot), cocktails, fairy photo ops, and so much more! Come dressed to impress for this Fantasy Ball as we dance through a Midsummer's Night's dream....

For those of you unable to attend any of our fundraiser events please visit

[www.DickensFest.com](http://www.DickensFest.com)

click the donate button to send funds via paypal. Every dollar counts and we appreciate everything you do to keep our festival the fantastic free educational event it has grown to be for the last 30 years.

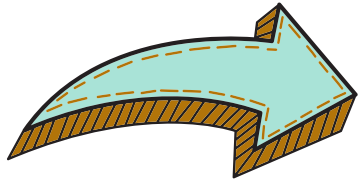
Sincerely,  
Shanna Lovette  
Dickens Fest President



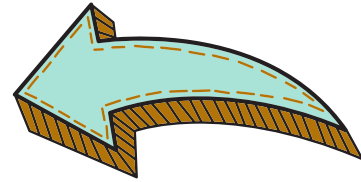


# OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE INDISPENSABLE!

Have time to offer your talent to the festival?  
Need community service hours for college or high school credits?  
As an all-volunteer nonprofit organization



**WE  
NEED  
YOU**



Your help can make the 2023 festival a great experience for everyone!

If you want to help with the planning committees and/or  
with the various activities during the festival, please contact us NOW!


Contact us on our website at [www.dickensfest.com](http://www.dickensfest.com)  
or call and leave a message at (951) 781-3168.

## RIVERSIDE DICKENS FESTIVAL


# SCAVENGER HUNT BINGO

JOIN OUR FREE DICKENS FEST SCAVENGER HUNT BINGO!

This game is fun for all ages! Download your Bingo card on [DickensFest.com](http://DickensFest.com)  
or get one from our information booth to win fun Dickens Fest Prizes!

X BINGO = 

Go to our Info Booth to collect your Dickens Fest Sticker

Blackout BINGO = 

A special knighting ceremony at the Queen's Pavillion with Queen Victoria at  
3:30pm & a commemorative Dickens Fest 2023 Pin!

## FREE TO PLAY!



# Some Tavern Entertainment at the Festival

## Showtimes for Saturday and Sunday

Tea & Strumpets 1:15pm-1:45pm

Tea & Strumpets 2:30pm-3pm

Tea & Strumpets 4:30pm-5pm



## Showtimes for Saturday and Sunday

Les Folies Rouge

11:15pm-11:45pm

Les Folies Rouge

3pm-3:30pm

Special Dickens

After Dark Showing



## Showtimes for Saturday and Sunday

The Merry Wives of Windsor

12:15pm-12:45pm

The Merry Wives of Windsor

2pm-2:30pm



## Showtimes for Saturday and Sunday

Sportive Tricks

11:45pm-12:15pm

Sportive Tricks

3:30pm-4pm





# Grant Family Stage Forums

## Victorian Industrialists

Henry Huntington, Nikola Tesla,  
Thomas Edison, Fagan, Stephen  
Foster 11:45am-12:30pm



The Industrial Revolution was a period of scientific and technological development in the 19th century that transformed the world. Come listen to some of the most famous industrialists describe their thoughts on this astounding era.

## Victorian Travel

Robert Louis and Fanny Stevenson, Henry  
Huntington, Charles Dickens, Sir Richard  
Burton 2:15pm-3pm



During the Industrial Revolution travel in the Victorian era changed rapidly. With the advent of the locomotive, as well as steam powered ships, travel times were dramatically reduced. Come listen to some famous travelers and learn their thoughts on why travel was so important to their lives.



# A Few Faces You May See at the Festival



**The Brilliant Charles Dickens**  
portrayed by Paul Jacques

**Author Salon**

**Saturday and Sunday 11:30pm-12:15pm**

**Dickens Birthday Party (SUNDAY ONLY)**  
**10:15-10:45am**

**Dickens & Katie Show**

**Saturday and Sunday 1pm-1:30pm**

**Katie Dickens**

portrayed by Olivia Jacques

**Author Salon**

**Saturday and Sunday 10:30am-11am**

**Tea Corner**

**"Living in the Shadow of Men"**

**Katie Dickens & Fanny Stevenson**

**Saturday and Sunday 11am-11:30am**

**Dickens & Katie Show**

**Saturday and Sunday 1pm-1:30pm**



**Edgar Allan Poe**

portrayed by Travis Rhett Wilson

**Poetry Corner**

**Saturday and Sunday 11:45am-12:30pm**

**Tea Corner**

**Poe & Laveu**

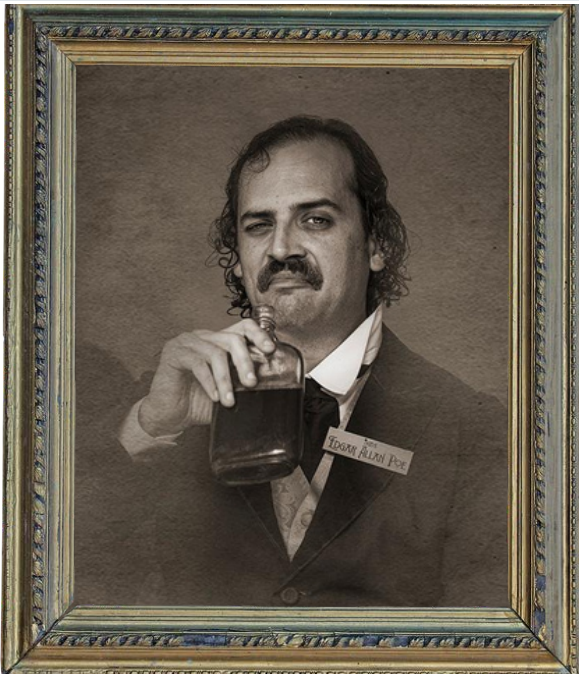
**Saturday and Sunday 1:30pm-2pm**

**Mad Libs at Oliver's Alley**

**Saturday and Sunday 2:15-2:45**

**Author Salon**

**Saturday and Sunday 3:15pm-4pm**





**Mary Shelley**  
portrayed by Erin Flynn

**Author Salon**

Saturday and Sunday 12:45pm-12:45pm

**Tea Corner**

"Male Psyche" Jane Austen & Mary Shelley

Saturday and Sunday 2:30pm-3pm

**Life Drawing**

Saturday Only 11:30am-12:00pm

Sunday Only 1pm-1:30pm



**Jane Austen**  
portrayed by Carole Jene Kelley

**Author Salon**

Saturday and Sunday 1:45pm-2:15pm

**Tea Corner**

"Male Psyche" Jane Austen & Mary Shelley

Saturday and Sunday 2:30pm-3pm

**Life Drawing**

Saturday And Sunday 1pm-1:30pm

Saturday Only 3:15pm-4:15pm



**Nikola Tesla**  
portrayed by Thomas Moore

**"AC vs DC Show"**

Saturday Only 11am-11:30am

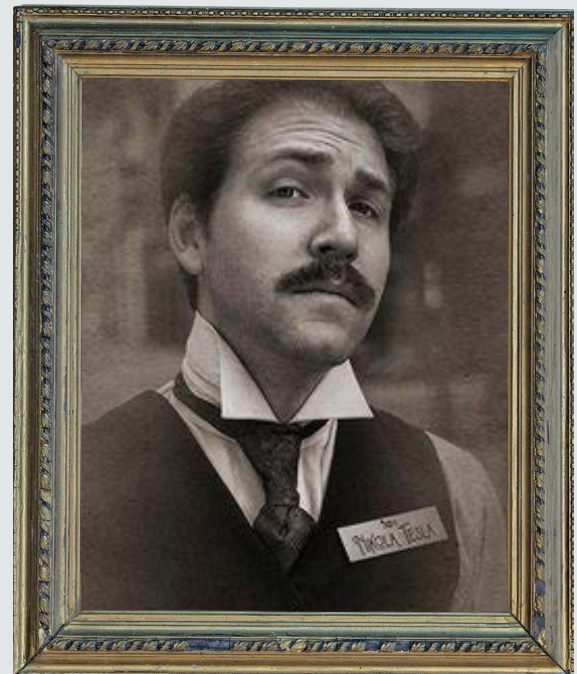
Ticketed

**FORUM: Victorian Industrialists**

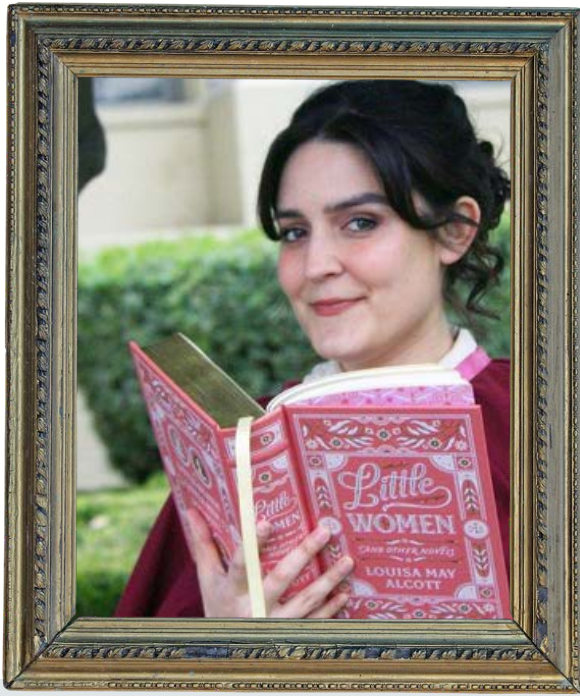
Saturday and Sunday 11:45am-12:30pm

**Author Salon at Hyde Park**

Saturday and Sunday 2:15pm-2:45pm







## **Louisa May Alcott**

portrayed by Lauren Bell-Nagy

### **Author Salon**

**Saturday and Sunday 11:30pm-12:15pm**

### **Tea Corner**

**"Victorian Gender-Bending"**

**Louisa Alcott & Oscar Wilde**

**Saturday and Sunday 11am-11:30am**

**Author Salon at Hyde Park**

**Saturday and Sunday 12:15pm-12:45pm**

## **Vincent van Gogh** portrayed by Phil Heiple

### **Tea Corner**

**"Art Reflects Life" Beatrix Potter & Van Gogh**  
**Saturday and Sunday 10:30am-11am**

**Author Salon at Hyde Park**  
**Saturday and Sunday 3:15pm-4pm**



## **Beatrix Potter**

portrayed by Shanna Lovette

**Dickens Fest President**

### **Author Salon**

**Saturday and Sunday 11am-11:30am**

### **Oliver's Alley**

**Peter Rabbit Tea**

**Saturday and Sunday 12pm-12:30pm**

**Ticketed**



# Meet Queen Victoria



## **THE QUEEN'S SALON**

**Saturday and Sunday 11:45am-12:15pm**

## **THE ROYAL LUNCHEON**

**Saturday and Sunday 12:15pm-1pm**

## **BLESSING ON THE BABES OF ENGLAND**

**Saturday and Sunday 2:30pm-3:00pm**

## **THE KNIGHTING CEREMONIES**

**(ages 5 & up)**

**Saturday and Sunday**

**3:30pm-4pm**





# RIVERSIDE DICKENS FESTIVAL



## Victorian Life DRAWING!

\*Sponsored by Art Supply Warehouse!

Join Art Instructor Curtin Green of Palos Verdes Art school for Instructed Life Drawing Classes (all levels) with Victorian Costumed models!

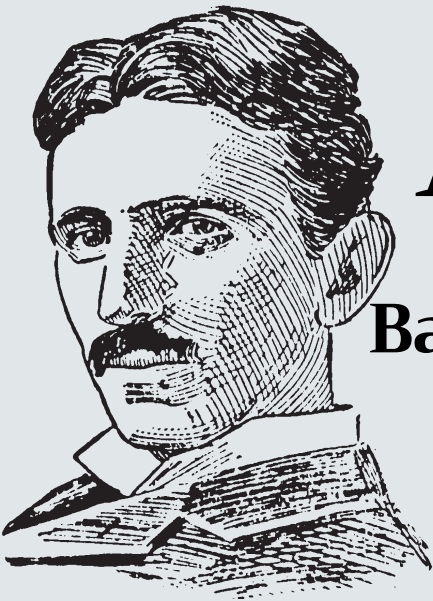
**Saturday, February 25th 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM & 1:45 PM - 4:15 PM**

**Sunday, February 26th 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM & 1:45 PM - 4:15 PM**

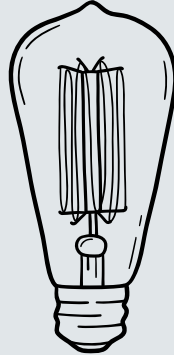
**\$12 admission to classes Kids under 12 draw for free**

**Complimentary Paper and pencils will be available.**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/victorian-life-drawing-classes-at-dickens-fest-tickets-515153426767>

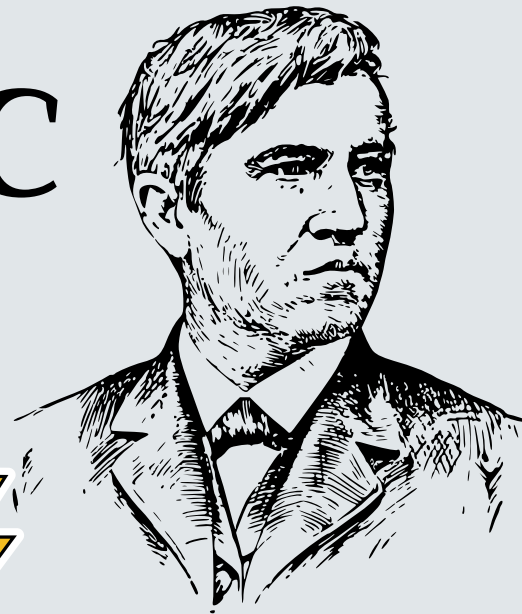


# AC



# DC

## Battle of the Currents



Join us for an

## "ELECTRIC"



performance by none other than your favorite fathers of electricity.

Watch as they battle for AC or DC dominance explaining their theories, defaming their opponents and stopping at nothing to win the "Battle of the Currents"

**\$15 Admission Saturday, February 25, 2023, 11:00 AM**

**Universalist Unitarian Church of Riverside 3525 Mission Inn Ave. Riverside, CA 92501**

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/acdc-edison-vs-tesla-battle-of-the-currents-tickets-](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/acdc-edison-vs-tesla-battle-of-the-currents-tickets-536163548607)

[536163548607](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/acdc-edison-vs-tesla-battle-of-the-currents-tickets-536163548607)





**Saturday, February 25th**

**12:00 PM - 12:30 PM**

**Sunday, February 26th**

**12:00 PM - 12:30 PM**

**Admission \$7**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peter-rabbit-childrens-tea-party-tickets-511006864287>

**Join Beatrix Potter on our "Choose your own adventure Tea Party! You and your children will navigate the perils of sneaking into Mr McGregor's garden with Peter Rabbit and his friends.**

**Enjoy a trip exploring your own imagination!**

**Saturday, February 25th**

**1:15 PM - 2:00 PM**

**Sunday, February 26th**

**1:15 PM - 2:00 PM**

**Admission \$7**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/queens-childrens-tea-tickets-511213341867>



**Join us for Queen Victoria as she teaches children about life in the royal palace, what it takes to be a Queen, and crazy Victorian rules of etiquette.**



**Saturday, February 25th**

**2:45 PM - 3:30 PM**

**Sunday, February 26th**

**2:45 PM - 3:30 PM**

**Admission \$7**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-villains-childrens-tea-tickets-511186521647>

**Have tea with our favorite Dickens villain, FAGIN from the book, Oliver. Our comedic version of Fagin will have children and parents laughing together with his skewed vision of the world, trying to recruit you for nefarious purposes and trying to decipher the wrong from the right.**





## Riverside Dickens Festival Fashion Show

Our Fashion Show captures gestures and aspects of human behavior, such as humor, tenderness, and spontaneity, which help dispel any preconceptions of the stiff, austere Victorian, which we have absorbed from still photographs.

Universalist Unitarian Church of Riverside 3525 Mission Inn Ave. Riverside, CA 92501  
 Saturday, February 25,  
 2:00 PM  
 Admission \$15

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/riverside-dickens-festival-fashion-show-tickets-543137668387>



Join "Treasure Island" author Robert Louis Stevenson as he teaches your child to walk, talk, and think like a pirate. Mr. Stevenson and his merry band of misfits



will give each child a pirate name, teach them the ways of being a swashbuckler, and of course there will be an inflatable-sword sword fight at the end for those wanting to participate.

Limited to just 30 children per day, we do expect this experience to sell out.

Saturday, February 25th, 3:15 PM - 3:45 PM & Sunday, February 26th, 3:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Admission \$10

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stevensons-swashbuckling-school-tickets-520542886787>





**A deep dive into the writing of Charles Dickens', The Pickwick Papers...  
Come join Charles Dickens and his first literary centerpiece, Samuel Pickwick, as they trace  
the steps of the creation of the Pickwick Papers and the turning point it marked both in the  
English novel and the exploration of English society.**

**Universalist Unitarian Church of Riverside 3525 Mission Inn Ave. Riverside, CA 92501**

**Saturday, February 25, 2023, 4:00 PM Admission \$15**

**<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-pickwick-papers-tickets-536178433127>**

## **Evensong - Presented by the Raincross Master Chorale**



**Just before the sun sets on the festival, the Raincross Master Chorale will offer an Evensong  
service. The service of music and readings follows the tradition of the English Prayer Book of  
1549. The Raincross Master Chorale is an accomplished singing group and raises money to  
provide more than 45 college scholarships to young singers in Riverside. Each year, scholarship  
winners can come back and sing at the Spring concert.**

**Sun, February 26, 2023, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM Admission \$10**

**First Congregational Church 3504 Mission Inn Avenue Riverside, CA 92501**

**<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/evensong-presented-by-the-raincross-master-chorale-tickets-501374202737>**



**Back By Popular Demand!**

**A Dickens Fest fundraiser for our 2023 festival!**



**Join us for a seedy adventure into the Dickens Victorian Underworld filled with unsavory characters, can can dancers, variety acts, boos, music, curiosities, burlesque, bawdy jokes and photo ops.**

**6-9pm \$40 Cover (Includes 1 drink ticket) It's a fundraiser after all....**

**Doors open @ 6 (Show at 6:30) Be on time or miss our fantastic opening number with plenty boobs, brawds, and bawd-y jokes.**

**Located: The Charles Dickens Tavern outside City Hall on the Dickens Fest thoroughfare. (Main st. Next to city hall) Tickets can be purchased at**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/441652353077>

***Featuring this year!***

**Tea & Strumpets!**

**(A rowdy stage show featuring tea and comedic..well uh Strumpets) \*wink wink**

**Burlesque: Were not giving this one away in advance...**

**you'll just have to get a ticket for this Victorian peep show. We won't say a....peep.**

**Sir Richard Burton: Readings from his most immoral Victorian romance novels.**

**Dirty Victorian Singalong with Stephen Foster! Ever wanted a chance to sing the dirties of lyrics along with an entire room of tavern goers and not feel weird?**

**Here's your chance.**

**Les Folies Rouge Can Can! (Do you think you can can? They've come up with an all new bawdy stage show just for this event!) and many more!**

**BRING CASH**

**for on location fundraising events.**



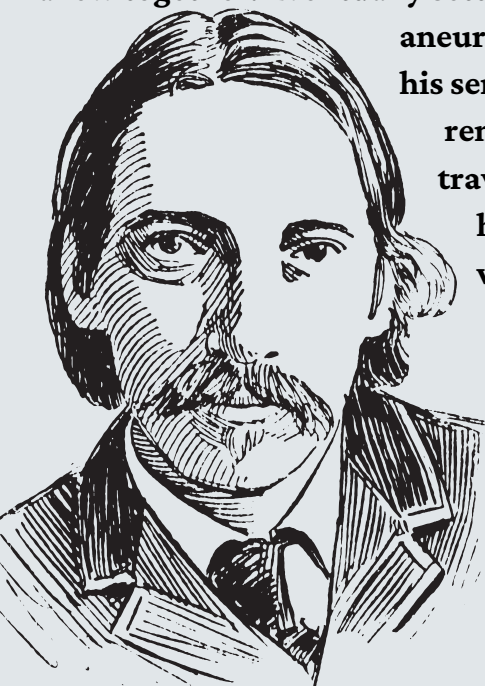
# Author Spotlight: The Stevenson's a love story

Written by Richard Rasner

Robert Louis Stevenson met Fanny Van Der Grift Osbourne quite by accident; in a small French art community where he was visiting his cousin, Fanny was studying art with her daughter away from her philandering husband back in America. They immediately hit it off and spent the next two years enjoying each other's company until Fanny decided to return home to her husband so as not to set a bad example for her daughter, for she was still dependent on him for money. Louis was heartbroken and vowed to follow her to America, but his parents disapproved. Fanny being ten years his senior, married, and with children, his parents refused to help him financially. He then spent some time traveling in the South of France, inventing the sleeping bag (or "sleep sack" as he called it) and writing the biographical essay *Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes*, one of his earliest published works. He then used the publishing money to sail steerage class to the United States and took a train from New York to San Francisco upon receiving a telegraph from Fanny telling him she intended to leave her husband. Upon arriving on her doorstep unannounced, however, she turned him away. Stevenson, very ill from his stint in steerage class, crawled up the road a few blocks and promptly collapsed at a goat farm. The owners took him in and nursed him back to health. As he recuperated, Fanny finally left her husband. The two were married in San Francisco in 1880 and settled in Monterey, California.

Louis took to suddenly being a father to Fanny's two children quite well. Upon drawing a map with his stepson Lloyd one evening, Stevenson developed the basis for the beloved novel *Treasure Island*, which made him a great deal of money. The family then moved to London, where Stevenson, in a fevered state of illness, wrote the first draft of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*. Upon reading it, Fanny called it a "penny dreadful" and threw the manuscript into the fire. Fanny believed in Louis and knew he could do better. The subsequent drafts (which Fanny edited as she would many of his works over the next ten years) became very popular. When the Jack the Ripper murders happened, sales of *Jekyll & Hyde* skyrocketed, making Robert Louis Stevenson the most popular author in the world at that time.

Over the rest of Stevenson's lifetime, Fanny was his constant companion and editor as they traveled the world looking for better climates for his health. Fanny also wrote stories of her own, and they even wrote a few together. Eventually settling in Valima, Samoa, and building a home there, Louis succumbed to an aneurysm; a mere ten years after their marriage. Fanny, despite being ten years his senior, lived to the ripe old age of 74, passing away in 1914. She spent her remaining years championing his work, publishing his letters and travelogues, and speaking at engagements around the world about Louis and his work. She never remarried despite having several suitors, and her ashes were buried alongside Stevenson at his tomb in Samoa.



Together in death, as they were in life.  
A true love story for the ages.



Robert Louis & Fanny Stevenson  
portrayed by  
Richard and Stephanie Rasner

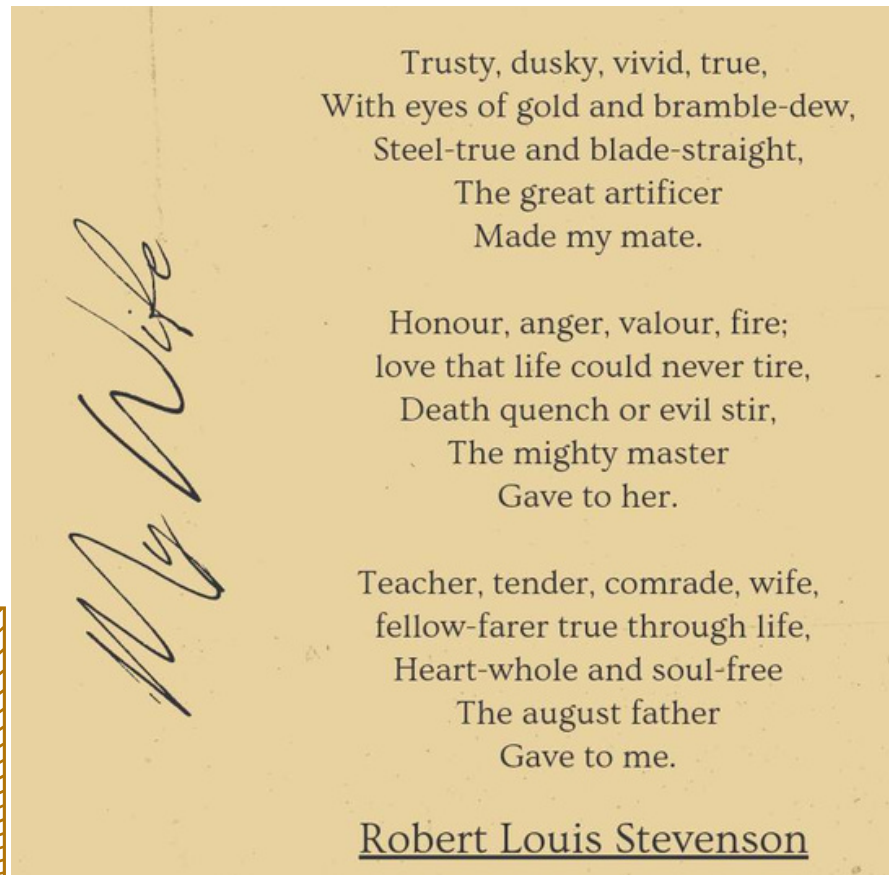


# Literary Corner: Robert Louis Stevenson's poems to Fanny

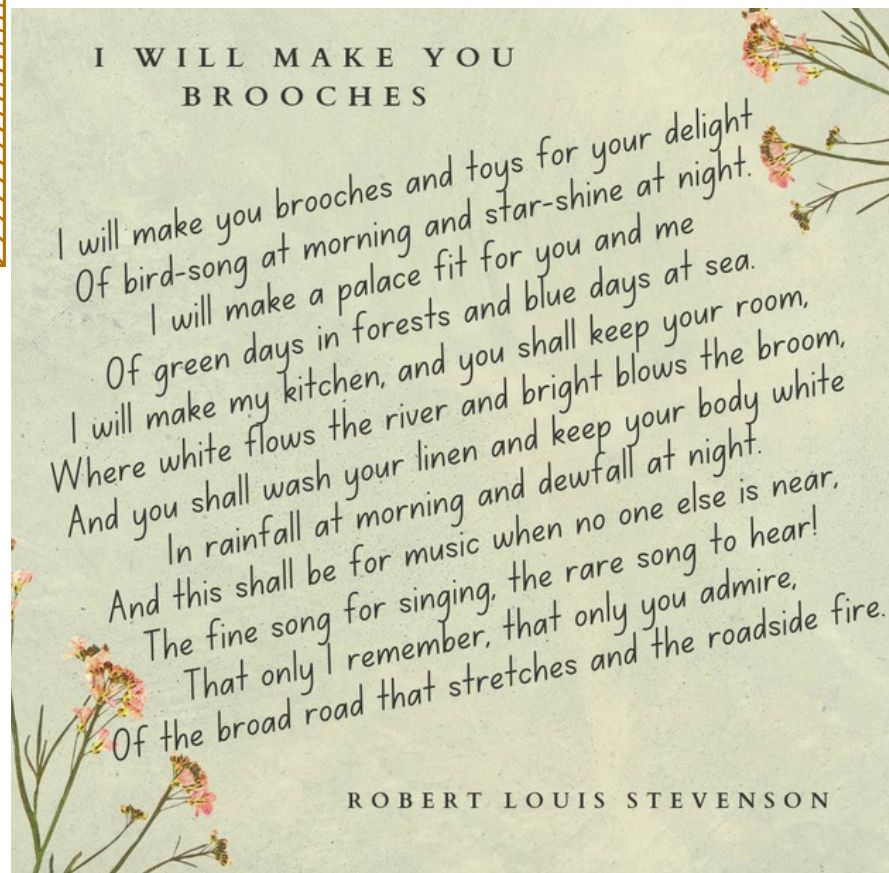
Robert Louis Stevenson's poems *My Wife*, and *I Will Make You Brooches* can be found in the book titled Songs of Travel and Other Verses published posthumously in 1896.



RLS wrote this poem in 1887 while the couple undertook the building of their home Vailima. He wrote this poem to help Fanny see things more positively while they waited for their home to be completed.

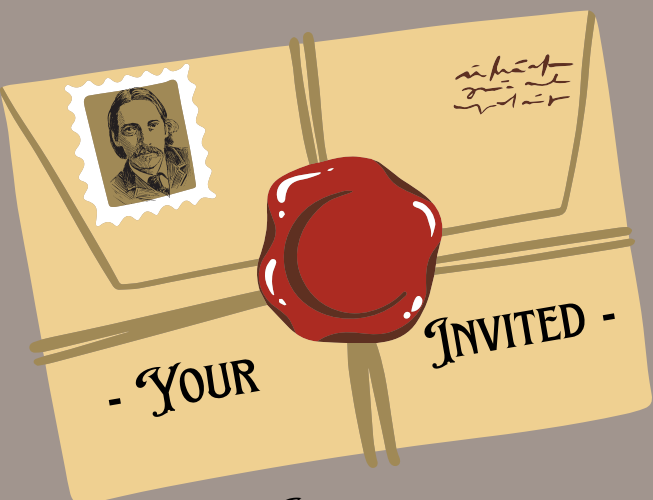


(Cropped portrait of Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson entertaining King Kalakaua of Hawaii circa 1889)





A THRILLING MURDER MYSTERY SEQUEL TO OUR ORIGINAL SHOW "THE PLOT THICKENS"



SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE INVITES YOU TO THE STEVENSON'S RANCH IN MONTEREY FOR CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE OTHER-WORLDLY KIND WITH A SUPER-NATURAL SÉANCE.

MEET HARRY HOUDINI, WYATT GARP, MARIE SAVEAU AND MANY MORE IN THIS HISTORICAL WHODUNIT.

JOIN US IN THE BASEMENT OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
3504 MISSION INN AVENUE, RIVERSIDE, CA 92501  
THE EVENING OF MARCH 5TH, 2023  
SHOWINGS AT 5:00PM & 7:30PM

WORK SIDE BY SIDE WITH OUR CHARACTERS TO APPREHEND OUR MURDEROUS VILLAIN AS..



ENJOY A TRIP TO THE AMERICAN WILD WEST AND A TRIP TO THE "OTHER SIDE",  
BUT REMEMBER NO PARTY IS COMPLETE WITHOUT A LITTLE...

**MURDER.**

CAN YOU SOLVE THIS CASE BEFORE THE NIGHT IS THROUGH?

\$50 TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE INCLUDES ONE COMPLIMENTARY DRINK TICKET AND MEAL

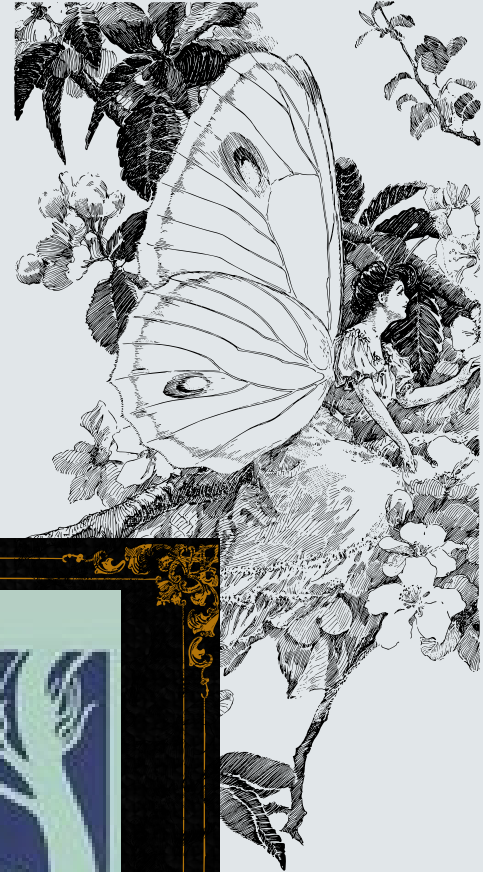
DON'T FORGET TO ORDER ONE OF OUR FANTASTIC DESSERTS, ONLY A \$7 ADD ON!

[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/THE-PLOT-GETS-THICKER-MURDER-MYSTERY-DINNER-SEQUEL-TICKETS-515455249527](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-plot-gets-thicker-murder-mystery-dinner-sequel-tickets-515455249527)



# DREAMING OF DANCING WITH YOU

We are already having fantasies about  
this years Victorian Ball.  
Mark your calendars and join us for  
a DREAM of a time!



**Victorian Fantasy Ball  
located at the beautiful  
Riverside Municipal  
Auditorium**

**July 29th, 2023**

**Event link coming soon**