

RIVERSIDE DICKENS FESTIVAL

DICKENS DIARY

DECEMBER 2023 VOL: SPECIAL EDITION

YULETIDE GREETINGS



SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

The spirit of the season is a feeling of joy, goodwill, and generosity that many people associate with the holiday season. It is a time to come together with loved ones, celebrate traditions, and give back to the community.

The spirit of the season can be felt in many different ways. It can be seen in the twinkling lights and festive decorations that adorn homes and businesses. It can be heard in the carols that play on the radio and in the laughter of children playing in the snow. It can be tasted in the delicious food that is shared at family gatherings. But most importantly, the spirit of the season is felt in the hearts of people.

The spirit of the season is a reminder of the good in the world. It is a time to put aside our differences and focus on the things that unite us. It is a time to be grateful for what we have and to give back to those who are less fortunate.

The spirit of the season is different for everyone, but it is something that we can all experience. It is a feeling of warmth and happiness that can make the holidays even more special.

Here are some ways to capture the spirit of the season:

- Spend time with loved ones and friends.
- Give back to your community by volunteering or donating to charity.
- Perform random acts of kindness for others.
- Enjoy the simple pleasures of the season, such as baking cookies, decorating your home, or going for a walk in the snow.
- Be grateful for what you have.

The spirit of the season is all around us, if we only take the time to look. It is a reminder of the good in the world and the importance of giving and receiving.

RIVERSIDE DICKENS FESTIVAL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAROLE JENE KELLEY



It is when my honor in the first few months is the president of the Riverside Dickens Festival to be able to have two amazing events, our A Midsummer Night's Dream Ball and having the honor of Hosting Gerald Dickens in the first show of his seasonal tour. Dickens dazzling performance of a one man A Christmas Carol left me in tears. Never had I dreamed I would receive the honor to witness such a spectacular performance. Mr. Dickens' performance give the audience a glimpse of the spirit of his ancestor Charles Dickens. As a child, I knew every word to Mickey's A Christmas Carol, any time of year was a time to watch it, I feel the great honor of having witnessed a live rendition of this beloved tale. I shall carry the experience with me into holiday season.

It was pleasure to see the familiar faces at our events, as well greeting new friends to our organization. Without whom, this festival could not continue in our effort to serve our community with quality educational events.

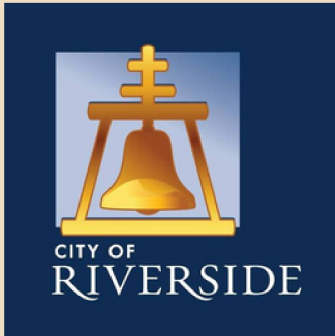
I would like to welcome John Kariotis and Roy Regalado to our board, these two gentlemen have already proven themselves to be an asset to our little non-profit. They spent Saturday, October 7th, with our community outreach, volunteering at the Riverside Art and Music Festival. Both men have been to previous events and involved in our festival others ways, so it is wonderful to have them on the board. Without the volunteers, who help to make this non profit organization work, there would be no annual educational festival or other community events.

I had not realized until joining the Riverside Dickens Festival how much being involved in the community really fed my spirit. Being able to talk with people about this 30-year-old Festival, that I get to be just a small part of, for a moment in time, is an amazing experience. This is a festival I want to see continue for many years for it provides for its community a unique educational experience. After every event that I volunteer at I feel more energized and can't wait for the next event. Like many others we find ourselves as an organization in a rebuilding phase, in these next couple years you will see the evolution of Riverside Dickens Festival, and we invite those in the community to join us.

The more volunteers we have, the bigger and better we can make this Festival, it's with the community's help that we will continue on into the future. So this is my call to action, if you have a love for literature and history, if you enjoy putting a costume on and being a part of a community, then please join us by sending an email to info@dickensfest.com.

We would love to have you and look forward to working with everyone who wants to be a part of the Riverside Dickens Festival!

Join our Riverside Dickens Festival Sponsors



DICKENS DIARY



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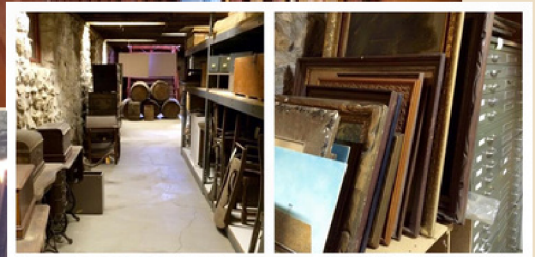
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WWW.DICKENSFEST.COM

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The Victorian 12 Days of Christmas is a traditional English Christmas carol that enumerates an increasingly lavish series of gifts given on each of the twelve days of Christmas. The song is thought to have originated in the early 18th century, but it became especially popular during the Victorian era.

The twelve days of Christmas are the period between Christmas Day and Twelfth Night, which is the sixth day of January. During this time, Victorians would celebrate with feasting, revelry, and gift-giving. The 12 Days of Christmas carol reflects this tradition, with its list of extravagant gifts.

The gifts in the song are cumulative, meaning that each day's gifts include all of the gifts from the previous days. For example, on the first day of Christmas, the true love gives the recipient a partridge in a pear tree. On the second day, the true love gives the recipient two turtle doves and a partridge in a pear tree. On the third day, the true love gives the recipient three French hens, two turtle doves, and a partridge in a pear tree, and so on.

(Continued on page 7..



Would you like to Volunteer?



ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES: OPERATIONS, EDUCATION, FASHION SHOWS, BOOK SHOP, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, DICKENS DIARY, PUBLIC RELATIONS, PRINT MEDIA, EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS, FUNDRAISING, PUB NIGHT, TAVERN, FEZZIWIG'S BALL, INFORMATION BOOTH, MARKETING/PUBLICITY, OLIVER'S ALLEY, PERMITS, GRANTS, PARADE, ROYALS COORDINATING, SOCIAL MEDIA, VENDORS, VOLUNTEERS, & WEBSITE

- Riverside Dickens Festival has been celebrating the life and works of the Dickensian, & Victorian era since 1993!
- Join us each year during our festival of culture, educational entertainment, arts, crafts and fun!
- Riverside Dickens Festival's Mission Statement:
- To promote literacy, provide educational entertainment and expand awareness of social similarities between Victorian times and the present.









Help promote Literacy!


[HTTPS://DICKENSFEST.COM](https://dickensfest.com)

LITERACY & ART CONTEST

Every journey has a beginning, and for the literary career of Charles Dickens it was *The Pickwick Papers*. *The Pickwick Papers* acts as a creative bridge between the Regency Era and Victorian Times.

Using the theme of Reading in the Margins: Illuminating the Unseen in the Victorian World

The Riverside Dickens Festival requests papers and presentations centering on peoples and issues dealing with marginalized, underrepresented or emerging populations during the 19th Century. Topics may include, but are not limited to: colonial populations, indigenous populations, underserved segments of populations, regional and local arts, crafts and cuisine, literary themes, exploration, spiritualism and obscure customs.

Submissions may include, but are not limited to: visual arts, performing arts, food and culinary arts, literature of all kinds and genres, customs and cultures, fashion, life. styles or any associated or relevant topics related to the theme of Journeys and Discoveries. may be prerecorded.

Submissions will be on display at the festival for patron voting, the winners will be announced and submission posted on the Dickens Fest website. Prizes: First place \$50 Amazon Gift card; Second place \$25 Amazon Gift Card; Third place \$10. Amazon gift card.

Submissions will be accepted from established scholars, students at all levels and those who are specialists in their fields.

Submissions Due JANUARY 31, 2024 send to Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words in length to

Dickens Festival Educational Environments
dickensfesteducation@gmail.com



(Continued from page 5...)

The twelve gifts in the song are:

- A partridge in a pear tree
- Two turtle doves
- Three French hens
- Four calling birds
- Five gold rings
- Six geese a-laying
- Seven swans a-swimming
- Eight maids a-milking
- Nine ladies dancing
- Ten lords a-leaping
- Eleven pipers piping
- Twelve drummers drumming



The gifts in the song are thought to have symbolic meanings. For example, the partridge in a pear tree is thought to represent Jesus Christ, while the two turtle doves represent the Old and New Testaments. The three French hens represent faith, hope, and charity, while the four calling birds represent the four Gospels. The five gold rings represent the five wounds of Christ, while the six geese a-laying represent the six days of creation.

The song is often sung as a round, with each singer starting on a different day. It is a popular Christmas carol that is enjoyed by people of all ages.





\$10



NEW VENUE!

**Jensen Alvarado Historic Ranch
and Museum**

RIVERSIDE DICKENS FESTIVAL

February 24-25, 2024

**For More information scan the
QR code or check our website**



**4307 Briggs Street
Jurupa Valley,
CA 92509**





Language of Flowers

The language of flowers has been recognized for centuries in many countries throughout Europe and Asia. They even play a large role in William Shakespeare's works. Mythologies, folklore, sonnets, and plays of the ancient Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, and Chinese are peppered with flower and plant symbolism—and for good reason.

Whether you're giving flowers to a mother for Mother's Day, a friend on their birthday, or a beloved on Valentine's Day, nearly every sentiment imaginable can be expressed with flowers. The orange blossom, for instance, means chastity, purity, and loveliness, while the red chrysanthemum means "I love you."

Learning the special symbolism of flowers became a popular pastime during the 1800s. Nearly all Victorian homes had, alongside the Bible, guidebooks for deciphering the "language," although definitions shifted depending on the source.

Following the protocol of Victorian-era etiquette, flowers were primarily used to deliver messages that couldn't be spoken aloud. In a sort of silent dialogue, flowers could be used to answer "yes" or "no" questions. A "yes" answer came in the form of flowers handed over with the right hand; if the left hand was used, the answer was no."

Come and see our models portraying their favorite flowers and learn the secret language the flowers convey on Saturday February 24th – 2 pm on the main stage at the Riverside Dickens Festival!

