



# THE INNSIDER

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## ***The Many Benefits of Volunteering***

Article: Patti Koesling

With busy lives, it can be a challenge to find the time to volunteer. However, the benefits can be huge. The act of SERVICE offers vital help to people or organizations in need. A positive side effect of the work you are doing is even greater for yourself. The right match can lead you to likeminded



people who share your similar passions and desire to help. Dedicating your time as a volunteer will help you make new friends, expand your network, boost your social life, and learn new skills or hone existing ones.

Volunteering gives you an opportunity to change people’s lives. Sometimes the life you change can be your own. Volunteering isn’t just about giving back—it’s about building stronger, more connected communities. When you volunteer in your local area, you contribute to positive change, create lasting relationships, and it will even make you feel happier and healthier.

Children are our future. They watch everything we do and learn from our example. Now is the time to encourage or lead our children down the path of volunteering. Help them find a passion that might spark something for them to be interested in for their future. This could help with school or career choices later in life. Many high school students are required to “do community service hours” before graduating. What if this value was already instilled in them before it became a graduation requirement? Volunteering increases your self-confidence, provides a natural sense of accomplishment, pride, and identity. Afterall, the better we feel about ourselves, the more likely we are to have a positive point of view of our life and future goals.



*Volunteer Veteran Patti Koesling*

Volunteering has shaped my life. At the age of 12, my parents allowed me to join a service-based youth organization called International Order of Rainbow for Girls. Anyone familiar with Masons or Masonic Lodge will be familiar with the masonic affiliated youth groups: for girls, Jobs Daughters or Rainbow for Girls; for the boys, DeMolay. Girls in my assembly learned many life lessons like teambuilding, communication, project management, public speaking, accountability, gratefulness, compassion, patience, and to be of service to others. We worked countless fundraisers to donate to designated state service projects. On a community level, some service projects would be reading to the elderly, serving lunches to the homeless, cleaning beaches, tutoring students, organizing a canned food drive, being a Hugger at Special Olympics, or even helping to socialize puppies and kittens at a local animal rescue. I held many offices in my assembly and worked my way up to become the leader or Worthy Advisor of my group. At age 17, I was awarded the highest service recognition called the Grand Cross of Color. At age 18, I was appointed to a state office, and at age 21, I reached majority and aged out of my beloved Rainbow Girls. I also joined the women's adult group called Eastern Star.

I am very grateful to have seen the information about taking classes to become a docent at the Mission Inn. This historic landmark is such a treasure to share with each and every guest that takes the tour. It's always a real pleasure to see the look on guests' faces when they enter a special room like the Saint Francis Chapel. I have been lucky to have met so many other likeminded docents that I know we will have lasting friendships together.

Anyone can become a volunteer at any age, income level, educational background...it doesn't matter. There are many websites available to connect you with a project or a non-profit organization to help you find a meaningful match. Remember, every act of volunteering creates a ripple effect. By giving your time and skills, you not only impact individual lives but also contribute to a stronger, more resilient community. So, roll up your sleeves, step into your local community, and be a part of something bigger!



## Mission Inn Foundation, Board of Trustees *Article: Linda Ward*



When you read about the history of the Mission Inn you start with the first 80 years of Miller family creation, ownership, and stewardship. Then you look at the last 70 years, and you have to come to the conclusion that the Inn is still here because the community cares. The last 70 years have been filled with turmoil. Ownership changed many times, then a bankruptcy would ensue. Community involvement started in earnest in 1969, when the then owner started to sell hotel furniture, and artifacts. How come people like to sell off Mission Inn “stuff”?

Thirteen women’s groups joined together to purchase items of significance. This was the start of the Friends of the Mission Inn, a group dedicated to saving and promoting the hotel. Ladies of lore – Joan Hall, Esther Klotz, Beverly Wingate Maloof, Patsy O’Toole, and many more started the movement.

Riverside has always cared and watched out for this National Historic Landmark. After all, it is because of these watchdogs that we have the National Historic Landmark designation. We know that the docents and the MIF staff can be counted in the ranks of those who contribute to preserve and promote the cultural heritage of the Mission Inn. However, we have another special group of individuals who make significant contributions of time, money, and talent, and that’s the Mission Inn Foundation, Board of Trustees.

The Board members meet monthly, with the Executive Board meeting twice a month. Each member serves on one of the oversight committees. First, there’s the Collections Committee. The Board watches out for some 10,000 items. Items range from the document collections to the large pieces of furniture. Since we are officially designated as a museum, there’s a fat book of rules for acquisition, de-acquisition, and preservation that goes along with this job.



Currently, there is a huge project being undertaken. The collections that have been in the basement of the Mission Inn have been moved to a safer location. The basement, with its potential of flooding, was not the best place for artifacts. Other items are being moved from an old site to a new one. The new site will allow for reorganization and cataloguing.

Next is Governance. This group has the bureaucratic job of understanding and overseeing the Foundation's policies and procedures. Importantly, they recruit new Board members. The Trustees are on the lookout for community members who, like themselves, bring certain talents that ensure the continued growth of the Foundation. The trustees have backgrounds in finance, marketing, the law, fund raising, and public relations.



Then there is Finance. All Board members make yearly financial contributions and they are responsible for financial decisions and oversight. This is not a matter of just watching the ebb and flow of the money. It takes formal knowledge of accounting practices, auditing, and budget planning.

The Advancement Committee strategizes and implements the fundraising activities. "Implements" is an important word. This committee monitors and ensures that everything is running smoothly – the Mission Inn Run, the Frank A. Miller Civic Achievement Award, and the gift shop, with Executive Director Jarod Hoogland in the middle of it all.

Now more than ever, we owe them a debt of gratitude. Their decisions are navigating us through our current troubled waters.

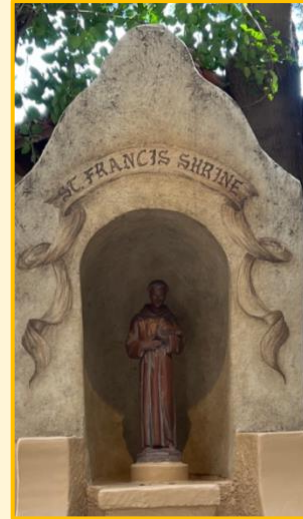


Thank you, Mission Inn Foundation, Board of Trustees.

# Who Are the Friends of the Mission Inn?

Article: Betty Fuller

The staff and docents of the Mission Inn Foundation spend many hours learning, researching, and sharing their knowledge of the Historic Mission Inn Hotel. Many of the artifacts on the tours have been cleaned, repaired, and restored. Docents are quick to give credit to the Friends of the Mission Inn. The Friends are a separate non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to maintaining and restoring antiquities in the hotel. How did this group begin? What have they done? What are they doing today?



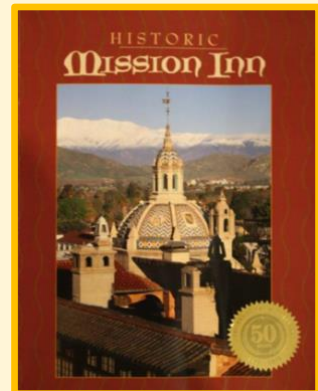
In 1969 the Riverside community was concerned about the future and threat of demolition of the Historic Mission Inn. On June 13, 1969, under the leadership of Patsy O'Toole, forty people met to ensure the survival of the Inn and formed The Friends of the Mission Inn. They listened to proposals for saving the Inn which was in serious decline at the time. They sent newsletters to make the community aware and raised money to recover items lost or sold. The Friends of the Mission Inn, composed of all volunteers, worked diligently to raise funds to restore, repair and return valuable art objects to the hotel.



In August 1978, as part of a major fundraising effort, the Mission Inn Foundation (established in 1976) sponsored a small Gift Corner staffed by Friends of the Mission Inn volunteers. When the fund drive ended, the Friends assumed the responsibility of the store and christened it *The Inn-Credible Gift Corner*. In July 1986, the Friends moved to a site on Sixth Street with a rent subsidy from the City of Riverside's Redevelopment Agency. The Gift Corner

was again in business. From 1986-1992 while the Inn was being restored, thousands of people visited the Friends Gift Corner/Visitors Center. They were welcomed, informed, and invited to return when the Mission Inn reopened. A year later the Friends moved the Gift Corner into a refurbished site in the Mission Inn facing the Main Street Mall. In May of 2003, The Inn-credible Gift Corner moved three doors down to provide room for Kelly's Spa. The shop remained open till 2005 when the hotel decided to use the space for Casey's Cupcakes.

The Friends of the Mission Inn volunteers have remained active and dedicated to their 3 R's: Recovery, Restoration and Repairs. Funds for these projects are raised through membership dues, the annual Silent Movie event in the Grand Parisian Ballroom, donations, and profits from the Historic Mission Inn book. The first edition of the hardcover Historic Mission Inn book was financed and published by Friends. Eight local authors and six photographers contributed. In 2007 a second edition was completed with revisions and additional photos. In 2019 in honor of the Friend's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1969-2019) a softbound edition with gold seal was finished. The proceeds from this book go directly to the Friends of the Mission Inn for their ongoing projects. The book is available in the museum and through the Friends' website. Every Riverside home should have a copy!



Close to \$1 million has been raised and spent on cleaning, repairing, restoring, and returning valuable art objects to the Mission Inn's collection. Fifty-five years after that first meeting, the work of the Friends of the Mission Inn continues.

Please check out Instagram and the website *friendsofthemissioninn.com* for information on membership, newsletters, and events. Please become a member and support efforts to preserve the treasures of the Mission Inn for future generations.

FYI: Here are just a few examples of the projects completed by the Friends that are shared with guests on tours.

1984-85	Restoration: California Alps William Keith	\$13504
1985	Recovery: Two James McBurney paintings (sold at auction in 1957) and Allis Miller painting	\$4,853
1985-1990	Restoration: California Mission Paintings - Henry Chapman Ford	\$70,655
1999-2001	Restoration and cleaning Ho-O-Kan room	\$14,990
2000-2012	Restoration Kimball Organ (Ester Legacy \$150,000)	\$151,400
2007	Frank Miller Timeline Plaque	\$2,624
2017-2018	Cleaning of Rayas Altar Screen (Retablo)	\$13,420
2021-2022	Restoration of Buddha, Japanese Lantern, St. Cecilia	<u>\$45,000</u>
		\$316,446



*Junipero Serra and Don Gaspar de Portola Erecting the Cross at Monterey Bay by James McBurney.*



*Junipero Serra Praying for the Relief Ship from San Diego by James McBurney.  
(Photo Credit: James Ranger)*

## INN the Know

*Submitted by Brenda Jackson, Peer Review*

The following statement was heard during a peer review and confirmed in the auction registry: the three James McBurney paintings were sold for \$22 each during the Ben Swig Auction in 1957. Docents can safely repeat this tale.

## *Wish You Were Here...*

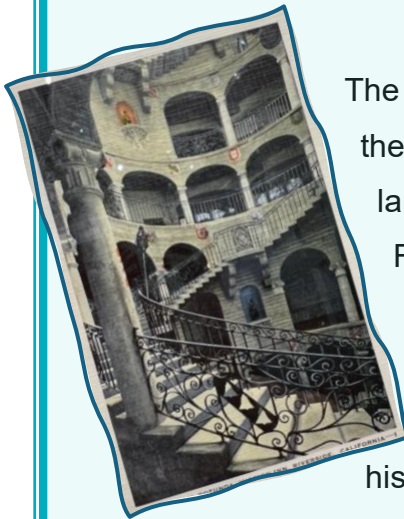
*Article: Lindi Montes*



February 1 marked the opening of the latest museum exhibit called “Wish You Were Here”. About 50 people attended the presentation. Mission Inn Foundation Curator Lindi Montes assembled the display, and resident historian

Steve Lech presented a slide show about the evolution of postcards and their role at the Mission Inn. Dating from the early 1900s to the present, the postcards offer a unique glimpse into the rich tapestry of history, community, and cultural heritage that defines the Mission Inn Hotel.

Each postcard showcases not only the Inn’s transformation over 150 years but also the shared experiences and memories of countless visitors, creating a vivid picture of the Mission Inn’s past.



The Mission Inn Foundation is committed to preserving the cultural heritage of Riverside and its beloved historical landmark. The postcards in this exhibit are part of the Foundation’s extensive archive, meticulously cared for and curated. Through careful preservation, we ensure that these artifacts continue to inspire future generations and connect them to the history and community that make Riverside

unique. The postcards on display are a testament to the enduring allure of the Mission Inn.



# *The Canals of Riverside*

*Article: Julie Stern*

On February 21, the Continuing Education Committee hosted the first quarterly event of 2024 for Mission Inn docents. The Canals of Riverside was presented by Steve Lech, author and renowned Southern California historian. Approximately 25 docents made their way through inclement weather to attend Mr. Lech's excellent presentation that didn't disappoint. It was well worth the journey to attend the absorbing and fascinating presentation and learn the history of Riverside's canals.



*Gage Canal wells 1890-1910 (Photo credit: UC Riverside, Library, Special Collections and University Archives)*

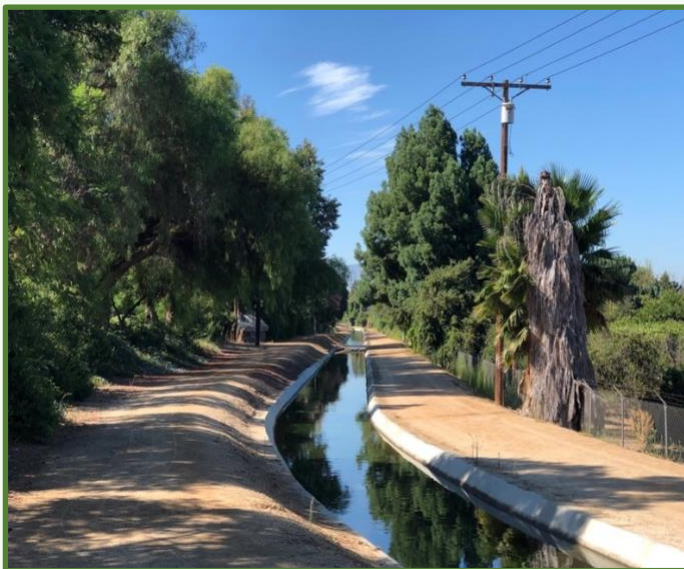
The water canals of Riverside launched an industry that spurred a course of successful business ventures centered around citrus and changed the history of Southern California. The Gage Canal is the most famous water canal in Riverside. Mr. Lech launched into his presentation by grabbing our attention with a slide that debunked the belief that Christopher Columbus Miller came to Riverside to work on the Gage Canal. It's a common mistake that Christopher Columbus Miller, noted surveyor of the most famous Riverside canal, moved his family to Riverside, California because he secured a position as a surveyor for the Gage Canal. In fact, Mr. Miller's first contract in Riverside was at the San Jacinto Tin Mining Company as a mine surveyor. He later was contracted by S. C. Evans to survey what became Riverside's Lower Canal, and then later by Matthew Gage to survey for the first half of the Gage Canal.

Mr. Lech presented an engaging slide presentation of photos past and present of the Riverside canals and the historical figures that conceived, financed, and created the canals that fed precious water to the first citrus groves of Riverside. The groves that eventually made Riverside the wealthiest city per capita in the United States during that era of history.



*Tightening joints and adjusting plates on steel flume at Mockingbird Dam on the Gage irrigation canal. Photo credit: Library of Congress*

We also learned about the history of the Riverside Colony, its settlement, and the plan for an agricultural community and its key players. It was an extensive topic presented in a concise manner. It was easy to understand and gain an understanding of Riverside's unique agriculture history. A history of events that thrust Riverside into the limelight, made Riverside a destination to travelers around the world, and provided the opportunities needed for CC Miller's son, Frank Miller, to bring his dream of creating a world class destination grand hotel to fruition.



*Gage Canal (Photo credit: Riverside Public Utilities)*

After the hour-long presentation, Mr. Lech took many questions and then the docents enjoyed an opportunity to socialize and catch up on the latest news. A big thank you goes out to the Continuing Education Committee and Mr. Lech for providing this engaging and educational opportunity. We all look forward to the next quarterly meeting and presentation.

## *Docent Spotlight Catherine Copeland*



As a new Docent, with about eight months under my belt, I am thoroughly enjoying my Docent experience! I had actually tried to become part of the Mission Inn Foundation family twice some 15 or more years ago, but kept missing the application deadline, so when I saw the invitation come across my social media feed last year, that forgotten interest was reawakened in me. Having grown up in the Riverside area during my teen years, I have had a long connection with the Mission Inn. My High School Prom was held in the Grand Parisian Ballroom/Music Room and then two decades later, my 20<sup>th</sup> High School reunion. Going through the Docent training period, I developed a deepened respect and awe for this amazing treasure that's right in my own backyard, which I admittedly had taken for granted. Being a tour Lead has been a wonderful opportunity for me to share my excitement and I especially love witnessing the newfound appreciation and fascination tour guests exhibit as we embark on our 75 minute exploration together.

Somewhat like the Mission Inn, my background is rather eclectic. With my father being a career military man (Air force), we travelled a lot, but settled down in Moreno Valley next to March Air Force Base by the time of my high school years. At 18, I enlisted in the United States Air Force as a Veterinary Specialist and also trained with the Army in food handling as a health inspector. After the military, I married and went to Riverside Community College as well as various trade schools. I nurtured my creative side by working part-time as a commercial photo-stylist for print work and magazine ads before taking a position with The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) as a Lecturer/Public Speaker for their Bureau of Public Affairs (17 years). This was my most rewarding job as it gave me an opportunity to travel to fascinating places abroad, create

strong lasting bonds of friendships with colleagues, yet the best part was working with creative people and eager young students filled with optimism and unlimited possibilities. However, with a family and raising 2 children at the time, the reality of retirement and health benefits entered into the equation, so I took a dramatic turn-about as I became part of the 1996 graduation Peace Officer Academy class for California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDRC). I retired from Chino Institution for Men as a Correctional officer and (Acting) Counselor in 2011.

Fast forward, timing is everything. Retirement left a void, especially after a career that was less-than inspiring or uplifting, nor gave room for personal growth. However, working with the Mission Inn Foundation and participating as a Docent has been all of that and much more. This is my happy place!

**\*\*If you'd like to nominate someone or be featured yourself in Docent Spotlight, please email Jordana Jacobs at [travel42@verizon.net](mailto:travel42@verizon.net)**

## 2024 Upcoming Events

Day	Date	Event	Time
Saturday	April 27th	<i>Walk with the Animals at Fairmount Park</i>	9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tuesday	April 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Docent and Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
Saturday	May 18th	<i>Old Riverside Foundation Home Tour throughout Riverside</i>	10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday	June 8th	<b>Docent Spring Picnic at Pavilion in Fairmount Park</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Sunday	August 11th	<b>Docent Scavenger Hunt at Mission Inn Hotel</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Sunday	October 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mission Inn Run</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Monday	December 8th	<b>Docent Holiday Party Riverside Women's Club</b>	<b>TBA</b>