

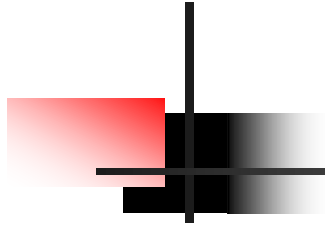
**SAN JUAN
CAPISTRANO
DOCENT SOCIETY**

ESTABLISHED 1981



A Salute to Mary Susa

Docent Extraordinaire





Mary Susa

Docent

Historian

Educator

Preservationist

Leader



Volunteer

- A person who does something, especially helping other people, willingly and without being forced or paid to do it
- To freely offer up your time and service to help



Docent

- Someone Who Promotes Learning
- Comes from the Latin word “docere” meaning to teach
 - A sincere and genuine interest in people of all ages.
 - A love for and excitement about learning and teaching.
 - Attention to detail and accuracy.
 - A sense of *flexibility* and cooperation.

Mary Susa

Graduated to be
a Docent in
March 1985



Mary Susa

Elected Secretary in June 1985

Docents find mission impossible not to love

Lance Igon
staff writer

They volunteer their time because they love the mission San Juan Capistrano—its tradition, history and future. They are the mission's 60 active docents who impart their knowledge of the mission to about 3,000 visitors every month.

They come from a wide variety of ages and backgrounds, (but) everyone is here for the same reason. They love the Mission San Juan Capistrano," explained Susann Benchetler, the new president of the docent society.

The docents were brought back into service in 1984 after a long period of inactivity by Father Paul Martin and Nicholas Magalousis, the mission's museum director. They saw a need for docent tour directors and so initiated the docent program.

For a mere 75 cents, a casual stroll through the mission grounds turns into an educational experience full of historical and cultural information a visitor might otherwise miss.

To ensure that each docent is an expert on the mission, they must complete a series of classes as a test before entering service. The classes cover American, Californian and mission history; local archaeology, an ongoing project at the original site.

New prospective docents are also required to attend and receive tours from the senior docents. Their training is combined with outside reading and an exam.

Even though Helen McMullen gave mission tours from 1936 to 1941 when she graduated from high school, she still had to pass the new requirements before she became an official docent this month.

"Was it tough?" asked McMullen about her first and a half months of training. "Yes," she said and she should know.

McMullen is a fifth generation Juaneno Indian from San Juan and one of six Indians on the docent staff.

While the majority of the approximately 120 tours per month pass without incident, there have been exceptions.

For instance, Madeleine Gough never expected



MISSION GUIDES—Officers for the docents of the Mission San Juan Capistrano are, from left, Mary Sousa, secretary; Frank Ducey, outgoing president; Susann Benchetler, president; John Tetam, vice president;

Margaret Tetam, historian; and DeDe Whitt, treasurer.

—NEWS Photo by Lance Igon

her tour of a group of senior citizens from Torrance known as "The Grand People" turn into a missing persons episode.

"They were the oldest people I've ever given tours to. They were really senile," Gough said sympathetically.

Just as she was leaving the bus, the supervisor of the Grand People ran up to her and said, "We've lost one of our people."

Just as she was leaving the bus, the supervisor of the Grand People ran up to her and said, "We've lost one of our people."

"Does this lady (the missing person) know where she's going?" Gough asked.

"No," said the supervisor.

And so they launched a search of the mission grounds and local businesses hoping to find the misplaced traveler—but to no avail.

See **DOCENTS**, page 10

Mary Susa

Elected
Secretary in
June 1985





First Maggie Awards

- December 1985
- **The Presidential Committee Award** – (also Known as the President's Dedication Award) Selected by current and all past presidents and presented for showing special qualities and dedication to the San Juan Capistrano Docents

Mary Susa



Leader

- Anyone who guides, inspires, or influences others to achieve a common goal



Offices Held by Mary

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary



Offices Held by Mary

1989

DOCENT NEWS CASULE

Mission San Juan Capistrano Docent Newsletter

June 1989

President's Message

Mary Susa



Two of my goals — a docent procedural manual and increased membership — were only partially reached due to changes at the Visitor Center and not enough time. The docent procedure manual, I am happy to say, is in rough draft form, (I thank the 6/87-6/88 committee heads for their input) and we did have a gain of one active member. As of 6/87, there were 55 active docent members. There were 16 graduates in 3/88 and 9 in 5/89, increasing the active members to 80. However, 8 members went from active status to supporting members. Our current total of active members is 72.

JUNIPERO SERRA MUSEUM

One of the most photographed buildings in San Diego is the Junipero Serra Museum, located in historic Presidio Park. It marks one of California's most historic sites. It was here in 1769 that a Spanish missionary, Father Junipero Serra, together with a group of soldiers, led by Gaspar de Portola, established Alta California's first Mission and Presidio. On July 16, 1769, on a spot near the present-day Museum, Father

■ President

Offices Held by Mary

Happy 10th Anniversary
San Juan Capistrano Docents



- President

Offices Held by Mary



- President

Offices Held by Mary



- President

Offices Held by Mary



- Vice-President

Offices Held by Mary



- Vice-President

Offices Held by Mary



- Secretary

Offices Held by Mary

- Secretary





Historian

- Writes about or studies History

Historian



History of Docent Attire

The Docent Society was founded in June of 1981. At the November meeting, dress was discussed and costumes were considered. Docents were dressing using their best judgment.

As of August 1984, the camel/tan jackets were still being recommended. In December of 1984, the dress code was re-visited. It became apparent that Docents did not stand out and a dress code was needed. In July of 1985, So, in April 1985, Period costumes were recommended. In July of 1985, Spanish hats were introduced. This was to make the Docent stand out among the visitors.

In October of 1985, the camel/tan jackets were still on the table, but among the visitors. In October of 1985, the camel/tan jackets were still on the table, but among the visitors. In October of 1985, the camel/tan jackets were still on the table, but among the visitors. In October of 1985, the camel/tan jackets were still on the table, but among the visitors.

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History of Maggie Awards

At the Docent Recognition Dinner, December 20, 1984, then President, Frank Ducey, presented plaques to twelve Docents for their contributions in 1984. The plaques were cleverly designed and beautifully crafted by Docent Margaret Hoffman. They were made in the form of an adobe brick engraved with the brand of San Juan Capistrano and emblazoned with a gold plate bearing the recipient's name. From then on, they became "Maggies."

The O'Sullivan Award is presented to the Docent who has contributed to the growth and development of the Society. The Franciscan Award is presented to the Docent whose vision and the Community results in positive interaction. The O'Sullivan Award is presented to the Docent who has contributed to the growth and development of the Society. The Franciscan Award is presented to the Docent whose vision and the Community results in positive interaction. The O'Sullivan Award is presented to the Docent who has contributed to the growth and development of the Society. The Franciscan Award is presented to the Docent whose vision and the Community results in positive interaction.

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Fun & Flexibility

MARY SUSA "Cottontail"
hops down the Mission trail
on Easter, 1992!



Educator

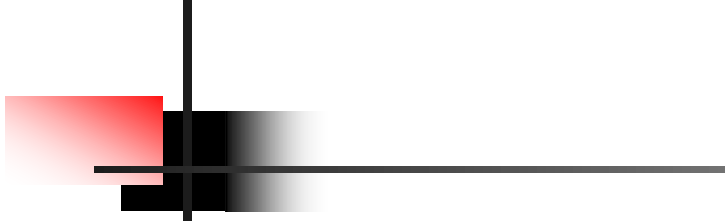
- One skilled in teaching
- Helps others acquire knowledge, competencies or values





CANDLE AND SOAP MAKING AREA

THIS IS PART OF ORANGE COUNTY'S
FIRST INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX



Educator

C.P.E. Lecture - March 29
Mary Susa

Industrial Area

Educator



Mary Susa with representative of Historic Preservation Week

Educator







Historic Preservationist

- Someone who takes action to preserve something
- Honoring the stories, materials, and memories that shape our communities.

Historic Preservationist

Docent-built Kiitcha





Historic Preservationist





Fun & Flexibility

Mary Susa





Docent Extraordinaire

- California Missions Foundation
- Edna E. Kimbro Award
 - Recognizes the energy and perseverance shown by the organization's members in pursuing their interests in mission period studies.
- Received February 2020

Edna E. Kimbro Award – California Missions Foundation



Edna E. Kimbro Award



Lara



"LEMME' GUESS. YOU VOLUNTARILY RETIRED FROM THE MISSION, RIGHT?"



**Thank
You!**

