



MISSION BELL

Vol. 14, No. 1 / Spring/Summer 2025

Ring in the News of the Preservation Campaign for Mission San Antonio de Padua

A Message from Interim Campaign President **SUSAN GILL**

AS INTERIM PRESIDENT of the Campaign for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio de Padua, I am excited to invite you to our Restoration and Preservation Fundraiser on Saturday, October 11th. The funds raised will be used to repair, conserve, and sustain the Mission's historical structure and the grounds surrounding the Mission. We look forward to seeing you at this event and appreciate your support. Together we can raise the funds to protect this historic site for future generations.

The King City Young Farmers will cook up a delicious steak dinner and entertainment by **The Money Band** will keep everyone happy. Also, a live auction and silent auction will offer some special purchases.

If anyone would like to help at the October 11 Fundraiser, please email me at susangill@riofarms.com, we do need help setting up the tables, table settings, and the auction. We would be grateful for any help.

Thanks to our donors, the earthquake retrofit of Mission San Antonio has been completed and now we need to preserve the many changes we have made. We appreciate you and your willingness to make your investment to this important piece of California history. ■

Welcome New Board Members **CAPPIE FANOE**

My Name is Cappie Fanoe, and I'm thrilled to represent Mission San Antonio de Padua as a director on their foundation board. The Mission and its history are integral parts of the history of California, Monterey County and our family. As a fourth generation resident of the Salinas Valley and a Catholic, I have a deep connection to the Mission. I was raised in Salinas, my parents often took me and my four sisters to the Mission for mass, Frontier Days and picnics as we grew up. I have many fond memories of the festivities and being able to spend time

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LIFE MOVES ON . . . SO **"Why is the Mission Still Asking for Money?"**

By Joan Steele, Mission Administrator

THIS YEAR MISSION SAN ANTONIO celebrates its 254th Anniversary, of its founding on July 14, 1771...If these old walls could talk ...the stories they could tell. Stories of people and cultures coming into contact with one another. Stories of exploration, learning, sharing, and growing. Remembrances of christenings, first communions, confirmations, marriages, reconciliations, anointing of the sick, funerals...the celebrations of life! Memories of hard times and great times...the text of lives lived throughout history, in the gentle Valley of the Oaks.



Spring in the courtyard garden with redbud tree in bloom in foreground, iron oak donor tree in background.

This special Mission was built, adobe brick by adobe brick. Through the valiant efforts of the entire Mission Community (both here and throughout all fifty of the United States), Mission San Antonio was also saved, adobe brick by adobe brick. It took every single precious donation dollar, from 2014 to 2022, to complete the man-

dated seismic retrofit. For eight long years we toiled together to complete a monumental goal, costing \$12.4 million dollars. Each and every donation was critically needed and thoroughly appreciated as all of us worked together to save this historic California treasure. Bravo to all who participated!

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Life Moves On continued

Time passes. Whether agonizingly slow when we're in agony, or at breath-taking speed when we're exhilarated by life, time does not stop. Life moves on.

Experts in the medical field tell us repeatedly that we *must* make the effort, we *must* take the time to slow down and process the seasons we are going through on our life's journey. Saying that comes easy; doing it doesn't come as easily.

We live in a world where almost everything is instantaneous. Want groceries? Want dinner? Want the newest phone, car, house? There's an app for that. In our ever-increasing, fast-paced world, it is more and more difficult to find places of calm, peace, safety, and quiet. Places where our hearts, minds, and souls can rest, restore, and rejuvenate.

Mission San Antonio de Padua offers such a place. This special Mission still extends an invitation of respite and refuge from a chaotic world.

Time does march on. It does not wait for permission. As it advances, life experiences the wear and tear of time. We age. Our belongings age too. Even our buildings and monuments suffer from the progression of time. Wind, rain, sun, and even human interaction leave their mark on our historic site. Adobe buildings, especially, require continual maintenance to retain their integrity and stability. Just ask the ground squirrels here how easily they can cause damage to buildings made of mud!

The mission statement of the Campaign for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio de Padua, a 501(c)3 non-profit is as follows: ***"The purpose of this Corporation is to solicit and accept funds for the purposes of the conservation, restoration, and preservation of the historic Mission San Antonio de Padua, located in Jolon, CA."*** The seismic portion of this goal has been met and completed. The work of conservation, restoration, and preservation of the Mission and its numerous historic sites and artifacts is on-going.

We have many 18th century paintings awaiting restoration. We have outlying buildings (like the gristmill), and historic elements (threshing floor, aqueduct, millpond, etc.) that need conservation efforts to preserve their historic fabric and footprint on-site. The adobe building itself needs annual maintenance to combat the constant onslaught of weather and rodent damage. These are items that the Campaign Board has acknowledged responsibility for in perpetuity. This is why the Campaign is still asking for monetary donations.



Spring in bloom in front of Mission.

We are very proud of the enormous amount of work that has been accomplished, due to the generous donations of thousands of people. This truly has proven to be the "People's Mission". Keeping the Mission and its grounds open to the public requires that we continue to collect donations from people who understand the critical nature of restoration, conservation and preservation.

Sometimes donors ask me why the Mission Parish can't pay for all this work. The answer is simple. The Parish family is extremely small (less than 25 families, almost all comprised of elderly couples on fixed incomes). The Parish is responsible for the running of the Mission Gift Store, Museum, and Retreat Center. The money raised from

these revenue streams fund the daily operating budget for the Mission. While the parish pays for all daily maintenance and repairs, it does not have enough money to fund the large annual maintenance projects, like ongoing adobe, paint, etc. and the continuing restoration and preservation of the rest of the historic elements and artifacts on site. If we are lax in our efforts to maintain the high quality of the work that has been completed, time and life will extract a costly toll on the fabric of the Mission ... and all our efforts will be for naught. It is our responsibility, at this time in history, for us to rise to the occasion. We must be



Spring's stormy skies over the gristmill.

the very best stewards of this historic jewel, preserving a unique and special place and passing it on to future generations, intact and amazing!

We as a Board

promise to continue to value your donations and to responsibly utilize your dollars, maximizing the positive result to the Mission's ongoing restoration, conservation and preservation work.

Please come and visit us and see for yourself how special this Mission truly is. Come feel the atmosphere of welcome and feel the calm, natural beauty. Encounter the past through a Mission experience that will ***teach your mind and touch your soul.*** ■

Welcome New Board Members continued

with my family at the Mission. As an adult, it has been exciting to support and watch as the Mission is restored to its glory.

My husband, Anker Fanoe, and I have been

married for 25 years. Although we didn't date until our twenties, we know that as kids we attended the same Mission events at the same time, and often wonder if our first meeting was at the Mission! Anker is a fifth-generation resident of Salinas, South County, and also has deep ties to the Mission. We are proud to have ancestors that were buried on the front steps of the Mission in the late 1800s. Additionally, there are many rooms within the Mission named after our relatives. For us, the Mission is a holy place that has brought our families joy for over 150 years.

We have three sons - Zach, Jake, and Anker, and two Labrador retrievers, Lucy and Henry. Professionally, I am a real estate agent and also own a business in Sacramento, which our son manages. My hobbies include cooking, golfing, hiking and spending time at our property in Arroyo Seco, Sycamore Flats. I'm grateful for the opportunity to give back to our community by being part of the Mission Board and look forward to continuing the amazing work that previous and current board members have accomplished.

GRACE BORZINI

My Name is Grace Borzini, and I am honored to join the Board for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio de Padua. As a lifelong resident of Southern Monterey County, I have a deep-rooted connection to the mission and a profound commitment to its enduring preservation.

I was born and raised in San Lucas on my family's farm, where the mission has been an integral part of my life. Growing up, my family and I eagerly anticipated the



annual Mission Fiesta in June—a vibrant gathering that brought together relatives and friends from near and far. The carnival games and communal celebrations fostered a sense of unity and tradition that I cherish to this day.

With 25 years of experience in the real estate industry, I have developed a keen understanding of property stewardship and the importance of maintaining historical landmarks. My husband Marvin and I have long supported the seismic retrofit project of the mission, recognizing its critical role in safeguarding this historic structure. Now that the retrofit is complete, we are deeply invested in ensuring the ongoing protection and maintenance of the mission's beauty and structural integrity.

I believe there is a pressing need to establish an endowment fund dedicated to the long-term preservation of Mission San Antonio de Padua. Such a fund would provide the financial stability necessary to maintain and protect this unique historical landmark well into the 22nd century and beyond.

I am enthusiastic about the prospect of contributing my experience, passion, and dedication to the Board's efforts in preserving Mission San Antonio de Padua for future generations.

MO BERNAL

My Name is Maureen Bernal, and I am honored to have been chosen to serve on the board of Mission San Antonio. My family has been rooted in this region for over 150 years, living and working on our ranch, which is part of the original Spanish land grant. This heritage has instilled in me a respect for the land and its historical legacy.

Mission San Antonio is especially meaningful to me, as it has always been my mother's favorite mission. She has been deeply involved in its preservation, and her dedication inspired my own involvement. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the board and to help ensure that this important landmark is protected, celebrated, and sustained for generations to come. ■



Introducing our New On-line Donation Portal – **Vanco Payment Solutions**

IN OCTOBER 2024, the Campaign switched from using PayPal for on-line donations to Vanco Payment Solutions, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Vanco provides payment systems and software focused on serving **Faith Organizations, Schools and community education, childcare, and other non-profits**

Many church parishes in California use Vanco for their on-line donations, including the Diocese of Monterey and

specifically Mission San Antonio Parish. For the Campaign the Vanco system provided a degree of commonality that simplified using the system, providing a more personalized experience and better support for our donors.

The portal is customized specifically for the Campaign and allows us to offer unique donation paths in the future to better serve the interests our donors in supporting specific Campaign opportunities that may arise. ■

Thank You to Our 2024 Donors

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Elephant Carlic Kings

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The following individuals and businesses have generously donated time and professional services:

- Armanasco Public Relations, Inc.
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Taking Us Into The 22nd Century



Campaign for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio

Restoration and Preservation Fundraiser



Dance to The Money Band

Saturday, October 11th at 5:30 p.m.

Orradre Building, 625 Division St. King City

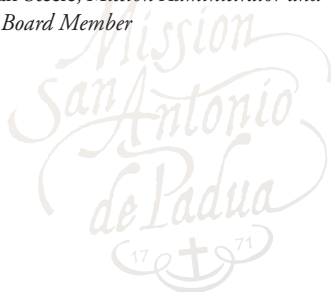
Dinner by the King City Young Farmers

Silent Auction • Live Auction

\$75.00 Per Person

Campaign Board Members

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Cappie Fanoë, *Vice President*
Maureen Bernal, *Chairman of the Board*
Larry Wise, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Duane Wolgamott, *Board Member*
Joan Steele, *Mission Administrator and Board Member*



Campaign Contact Information

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PRESERVATION OF MISSION
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CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA
Post Office Box 450
King City, CA 93930

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MISSION BELL Spring 2025



Founded by Fra Junipero Serra Circa 1771

**Our Mission—
Saving A Timeless
Treasure**

A Tribute to William Denton

By Michael Lugo

A TRIBUTE TO BILL

A true hero from the heartland of America

My heart swells with gratitude as I write this, celebrating the extraordinary life of a dear friend Bill.

A true hero who served in the U.S. Navy during two World Wars. Bill's story is one of unwavering courage, selfless sacrifice, and unshakeable dedication. Despite the hours of loneliness, he must have endured with his wife and baby on shore, Bill remained steadfast in his duty, working tirelessly on a refueling ship that traveled the world.

Bill's journey began in the Heartland of America, in Hutchinson Kansas, 1928. He grew up in one of the most challenging

periods in our History of America. As everyone knows in 1929, we had the stock market crash but in 1930 something even more destructive happened in our country. The Dust Bowl. It began around 1930 and the destruction of American farmland was unrecognizable. The destruction of all of America's farmland during this period would have broken many but not Bill.

With God's grace he survived and went on to serve his country with honor and distinction. Bill's legacy is not just of military service but also of deep roots and strong family and community ties. After years of service, he returned to become a beloved member of our community. A testament to his enduring spirit and character.



William Denton on his 96th Birthday

They don't make them like Bill anymore, he truly rose above the dust. Your courage and fortitude will always be remembered. You left an indelible mark on all who knew you. Your memory will live and continue to inspire all of us.

Peace and Joy, Michael ■