



MISSION BELL

Vol. 14, No. 2 / Fall/Winter 2025

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

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

THANK YOU!! On Saturday, October 11th, we hosted an **Endowment Kickstarter Fundraising Event** at the Salinas Valley Fairgrounds to support the ongoing repair and maintenance of Mission San Antonio de Padua's historic structures and grounds—ensuring the Mission will thrive well into the 22nd century.

On behalf of the Board for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio de Padua, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us for this very special evening in support of our beloved mission.

Thanks to your incredible generosity, **\$96,000 was raised in the live auction alone.** These funds will become the seed money for our new endowment fund—

the foundation of a lasting legacy to preserve the mission for generations to come. With the retrofit now complete, our focus turns toward the future: ensuring Mission San Antonio remains strong, beautiful, and well cared for in perpetuity.

Our newly launched **Campaign for the Future** has set an ambitious goal of building a **\$2 million endowment**, which will provide sustainable funding for the mission's ongoing maintenance and preservation. The remarkable success of this event marks the first step toward that goal, and it was only possible because of your belief in this cause.

There are many ways to support the endowment. Gifts can be one-time donations, multi-year pledges, gifts of stocks or property, or contributions through your estate. We hope you'll consider joining us in this vital effort. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your generosity, your spirit of community, and your unwavering love for Mission San Antonio de Padua. Together, we are not only preserving history—we are ensuring its future. ■



Event Program

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU **To All Of Our Supporters!**

By Joan Steele, Mission Administrator

"Nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the gun, they all started, not exactly in a dash, but with enthusiasm to run the race...to the finish...to win."

"All of them...except one little boy, who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then they all turned around and went back — every one of them. One girl with Down syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, *'This will make it better.'*"

"Then all nine linked arms and walked...together to the finish line. Everyone in the stadium stood; the cheering went on for several minutes. People, who were there that day, are still telling the story...Why? Because deep down we know this one thing: What matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What matters is helping others win...even if it means slowing down and changing our course."

—(A True story from 2018 Seattle Special Olympics)

Quiet...Simplicity...Nature...Tradition...Faith...Life...Healing...Hope...just some of the things people come seeking ...to the doors of Mission San Antonio...a beautiful place that helps reduce stress...relieve anxiety...and offers serenity, peace and restoration of spirit. It's a place where you can pause...step out of the human race...and return to our roots...as human beings.

For many reading this article, you've grown up in this area. The seeds of your stories were planted in the rich soil of the fields, nourished within the walls of the schools, and are reflected in the faces of those around you who have grown and flourished with you; those who have participated in your life...on both good days and challenging ones, and maybe even ones that included events at the Mission.

continued on page 2

A Heartfelt Thank You continued

The Mission has been like a piece of the puzzle, a square of your family quilt, that has continually offered faith, family, and community. Made out of the very earth itself, the Mission has withstood the ravages of time – because of the love and devotion and the financial support of the people of this area...the people reading this article.

For 254 years the Mission has offered a place of welcome, acceptance, and respite to all.

People from all over the state of California, all over the United States, and even from across Europe, visit the Mission each year. They find a unique calming atmosphere that soothes their belabored souls, especially in a world that continues to grow more violent and divided with each passing day.

From August of 2014 to December of 2021, the Campaign for the Preservation of Mission San Antonio labored to raise the money to fund the seismic retrofit and restoration of the Mission facilities. Your generosity, and the donations from thousands more individuals, made that dream a reality. Give yourselves a hand.

Today, we are reaching out, to raise funds to continue the restoration and preservation work and to enable the Mission to be able to responsibly maintain the wonderful work that has already been completed. Trust me, a building that's made of mud, requires a great deal of annual maintenance to endure.

I asked Brian Kelly, our Project Chairman, at the completion of the seismic retrofit, "What do you think of what we've accomplished, Brian?" His response still warms my heart. "The Mission", he answered, "finally looks loved." I hope you agree.

I want to thank you for your time, your support, your continued presence, and your love of Mission San Antonio. Thank you for caring enough to keep it standing, open, and inviting, for the many generations to come. For those who are returning, and those who are coming for the first time...the Mission will be waiting with open arms...thanks to a community that really cares...**one that stands with arms, linked...to help all of us win! ■**

The Campaign Board of Directors would like to Thank the following People and Organizations for Supporting our October 11th Fundraiser

AUCTION COMMITTEE

Jane Stephens
Christine Phillips, Chair
Dana Guidotti
Maddy Guidotti
Lauren Hamilton

AUCTIONEER

Mackenzey Bilkey

AUCTIONEER SPOTTERS

Cody Bassetti
Chris Lopez
Jeremy Sarina
Clay Avila
Willie Pantoja

AUCTION SUPPORT

David Armanasco

THANKS TO OUR LIVE AUCTION DONORS

805 Custom Woodworks (Sean Steele)
Allen and Shelia Bengston
Maureen Bernal
Bernardus Lodge and Spa
Marvin and Grace Borzini
Cannery Row Company (Ted Balestreri)
David and Susan Gill
Holaday Seed Company (Brian Holaday)
Kerry Lee Remarkable Jewelry, Carmel
Knights of Columbus
Jerry and Natalie Rava
Clem and Barbara Richardson

THANKS TO OUR SILENT AUCTION DONORS

805 Custom Woodworks
Alpha Omega
The Art Works
Augustina's Designer Boutique, Carmel
Sheila Bengston
Bluemercury
California Street Winery
Chapman Gallery
The Cork & Plough
Corral de Tierra Country Club
Crumb, Salinas
Cypress Inn (Joseph Violi)



Jane Stevens, Maddie Guidotti, Hannah Guidotti, (Sean Steele behind her) Dana Guidotti, Seth Guidotti, and Paul Guidotti



Cappie Fano and Leah Steinbruner



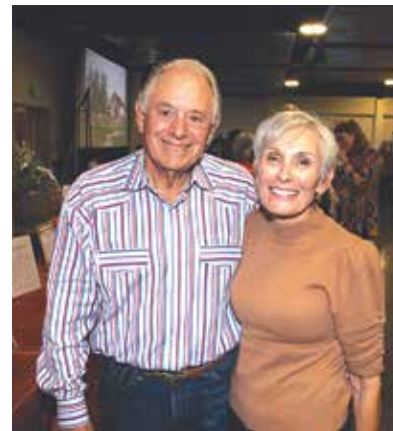
Norma Azcona, Mike and Terri Silva



Event participants enjoyed an evening of fine food, entertainment and fundraising



Live auction



David Armanasco and Cynthia Young

Debra C's
 Delicato Family Wines
 Esteban Restaurant
 European Jeweler and Goldsmith
 Fandango Restaurant, Pacific Grove
 Karen Fanoe
 Neal Fanoe
 The Fish Hopper
 Folktale Winery
 The Garden House
 David and Susan Gill
 Maureen and Melinda Gill
 Home Alchemy, Carmel
 Roberta Huntington
 InterContinental
 King Car Wash
 L.A. Hearne
 Patricia La Pointe
 Abe Marquez
 Dr. Charles Martin
 Mission San Antonio Gift Shop
 and Parish
 Monterey Skin Aesthetics
 Mopane
 Nautilus Wood Designs, LLC
 Nepenthe
 Noble Vines
 Older Fisherman's Grotto
 Princess Whale Watching
 Pasta Mia, Salinas

Patria, Salinas
 Pepe International
 Pizza Factory, Salinas
 Portola Hotel and Spa
 Puma Road Winery
 The Quail
 Renee Rianda
 Barbara Richardson
 Rio Farms, LLC
 Rio Grill
 Francesco Santoro
 Amber Sarina
 Jeremy Sarina
 Tacos La Potranca (Francisco Chavez)
 Tops N Travel, Carmel
 The Treadmill
 Kirk Williams
 The Wine Group/Gonzales Winery

THANKS TO ALL THE TABLE SPONSORS

Mission Legacy Tables

David and Susan Gill
 Joanne Taylor

Padre Tables

Antecito and Latasa
 Armanasco Public Relations
 John and Janet Buttgerreit
 Coastal Tractor
 GIS Plumbing
 L.A. Hearne Company

Pacific Valley Bank
 Rio Farms, LLC
 Tom and Sharise Salcido
 Sturdy Oil Company
 Zada Fresh Farms, LLC
 Holaday Seed Company
Olive Tables
 Avila Family
 Nick and Stacey Azcona
 Cody Bassetti
 Maureen Bernal
 Richard and Sharon Casey
 Paul and Dana Guidotti
 Milton and Rosemary Guidotti
 King City Nursery
 King City Rotary
 Chris Lopez
 Lynn and Mikel Ann Miller
 Neil Bassetti Farms, LLC
 Oak Shores Realty (Grace Borzini)
 Mission Parish
 John and Barbara Pekema
 Quality Farm Labor, Inc.
 Salinas Land Company
 Jeremy Sarina
 Borzini Accounting
 Church Brothers Farms
 Miguel and Dorothy Errea
 Guidici Family
 Green Valley Farms Supply

continued on page 4

October Fundraiser continued

GENERAL EVENT SUPPORT

Angela Pozzi

Knights of Columbus

Salinas Valley Fairgrounds

Lauren Hamilton

Dinner Meal – King City Young Farmers

Desserts and Coffee – Cynn timer Flores

Appetizers – Mandy Flores

Salsa – Rosa Pacheco

Table Centerpieces – The Garden House

Event Set-up Volunteers

Rio Farms

Western Harvesting

King City Nursery

The Garden House

Entrance Table Volunteers

Darcy Koester

Guadalupe Flores

Vourne Nolte

Credit Card Services – David Werner

Event Printing – Casey Printing

Videographers – David Mascorro

and Genne Rogers

Event Audio – Paul Cain Sound

Photography – Richard Green

Event Music – The Money Band

**DONATION OF OLIVE OIL FOR
TABLE SPONSORS**

Norma and Pierre Azcona

Stacy and Nick Azcona



Padre table



Steve Tankersley, Anker Fano, and Mike Silva



Olivia Garcia



Silent auction



Susan Hansen and June Serrano

On October 19th, the Board of Directors donated 63 brand new, warm Snugglies to the Central Coast Goodwill Collection Drive in King City.



LIFE HAPPENS...even at Mission San Antonio

By Joan Steele, *Mission Administrator*

Life happens. We discuss...we plan...we prepare. If we are fortunate, we are able to execute our projects and achieve success. The undercurrent that continues, without fail, is the progression of time and the marching on of life...with all its exciting gifts and challenges. Life at Mission San Antonio is no different.

In June of 2024, we employed Archeophysics LLC to conduct geophysical surveys of specific areas of the Mission property. The first of these areas was the location of the historic Mission's Mayordomo's house built in 1823. This building was long gone, and its foundations were partially covered over by the later building of the 1935 structure that served as a sort of construction office/caretaker area during the 1948 reconstruction of the Mission. The newer building was removed in the past few years, with permits from Monterey County Housing and Historic offices, to enable accurate scans of the much older foundations beneath the ground level. While this area had been lightly excavated in the 1930's by the Franciscans, this time, with much improved technology, we were able to get a clear look at the foundations. The surveys revealed not only the mayordomo house structure, but also the walls that connected from the back of the building, west, to the cemetery walls. It is thought that these walls created yards for either small animals or areas for the storage of farming tools, etc.

We also employed the services of the K9 Forensic Institute who returned to the Mission again to survey the area around the Mayordomo house in search of any potential burial sites. This was a precautionary action to confirm the site was clear for eventual excavation. The dogs found no burials in this area.

While it was initially our intention to excavate and expose the building foundations for educational purposes, the findings propelled us to reassess our plans. Ground penetrating radar scans showed that a good portion of the foundations are now a foot or so below ground level. Excavation would create an area for water to collect and cause irreparable damage to the founda-

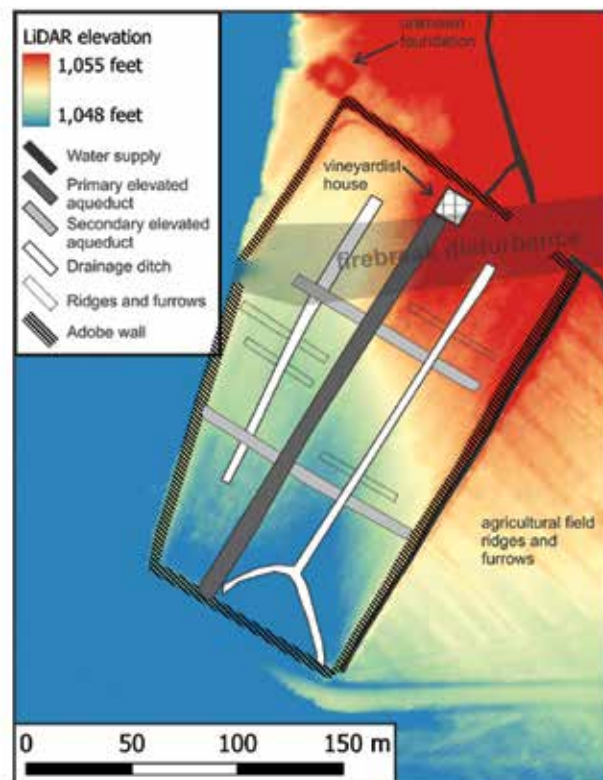
tions. It was decided, after informed discussions between the geophysicist, archeologist, and the project team, that we would document the discoveries and to create an information sheet for visitors, available through the Mission Gift Shop, but not excavate. The area is now marked by signage. Not excavating allows us to continue to protect the historic foundations, while still sharing the information, gleaned by the surveys, with the public.

The next area surveyed was the eight acres of the original Mission vineyard. Our goal for these geophysical surveys was to document the historic irrigation system used in the vineyard. This is critical information and this Mission is uniquely positioned to document the information since the ground has

remained relatively undisturbed since the Mission era. No other Mission can claim this factor.

The Archeophysic LLC team began their ground surveys, all done above-ground and non-invasive. During their second week of work, we had the dogs and their handlers from the K9 Forensic Institute survey the vineyard area. Within the first few hours, the dogs had three hits – potential human remains. These were the only areas they found in their survey. Now, what to do about that information...it is always our intention to leave burials undisturbed. The Institute was employed to ascertain if there were any potential areas in the vineyard that could possibly contain human remains. Are they Salinan? We will

never know because we will never excavate the area, nor conduct DNA testing. There are many possibilities for remains out in that field. It could indicate a prehistoric Salinan burial. It could also be a burial that took place during the colonial era, like the burials that were discovered near the church during the 1948 restoration of the Mission. There are several more known colonial burials on FHL property and at St. Luke's church at Jolon Road. There are also possibilities that it involves a much more recent burial (or lack of such). Just in the few decades that



Historic Vineyard Irrigation

continued on back page

Thank You to Our 2025 Donors

Individual Donations

805 Custom Woodworks

A & CC Equipment

(Avila Family)

Mary Acton

Peter and Anne Albano

Alpha Omega Collective

Peter and Carla Anecito

Armanasco

Public Relations, Inc.

Robert Attiyeh

Augustina's Designer

Boutique, Carmel

Nick and Stacey Azcona

Cody Bassetti

Peter and Marlys Bengard

Allen and Shelia Bengston

Maureen Bernal

Bernardus Lodge and Spa

Bluemercury

Fr. John Boll

Borzini Accounting and

Consulting, LLP

Marvin and Grace Borzini

Harrison and Mary Brehm

Roberta Brehm

John and Janet Buttgereit

California Street Winery

Steve Campana

Cannery Row Company

Richard Cannon

Helen Button-Cantu thru

MassMutual Ascend Life

Insurance Company

Janice Caprara

Lawrence Cargnoni

Rich and Sharon Casey

CDOSPARES INC.

(Hernandez Family)

Chapman Gallery

Christopher Thompson

and Yves Zsutty

Charitable Fund via

Fidelity Charitable

Church Brothers Farms

Coastal Tractor

Kevin Colton, M.D.

George and Susan Cooper

Jim and Georgia Cordle

Corral de Tierra

Country Club

Creekside Farms

Crumb, Salinas

Cypress Inn, Carmel

Janice D'Arcy

Chrysa DaCosta

Marc and Tina De Piero

Charles Debord

Debra'C's, Carmel

Tony and Mary Delatorre

Delicato Family Wines

Danielle C. Diestel

William and Nancy Doolittle

Miguel and Dorothy Errea

Esteban Restaurant

European Jeweler

and Goldsmith

Fandango Restaurant-Bar,

Pacific Grove

Karen Fanoe

Neal Fanoe

Tom Ferrel

Folktale Winery

Suzanne Frueh

James and Renee Fuqua

Kristy Garavello

David and Susan Gill

Maureen and Melinda Gill

GIS Plumbing Inc.

Green Valley Farm

Supply, Inc.

Eleanor Greenwood-

Patton

Guidici Family

Milton and

Rosemary Guidotti

Paul and Dana Guidotti

Vincent Guise III

via Empower

Tim and Kate Hearne

Leland Hoagland, Jr.

Brian Holaday

Holaday Seed Company

Home Alchemy, Carmel

Roberta Huntington

InterContinental.

The Clement Monterey

John and Karen Jernigan

Patricia Jones

Kerry Lee

Remarkable Jewelry,

Carmel, CA

King Car Wash

King City Nursery, LLC

King City Rotary Club

Cliff and Pam Kirkpatrick

Knights of Columbus

L.A. Hearne Company

Patricia La Pointe

Stephen and Lexenn Latasa

Don and Brenda Lauritson

Michael Lauritson

Scott Longwell

Chris Lopez

Vince and Tina Lopez

Earl Wilson MacEnulty II

Anna McNett

Norma Malacrida

Abe Marquez

Dr. Charles Martin

Jana Massey

Eileen Masigla

Roger and Rosemary Mendez

Lynn and Mikel Ann

Mission San Antonio

Gift Shop

Mission San Antonio Parish

Monterey Skin Aesthetics,

Pacific Grove

Mopane

Nautilus Wood Designs, LLC

Neil Bassetti Farms, LLC

Nepenthe

Joanne Nissen

Noble Vines

Elizabeth O'Donnell

Oak Shores Realty –

Grace Borzini

Older Fisherman's Grotto

Princess Whale Watching

Mike and Mary Orradre

Pacific Valley Bank

Pasta Mia, Salinas

Patria, Salinas

John and Barbara Pekema

Pepe International

Jeff Perrone thru

Fidelity Charitable

Pizza Factory, Salinas

Alain Plattner

Portola Hotel and Spa

Richard and Sylvia Prader

Puma Road Winery

The Quail Lodge

Quality Farm Labor, Inc.

Mario and Socorra Ramirez

Jerry and Natalie Rava

Catherine Rhodes and

Richard Wallace

Renee Rianda

Robert Richard

Clem and Barbara

Richardson

Clem and Barbara

Richardson thru

Ameriprise Financial

John and Mary Richardson

Rio Farms, LLC

Rio Grill

Clinton Robinson

John and Annette Romans

Peter Rosenberg

Kathleen Ryan

Tom and Sharise Salcido

Salinas Land Company

Francesco Santoro

Amber Sarina

Jeremy Sarina and Apparel

Arthur and Karen Sayles

Ruth Anne Sonniksen

Robert Sykes

Sturdy Oil Company, Inc.

Tacos La Potranca de
Jalisco, King City
Joanne Taylor
Anthony and Louise Tesoriere
The Art Works
The Cork and Plough
The Fish Hopper
The Garden House, King City
The Quail
The Sardine Factory
The Tread Mill
The Wine Group/Gonzales
Winery
Tops N Travel, Carmel
Larry Tracy
Du Trung and Thanh Tran
Joan Ungs
Barbara Walcom
John Webster
Sherril Nell Wells
Susan Johnson Willey
Kirk Williams
Lawrence Wise
thru Charles Schwab
Jill Zahner
Zada Fresh Farms, LLC

**In Honor of
Jerry Lee Cain Family**

Jerry and Sydney Cain

**In Honor of
William E. Denton**

Michael and Susan
Denton-Lugo
Glenn Waggoner

In Honor of St. Anthony

Romina Montemurro Martin

In Honor of Joan Steele

Susan Gill

In Honor of Lawrence Wise

Susan Gill

**In Memory of
Patricia Hearne
Giudici Arena**

Patricia Bunte

In Memory of June Backus

Allen and Mary Anne Chaney

In Memory of Cy Barbree

James and Karen Fanoe

In Memory of Beverly Bunte

Allen and Sheila Bengtson

In Memory of

Mauricio Canchola

Richard and Janette Domingos

In Memory of

Jane Bunte de Carvalho

Allen and Sheila Bengtson

Patricia Bunte

George and Laurie Pappas

In Memory of

Dr. Justin Davis

Francis and Becky Giudici

In Memory of Tony Day

Carol Kenyon for

The Susan, Tony and

Alison Day Family Fund

via DAFgiving 360

In Memory of

William Denton

Michael and

Susan Denton-Lugo

Clark and Sandy Waggoner

In Memory of Inez Diaz

Glenda Rodman and Family

In Memory of

William Timothy Dolan

Michael and Lynne Lauritson

In Memory of Thomas Fanoe

Patricia Bunte

Duane and Lesley Papierniak

Spencer/Stephens Families

In Memory of

Randall Goodnight

James and Karen Fanoe

In Memory of Margarite

“Muggy” Giudici

Patricia Bunte

In Memory of

Servando Salas Hernandez

Moises and Rose Mary Salas

In Memory of

Lou Huntington, Jr.

James M. Hammonds

Lauritson, Dowd, and

Ramsey Families

In Memory of

Casimir Jatczak

Diane Jatczak

In Memory of Esther Kosty

Jane Dani

Robert (III) and

Phyllis Walton

In Memory of

Patricia Lydon

Paul Lydon

In Memory of

Antonio B. Mariscal

Maria Mariscal

In Memory of Sally Martinus

Maureen Gill

In Memory of Dustin Miller

Ed Buntz and Kate Snell

In Memory of Gene Ogden

Sandra Ogden

In Memory of

Monte Rigmaiden

Michael and Lynne Lauritson

In Memory of

Richard and Sally Rhodes

Jim and Karen Fanoe

Joanne Nissen

In Memory of

Calverne Sayler

David and Geraldine Ramirez

In Memory of Joyce Skeats

Allen and Mary Anne Chaney

In Memory of

Everett Snowden

Allen and Mary Anne Chaney

In Memory of Mike Taylor

David and Susan Gill

Joseph and Shirley Silveira

In Memory of Grace Tool

Tina Metzger

**In Memory of Marie and
Julian Trescony and
Mary Fox**

Curt and Julie Stevens via

Ayco Charitable Foundation

In Memory of

Carol Umbarger

Elephant Carlic Kings

Francis and Becky Giudici

Glenda Rodman and Family

In Memory of Pete Vachek

Kevin and Joan Steele

In Memory of Marty Welsh

David and Susan Gill

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

- Armanasco Public
Relations, Inc.
- Tim Baldwin, Attorney –
Noland Hamerly
Etienne & Hoss
- Casey Printing
- Natalie Rava – Hayashi
& Wayland Accounting
- The Wecker Group
Branding/Design

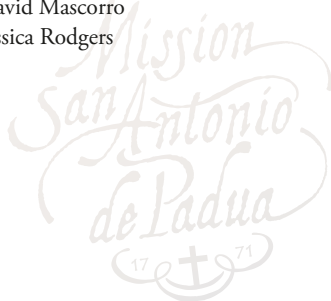
Donations received through October 2025

Campaign Board Members

Susan Gill, *Interim President*
Grace Borzini, *Vice President*
Cappie Fanoe, *Vice President*
Maureen Bernal, *Chairman of the Board*
Larry Wise, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Duane Wolgamott, *Board Member*
Joan Steele, *Board Member &*
Mission Administrator

Campaign Committee Members

Michael Lugo
David Mascorro
Jessica Rodgers



Campaign Contact Information

CAMPAIGN FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF MISSION
SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA
Post Office Box 450
King City, CA 93930
TEL 831.385.4478

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MISSION BELL *Fall/Winter 2025*



**Our Mission—
Saving A Timeless
Treasure**

Life Happens continued

I have been at the Mission, multiple people have brought cremains to the Mission grounds and either dumped them on the ground or buried them (without permission) and then told us about it. We will never know. The goal of the survey was to identify potential areas to avoid in any future disturbances; that is what we will do with these three areas.

We were fortunate that the ground penetrating radar was able to identify and reveal to us the main irrigation ditches into the vineyard, as well as secondary irrigation, all using gravity feed. We were also able to identify the drainage lines from the vineyard. All of this information is being correlated into a new 3-D, to-scale, model for the museum, with accompanying informational brochures.

We continue to learn from the past. We have dismissed any plans to reestablish the vineyard at this time. The information we learned was very valuable and we will integrate it into our historic interpretation of the Mission era.

And as I said, life continues to happen...

In the past few months we have dealt with water main breaks, the demise of our industrial washing machine (yes, we do all the retreat center laundry onsite!), hot water heater issues, power surges frying areas of our electrical infrastructure, the expiration of our commercial freezer, etc. Just life at the Mission. It is a very large facility, serving thousands of retreat guests and visitors. There is never a dull moment.

We recently lost a very dear friend, Pete Vachek. Pete completed all the restorative painting within the Mission following our seismic retrofit. For five years he tirelessly restored the quiet beauty to this historic site. Pete had a heart of gold, an immense sense of compassion and generosity for others, and an impressive creative talent.

We will deeply miss him, but his creative spirit lives on and continues to speak to us through its expression on the very walls of this Mission. Life goes on...Siempre Adelante! Always forward. ■