



PATRONATO

Mission San Xavier del Bac 2012

Patronato San Xavier Recognized by Arizona's Centennial

Patronato San Xavier has been named a recipient of one of 10 Governor's Centennial Awards.

The awards are determined by the Arizona preservation community, and endorsed by the governor, to acknowledge "outstanding achievements in the preservation of Arizona historic and prehistoric cultural resources during the State's first 100 years."

The award, in part, cites Patronato for its dedication "to the restoration, maintenance and preservation of the Mission San Xavier del Bac, a National Historic Landmark.

"For 34 years now the organization has pursued this goal with determination and fervor. For their long-term commitment to the preservation of this historic landmark, we are pleased to present the Patronato San Xavier with this Centennial Award in Historic Preservation."

Patronato San Xavier was formed in 1978 by six Tucson community leaders who saw the need to protect the cultural icon. Established as a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization solely to preserve San Xavier, Patronato has grown to a board

of nearly 20. One of the original founders, Bernard Fontana, remains active on the board.

"We're very pleased to receive this award, recognizing the many years of hard work and effort by the board to raise funds and manage the project," said Fontana. "It also affirms the craftsmanship and skill of our outstanding conservators and restoration experts."

Over the course of the restoration, Patronato has raised and spent about \$10 million so far for the preservation of the church.

"Like many projects of this complexity and magnitude, there is still much to be done to insure that San Xavier will be preserved for the benefit of future generations," said board president Charles Albanese. "The church's East Tower is in urgent need of restoration and intervention."

The award was presented at an awards dinner as part of the Arizona Centennial Conference on April 19 in Phoenix.

This is the second time the restoration of San Xavier has been recognized by Arizona's preservation community. In 2006, Morales Restoration & Builders, the company that has



(top) Governor's Centennial Award (bottom) Sonny Morales & Tony Orozco Sr. worked on West Tower volute

Photo by Bob Vint

been working on the exterior since 1989, received a Governor's Award for Historic Preservation from the Arizona Preservation Foundation and Arizona State Historic Preservation Office for long-term achievement.

In 1998, Patronato San Xavier was honored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation with a National Preservation Award for "painstaking exterior and interior restoration" of the National Historic Landmark.

Hexafoils at Mission San Xavier

By Bernard L. Fontana

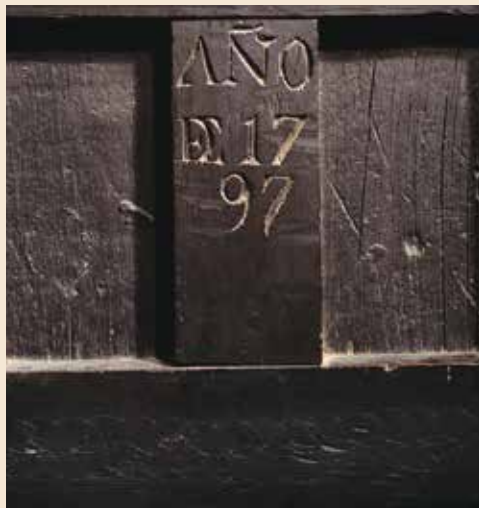


Photo © Edward McCain



Photo by Bob Vint

(Left) Hexafoil design on sacristy door (Right) Marist symbols under the arches of interior cupola

The late 18th-century Franciscan-built church at San Francisco Xavier del Bac is essentially a Marian shrine. This is notwithstanding its dedication to St. Francis Xavier in 1692 by its Jesuit founder, Father Eusebio Kino. Representations of the Virgin Mary outnumber those of all other religious personages. Her monogram adorns the building's façade and is painted on the underside of all four arches at the crossing; she is represented by a painting of her Sacred Heart; there are three sculptures of her; and there are paintings of her on walls in every area of the church other than the baptistery and sotocoro (the area beneath the choir loft).

Quite by accident while searching the internet, I discovered a video which features Ian Evans examining deliberately concealed objects in an old Australian house in Tasmania. It was with great surprise that one of the elements shown in the video was a circle enclosing a six-petaled flower inscribed into a sandstone block next to a window in stables dating from 1851 at *Shene*, a homestead near Bagdad, Tasmania. The design was identical to that engraved into the east face of the wooden door separating the sacristy from the sanctuary at

Mission San Xavier! Dr. Evans, whose 2010 doctoral dissertation at the University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia, is titled, *Touching Magic: Deliberately Concealed Objects in Old Australian Houses and Buildings*, followed the lead of investigators in Great Britain in calling this design a “daisy wheel.” He has since noted that “hexafoil” is more academically correct.

Further searches revealed the hexafoil has appeared in churches in England, such as at the Gussage church of St. Michael in Dorset, England, where it appears on the west of a font exterior, and on the font in St. Nonna's, Altarnun, Cornwall (a 12th century Norman font). Author Ric Kemp, writing in the online *Dorsetarian* journal, has no hesitation in equating the hexafoil design with the Virgin Mary, although he doesn't explain why. And Evans, writing in his Ph.D. dissertation, observes that the hexafoil occurs at the entrance to the chapel at Krak des Chevaliers in northern Syria, a chapel that predates the takeover of the region by Islamic forces in the late 13th century.

Because hexafoils are known to occur in secular settings, Evans is not ready to accept a direct correspondence

between the Virgin Mary and this symbol. He notes, for example, there is a four-petaled version of the design inside the entrance to the former Windsor Council Chambers in Brisbane, Australia, dating from the late 19th century. That in the stable at Tasmania, however, could well have been associated with Mary. What could be more emblematic of her than a stable?

Hexafoils are known to have been painted on the walls of some of the California missions. It is likely that once it is brought to the attention of art historians, more consideration may be given to this design and the cultural contexts in which it occurs. The most basic motif of the so-called “hex signs” painted on barns by German Lutheran and Reformed settlers of eastern Pennsylvania, the so-called “Pennsylvania Dutch,” is the hexafoil, a design commonly referred to there as a “rosette.”

I am personally inclined to the view that the hexafoils on the sacristy/sanctuary door at Mission San Xavier, scribed there prior to a carving dated 1797, are indeed Marian symbols. That interpretation would certainly harmonize with the decorating scheme for the entire church.



It All Started 320 Years Ago...

Abalone shell of the type traded among indigenous people

..when Fr. Eusebio Francisco Kino on horseback entered the village of W:ak in 1692. It was the first of several visits during the next eight years during which the Jesuit priest founded Mission San Xavier and laid the foundations of a church that was never built. (The exact location of Kino's church footings is one of the discoveries waiting to be found.) His devotion to this area is responsible for the magnificent church that exists today.

In addition to the word of God, Fr. Kino brought along horses, sheep, goats and cattle, and the grain seed to grow winter wheat. These accompaniments quickly became part of the area's cultures. He created successful cattle ranches throughout the Pimeria Alta to supply the missions

he built. The establishment of these support haciendas led to the "ranching culture" of the Sonoran area.

Winter wheat became an additional crop for local O'odham completing a year-round crop cycle, that included summer plantings of corn, beans and squash. The wheat flour, in turn, became tortillas and helps to explain the regional popularity of "trigo" over "maiz." The next time you bite into a carne asada burrito, think about Fr. Kino's contributions to the meal.



Came asada burrito, which owes a debt to Fr. Kino

Eusebio Kino could have chosen a life as a university professor in Europe, but the desire to serve God as a missionary led him from his homeland in the Tyrols to New Spain. Fr. Kino arrived in New Spain in 1681. After accompanying Spanish troops on several unsuccessful attempts to colonize settlements in California, Fr. Kino was assigned to the Pimeria Alta.

In 1687, he founded his first church at Dolores on the Rio San Miguel that became the base of support for his 24 years of exploration and mission building in the region.



1701 Kino map

In 1700, he held a conference of area tribal leaders at San Xavier and learned that the blue abalone shells traded overland originated only from the Pacific Ocean. Therefore he concluded that California was a peninsula not an island as many Spaniards had believed. He later confirmed it himself on a later journey.

His travels, frequently with only a few guides, took him as far north as the Gila River and the Colorado River to the west. His maps of what are now northern Mexico and southern Arizona were the first that were based on actual exploration of the territory.

He was driven by his faith and compassion to serve the indigenous populations of the region. On the urgings of Fr. Campo, he once rode more than 70 miles from Tumacacori to San Ignacio in one day to save a native that soldiers intended to execute the following day. Cattleman, horseman, explorer, teacher and man of faith, Eusebio Kino lived simply and humbly. But there was nothing humble about the magnitude of his influence on our region.



Padre Kino statue near Kino Parkway in Tucson; Julian Martinez, Sculptor



Patronato San Xavier Announces New Board Officers

Patronato San Xavier has elected Charles Albanese, FAIA, as the board's new president. He succeeds James Pyers who served as board president for seven years. Albanese, who joined Patronato in 2008, is the retired dean of the University of Arizona College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. He is a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and as a practicing architect, he has had major

responsibility for 275 built projects in Southern Arizona. He has served on more than 20 community boards and remains active at the University of Arizona.

Tucson native Patty Doerr has been elected vice president of Patronato San Xavier.

She has been a community volunteer for the past 35 years. She created the Summer Fine Arts Program for

children and served as its director for 27 years. She has served on the board of Patronato for 15 years. She has served on numerous community boards including the Junior League of Tucson, Silver & Turquoise Hostesses and UA Women's Studies.

(above) President Charles Albanese, Vice President Patty Doerr, (below) Docent Lynne Johnson with tour in San Xavier museum

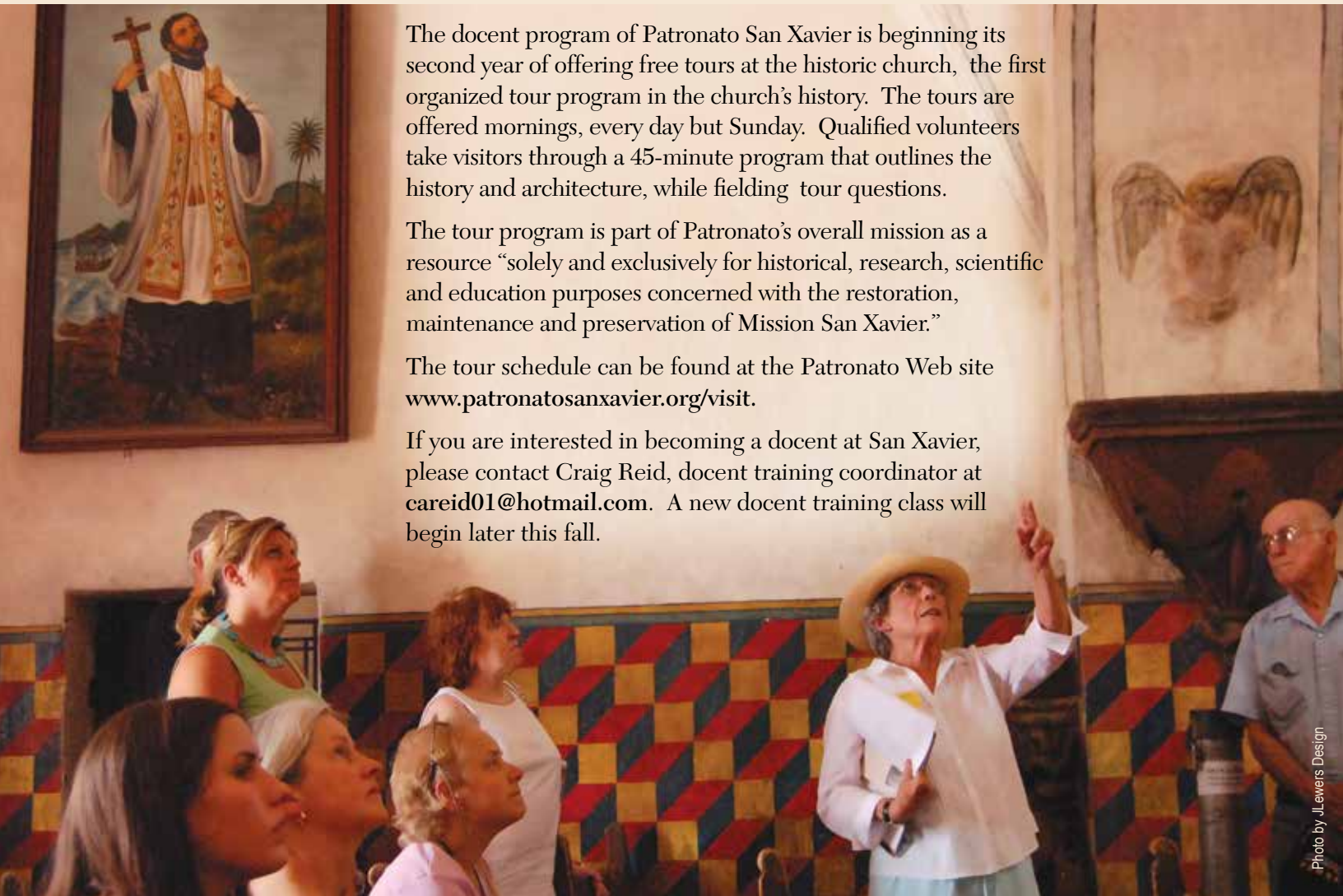
Docent Program Enters Second Year

The docent program of Patronato San Xavier is beginning its second year of offering free tours at the historic church, the first organized tour program in the church's history. The tours are offered mornings, every day but Sunday. Qualified volunteers take visitors through a 45-minute program that outlines the history and architecture, while fielding tour questions.

The tour program is part of Patronato's overall mission as a resource "solely and exclusively for historical, research, scientific and education purposes concerned with the restoration, maintenance and preservation of Mission San Xavier."

The tour schedule can be found at the Patronato Web site www.patronatosanxavier.org/visit.

If you are interested in becoming a docent at San Xavier, please contact Craig Reid, docent training coordinator at careid01@hotmail.com. A new docent training class will begin later this fall.



16th Annual Christmas Concerts at San Xavier Set for Dec. 11 - 13



Photo © James Palka

Once again the sounds of the holiday season will fill the church at San Xavier this December 11-13, 2012, at 6 p.m. & 8 p.m., as Patronato celebrates the 16th anniversary of the Christmas Concerts at San Xavier.

The three-nights of six concerts feature the Sons of Orpheus and the Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus performing a selection of classical and popular Christmas music.

The Arizona Daily Star calls the concerts “dazzling.” Last year’s concerts sold out quickly. This year’s event promises to be its equal in every way.

Patronato thanks our 2011 supporters: sponsor Ann Fallon and underwriters Laura & Arch Brown, John & Georgiann Carroll, Chuck & Pat Pettis. Also providing significant assistance: Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. and Tucson Electric Power.

Seats are again \$90 each with \$70 of the price a tax-deductible contribution to the restoration. Invitations will be mailed the first week of October.

If you, or someone you know, would like to add your name to the invitation list, call (520) 407-6130 or e-mail patronatoSX@earthlink.net.

Sponsorship and underwriting packages are available for the 2012 concert series. Please contact us to find out how you or your business can support Patronato and the restoration of this historic treasure.

4th Annual Spring Concert Marks the Return of the Clark-Schuldmann Duo



The Clark-Schuldmann Duo

A large crowd, a beautiful afternoon and a wonderful program of chamber music added up to a perfect Sunday on April 15 as the Clark-Schuldmann Duo performed at Patronato’s 4th annual spring concert at San Xavier, honoring San Xavier’s history in Arizona’s centennial year.

This was the group’s second performance at the historic church - cellist Harry Clark & his wife, pianist Sanda Schuldmann played at the inaugural spring concert in 2009.

The two have performed on every important musical stage in America and abroad, having premiered and recorded some five dozen works by this country’s most prominent composers.

The New York Times has described the duo as “an exuberant pair, exhibiting artistic rapport and expressive unity with a quality of ardent commitment that shines through their work.” The San Xavier audience applauded in obvious agreement.

More about Chamber Music Plus at www.cmpsouthwest.org.

Patronato San Xavier
PO Box 522
Tucson, AZ 85702

Patronato Board of Directors:

Charles Albamense, *President*
Patty Doerr, *Vice President*
David Carter, *Secretary*
Laura Brown, *Treasurer & Finance Chair*

Members:

Rev. Gregory Adolf, *Rep. Diocese of Tucson*

Kristin Almqvist
Dawn Cole, *Membership Chair*

Natalie Davis, *Treasurer Emeritus*

Elizabeth Firkins

Bernard Fontana, *Secretary Emeritus*

Fred Frelinghuysen

James Griffith

Kathy Hard

Jackie Ludwig

Barbara Peck

Patricia Pettis

James Pyers

Jeff Willis

Ex Officio Members:

Ft. Steve Barnumfsky, *O.F.M., Mission San Xavier*
Bishop Gerald Kicanas, *Diocese of Tucson*
Chairman Austin Nuñez, *San Xavier District*

Emeritus Members:

Lorraine Drachman
Ann Fallon

Alex Garcia

James Gresham

John P. Schaefer

Associate Members:

Stephen Auslander

Darryl Dobras

Project Architect:

Robert Vint,

Vint & Associates, Architects, Inc.

Project Contractor:

Daniel Morales,

Morales Restoration & Builders

Executive Director:

Vern Lamplot

PO Box 522, Tucson, AZ 85702

ph. 520.407.6130

On the Web:

www.patronatosanxavier.org
Find us on Facebook
"Patronato San Xavier"

