

Jo Turner

Mission Inn Foundation docent 2006-2016



Mission Inn Memories of Jo

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2013 Graduation Event

Jo was a member of our Mission Inn Foundation family for 10 years and she loved every minute of it! She was especially passionate about leading school tours. She served in many capacities including as a member on the Docent Council; and on the Mentor, Peer Review and Training Committees. During the Festival of Lights, Jo consistently was acknowledged for giving the most tour leads. She was deservedly awarded Docent-of-the-Year in 2015. Jo's personality and bright smile touched our hearts. She will be remembered, as the tributes in this booklet attest.

Docents and All,

July 11, 2016

Over the weekend we lost a member of the Mission Inn Foundation Family. Jo Turner passed away on Friday. She was an accomplished docent who began her tenure as a docent-in-training in September, 2005. As a former member of the Docent Council and an active docent mentor, she led by example. Two things about Jo stand out. First, she championed the naming of the Frank Miller Middle School. Another memory relates to Jo's passion for giving tours. I can't begin to count the number of times that I walked into the museum and was greeted by, "May I interest you in a tour today?" One lasting memory; who can forget the expression on Jo's face when it was announced that she was named Docent of the Year? It was priceless.

Steve Spiller,
Mission Inn Foundation Executive Director



2015 Docent Overnighter

The first thought that comes to mind when I think of Jo is "I want to be as spunky as she when I reach her age!" I met Jo in 2009 in docent training class and she was my Mentor. From that first meeting I just loved her enthusiastic zest for everything she did. But especially her love of the Mission Inn! I used Jo Turner so many times as an example of how we should not just sit around and let life pass us by. All too often as we age, end a career, kids move on, we find ourselves wondering "what should we be doing now?" Jo Turner taught me to just get out there and do something you are passionate about! Jo lived that passion. I will miss her, but I was honored to know this amazing woman. Jo Turner will be greatly missed by us all, her "docent family".

Gail Anderson

I am deeply saddened at Jo's loss . . . she was a force of nature and her commitment to the Mission Inn Foundation was without measure. As a front desk volunteer at the Museum, I loved to call her to remind her of her next day's tour, the phone would ring and she would answer: "Tomorrow at 11:30, I'll be there!", and we would laugh and talk a bit. She started her tours on time and ended on time -- always. She loved her tours and glowed with enthusiasm every time she gave one. She was a docent who was genuinely disappointed when she arrived for a tour and it didn't go. Well known for asking "Can I interest you in a tour today? One is going out in just a few minutes!" Folks came back from taking her tours with smiles and grins, and many told me how much they enjoyed it and learned so much. Rest in Peace, Jo . . . and get those tours of Heaven going!

Michelle Arrigo

When Jo was nominated as 1 of 6 for Docent-of-the-Year, I saw her that night and remarked, "You know Jo, you could win." She replied, "Oh sure!" like it was the last possibility. Well, she did win! And when she accepted the honor, she stated, ". . .and it happened on my 21st birthday!" We didn't know then, that it was actually her 86th birthday. I also knew Jo from our local chapter of AARP. We took several day trips together and she was the featured speaker at one of our meetings. Her topic was, "What it takes to become a docent at the Mission Inn." She was a great representative of our program. During our last conversation, Jo told me about a big upcoming trip she was planning to take --alone! Jo was independent, feisty, and always wanting to learn something new.

Sue Bartel

My first encounter with Jo was when she gave me a peer review. After the tour, she gave me helpful feedback to improve my tour. She was enthused about information I had given on the tour that she had not heard before, and she wanted to know more about it. Jo's critique of my tour was not all "roses," but she presented it in such a positive manner that I was encouraged to give a better presentation on my next tour. I loved the twinkle in her eyes, her broad smile and the enthusiasm in her voice when she spoke about the Mission Inn and new programs that were happening at the MI and in the city. She talked about positive changes with the docent program and how important it was for us docents to be flexible and to adapt to those changes. I am in my 60s and I thought, "I want to be like Jo when I grow up!" I will truly miss her. She was a wonderful example for me to attempt to emulate!

Kay Beach



Docent Jo Turner pointing her finger at DIT David Lessig, telling him that there was to be no picture taking during the tour! She even threatened to stomp on his camera.

This photo is again of Jo, taken by the same photographer on the same tour, but this time he was careful not to get caught.



What a loss for the Mission Inn Foundation and the Riverside community! While I know of Jo Turner's many contributions to the Foundation, my very direct involvement centered around the naming of RUSD's newest middle school in 2008 prior to its opening for the 2009-2010 school year. She believed and promoted honoring Frank Augustus Miller by naming the new Woodcrest-area middle school after him. Jo realized that calling a school after the founder of the Mission Inn in downtown Riverside would help unite a city of more than 81 square miles. Whenever the Board of Education discussed the new school Jo Turner was always there to promote Frank Augustus Miller. Thank you, Jo, for your successful campaign.

Chuck Beaty

RIVERSIDE: SUPPORTERS PUSH TO GIVE MISSION INN FOUNDER HIS DUE



KURT MILLER/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE (2010)

Jo Turner, a Mission Inn docent, and Riverside Unified School District Trustee Chuck Beaty lobbied to have a school named after Frank Augustus Miller. Miller, his statue in the background, was the founder, builder and original owner of the Mission Inn.

I am not sure when I have felt so bereft by the unanticipated loss of a very special friend. Jo Turner was one of those rare, incredible treasures that grace our lives all too infrequently. Through the years she would often remind me that she "was in love with my husband," her assertion usually followed by a laugh and an aside indicating "It's an older woman thing; I hope you don't mind." Jo set the model for what it means to live a full life, contributing to the people and the organizations she cared about to the very end. Jo conducted my last peer review, and in typical Jo style corrected my comment regarding the Keith portrait "California Alps." When I said there were no Alps in the state Jo let me know "Yes there are! The Trinity Alps!" We now refer to that as Jo's edict. Jo's laugh, her sheer joy, her courage, her determination to look forward are all lessons in life and love that rubbed off on all who had the privilege of knowing her. I miss you, Jo, but I will never forget you.

Sally Beaty

This is very sad news indeed. Over the past year I crossed paths with Jo many times. She was assigned to critique my first annual review. The tour went well. Afterwards Jo and I reviewed her notes and she said she enjoyed the tour and that I did a terrific job. Then she pinched my cheeks and said "tell your wife you did a terrific job!" I told her that my wife passed 5 years ago and she said "tell her anyway." Today, July 14th, was my wife's birthday so I went to the National Cemetery to pay my respects and to tell her to be on the lookout for a special person named Jo Turner. She did a terrific job here on earth.

Eric Beacham



Jo — musician, playing recorder with the Inland Recorder Society at Heritage House

I knew Jo from my contacts with AAUW (American Assoc. University Women) and she was always so thoughtful and serious about issues dealing with women and children. I was re-introduced to her when I followed her as a "dit" for the Mission Inn. Last month I had an opportunity to assist her. Afterwards, we talked about the expectations of a docent and she thanked me for helping her traverse through a couple "senior moments" while delivering her incredibly knowledgeable script. She was so appreciative of the support and we joked that we all have so much that we want to share and with changing or updating

stories, tours can still be a challenge. She was such a delight and her guests were so thankful that they each tipped her and praised her for her formidable storytelling; she was so gracious to remind them that their contributions would help the museum to educate and expand its resources. She was a unique personality and an excellent model of professional mentoring.

Lois Boatman

The first time I met Jo her sense of humor was disarming. She said to me "I love that jacket, can I have it!" Another time I saw her she said "you look nice for a change!" Being a brand new docent, or maybe I was a DIT, I didn't know how to take those comments! Then I got to know her and her wonderful sense of humor. She was a unique and an unforgettable presence! I truly loved Jo and had many lovely conversations with her. I took her home on one occasion and appreciated her liveliness and stamina! She will be sorely missed.

Sherry Bockman

It was her timing that was impeccable. (except when it came to dying...) She probably did this to everyone, but she'd always greet me with a "You look nice today." and pause long enough for me to enjoy the compliment, for just the tiniest moment, before she finished her sentence with "for a change!" And she'd laugh. She was a great character.

Barbara Burns

As a DIT, I remembering assisting Jo on one of her tours. She sure took command. I was kind of shocked when she told her tour group; "I will tell you where I want you. I will tell you where to stand. I will tell you where to move. And if you don't, I'll come up behind you and kick you in the butt!" Her group looked very surprised at her bossiness -- and then she winked that special wink and broke into a big smile to let them know she was only kidding. But you never knew with Jo. I half expected her to do it some time.

Michael Bussee

I am away so will not be able to get to Museum to leave a note, but here is my short tribute: Jo was a gifted and giving woman. I was always impressed by her "can do" spirit and the lovely twinkle in her eye she always seemed to have. I will miss her vitality and spirit.

Suzy Clem

I will miss Jo. She was an inspiration and a positive influence on everyone she met. When I was finishing my year of docent training, she helped me in a wonderful way. She gave me confidence that I could be a successful docent. She did this by allowing me to lead most of the



Jo announced as 2015 Docent-of-the-Year

tour as a docent in training and then established a positive rapport which lead to having fun and enjoyment on the tour. I will always be grateful to Jo.

Mary Jean Comadena

I am a recent graduate of the DIT program and Jo was my mentor. My two favorite memories are: She would tell the tour guests that she would kick them in the rear end if they didn't follow the rules. I'm pretty sure only sweet Jo could get away with this! And secondly, my folks were in town for my complete tour before graduation. My dad asked Jo how I did. She said, "Just terrible" with a big grin on her face. I took that as high praise indeed. She just cracked me up. Jo was a wonderful, encouraging mentor. I am so sad we have lost her.

Kim Cunningham

As I embarked on my development of being a docent, Jo always offered words of encouragement. I will always remember when she gave my Peer Review in 2014. She told me she would be part of the group and would make herself invisible, so as not to let anyone know why she was there. Invisible she was not, for her smiles and heads-up signs, kind of cheering me along the way made me so relaxed and feel as if she too was enjoying my delivery. After the tour, her comments and the way she pointed out ways in which I could improve were just so enhancing that I never felt criticized, only wanting to give a better delivery on my next tour. I will always remember her and be thankful, for through the affiliation, she made me a "better docent."

Eileen Curtis

Aw! I am stunned, hurt, and, confused! About two months ago, I had a Peer Review tour with Jo. I'll tell you she was super sharp, of good humor, and with whom it was very enjoyable to discuss the science of docenting! When the review was over, we both kept right on talking and for some while. I'll miss her, but I won't forget our last chat!

Ken Doyle

When I was doing one of our final mock tours with our 2015 class, one of the mentors who critiqued us was Jo. Four of us were standing out on the Main Street Mall, not far from the museum. All of us had given our presentation at the model. Once we were done and waiting for the mentors' response, Jo looks at all of us and says "You ALL failed!" She went on to tell us we forgot to mention the Friends of the Mission Inn and the Foundation! I never forgot that because she was so passionate about her love for the Mission Inn and that the tours be presented correctly.

Katherine Evans

I am sadden to hear the news regarding Jo. She was immeasurable in my graduating the last docent class. I was probably her last mentee. She was kind, patient and loving. Jo made sure I not only had knowledge of the Mission Inn but of the city of Riverside as a whole. Her invaluable firsthand schooling of the city and its achievements will live in me forever. I will always be grateful to Jo for her encouragement and confidence in me. The tears I shed as I write this note is for the love that Jo shared with me. She was so much more to me than just a mentor but a true friend.

Dr. Denise Fleming

Jo was so amazing. The first time I did a tour with her as a DIT, I was so shocked at how quickly and easily she could walk backwards. She never missed a beat. She was so dynamic and passionate! Also her sense of humor. She always mentioned that the Aztec heads in the wall on Mission Inn Avenue looked like some of the docents as we get older. She was a role model for us all! I had so much respect and admiration for her positive energy! I am so sad that she is gone.

Christiane Follett

Each time Jo and I encountered, her first words were consistently, "No not you again" followed by her famous smile and laugh.

Jerry Gordon



Jo receives congratulations as new 2015 DOTY

Will always remember Jo for her hard work, spunky personality, and in-depth knowledge of the beautiful and historic Mission Inn. Her contributions to the M.I. Foundation were numerous and meaningful. Rest in eternal peace, Jo.

Mel Gutierrez

I knew Jo through League of Women Voters before I knew her as a Mission Inn Foundation Docent. She was a devoted League member and I remember her working many Candidate forums collecting audience questions for the candidates. I knew she was a Docent though, even before I joined the Foundation Board, because I used to shop at the downtown farmers market almost every week. On my way home I would often see Jo with an attentive tour group at the corner of Mission Inn and Orange street and then I knew I was on schedule for the day! Of course, as always happens when I see our docents in action, I was filled with pride. We will miss Jo and yet, trust that there are future generations of community leaders like her to keep our community strong.

Theresa Hanley



...and Jo receives more congratulations

I met Jo after I moved to Canyon Crest across from the shopping center in 1989. A group of us frequented See's, . . . we were the 8-9 a.m 'crowd'. Jo would invite us to all her activities. And, I invited her to all of my activities, of course. I told her about the Mission Inn Docent program and after she went on one of my tours, she started the training course. She was a 'natural' as all of us learned. Her humor was unlimited. Jo, we love you and will miss you. Marcia and I will be at Mt Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota.

Daniel Hantman

JO TURNER, UNA GRAN SEÑORA..VIBRANTE, UNA GRAN LIDER Y ADEMAS, MUY PROFESIONAL, SIEMPRE BIEN VESTIDA...CAPTURABA LA ATENCION DE TODOS SUS 'CLIENTES'. QUES DIOS ME LA BENDIGA Y QUE SIEMPRE ESTE ENTRE TODOS LOS ANGELES EN EL CIELO."

Con todo cariño, Dorothy Hernandez

Loved the way she ended her talk at every station with, "well anyway, on to our next stop". The "well anyway" always cracked me up.

Bill Hughes

Jo was one of a kind, and everyone that knew her, appreciated her unique self, and loved her for it. She would display that 'schoolmarm' act, then break out in the most beautiful smile and twinkle in her eye. I will truly miss not running into her in the museum, on a tour, or in Costco. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to know her and love her, and I feel sorry for future docents that will not have the Jo experience.

Thank you, Jo! Brenda Jackson

Jo Turner — what can I say? She always yelled at me for spelling her name wrong. As her name and my middle name are the same, I explained I could not spell my own name so what did she expect. She was always the dry wit in the room. She would ask me if that is what I was planning on wearing for work whenever she saw me. Yes, at first I almost fainted wondering why I looked so bad, then she would wink and smile and walk away leaving me in doubt every time — did I really look bad, or was she pulling my leg?

Yes, I loved her. She never said no for a tour unless she was already doing one; she always wanted to do the kids tours no one else wanted; and she always wanted to do the most tours during Festival of Lights. She did tie one season and I never saw her look so happy.



... more congratulations

Jo would be at the door every day she was here and when you opened it she would ask, "Can I take you on a tour, we have one going out real soon." I miss her wit, her laugh, her wink, and most of all, her excitement. I do not know anyone who every tour acted like she was taking the Queen of England. Whether she had a mom and a stroller, or 25 third graders, she was always so excited to lead the tour.

But Jo had a serious side, like the day she told me about her pearls that were her grandmothers. She was so full of interesting knowledge, and if you waited she would take the quiet time and always teach me something new, whether she meant to or not. She was serious and reserved, but she told you in a way you never forgot.

Mostly, I will miss "I love that jacket, can I have it?"; "Are you working or fooling around again?" and of course, "Have a rotten day." I will miss my friend. Even on days she did not have a tour, she would show up on the wrong day and then ask people going by if they would like to take a tour since she was already here, gosh darn.

Gosh darn, Jo, you left me too fast, too early. I was not ready; I'm still in shock. Who will do all the Festival of Lights Tours and who will let me know if I am dressed ok for working here? And, Jo, who will do my peer review and tell me how to be a better docent like herself. They don't come any better than Miss Jo Turner, "Docent of the Year."

I know the gates of heaven are opened by a woman in a red jacket asking if you would like a tour because she is ready and willing to take you!!!

Xoxo Nanci Larsen

I graduated as a docent earlier this year. Jo was often at the classes and helped out as a mentor during the practice tours. What I remember most about her was during the docent recognition ceremony. Jo decided to jump off the front of the stage instead of going down the steps. It scared the jeepers out of my classmates who were sitting right in front of where she landed. After her successful touchdown and seeing their reaction she just shrugged as if to say, "What! Don't all old ladies jump off stages like 10 year old school girls?" Congratulations to her for remaining healthy and active for so long.

Jeff Lasater

When I met Jo, I had no idea that she was the mother of one of my good friends. I met Erica Britton and her husband Scott years ago when our kids played on sports teams together. We had dinner with them in March of this year and I told them that I was just completing my training to be a docent at the Mission Inn. Erica asked if I knew her mother, Jo Turner – what a surprise for me to learn that the Jo that I knew from the Mission Inn was Erica's mother. Erica told me that the night that Jo received the Docent of the year award, she immediately called Erica to express her surprise and joy in receiving the award. Erica told me that Jo would always have an Easter egg hunt for her kids in her house every year – even this year with the kids in their 20's. She had a way to bring "magic" into everything that she did. She was a wonderful Mother, Grandmother and volunteer – not only with the Mission Inn Foundation, but also with the League of Women Voters and with other organizations.

Judy Lewis



... and still more congratulations

I was so sorry to hear of Jo's passing. She did so much for the Mission Inn and will be greatly missed. Two years ago, while I was peer review committee chairman, I always thought of her as my "ace" committee member. Invariably, after each committee member had taken one or two docents from the list to be reviewed, if there was one or two that remained to be reviewed, Jo would take them in addition to her already agreed upon list. I know she did this same procedure with her tours, always replying, "I can do this because I live so close." I am so glad we all voted her Docent of the Year, she truly deserved it.

Michele Lufkin

Jo Turner was a truly class lady who loved her commitment to the Mission Inn and always seemed to be proud and delighted to serve as a docent. In my experience she was always warm, friendly and caring. I believe that like all of us, she occasionally faced personal frustrations but in all the times I visited with her I do not recall her ever complaining or grouching. She always brought her warmth and caring manner to any gathering she attended. She will be deeply missed.

Tom Martin

As a recent docent, I looked first to my mentor then to veteran docents for guidance, direction, and example. Jo Turner's tour was one of my first observations and follows. I loved her. What I quickly learned from her is to take charge of the tour. She seemed a no-nonsense docent, but really had a great sense of humor. After admonishing tour guests to mind their p's and q's of the tour rules of etiquette, one could see a gleam in her eye and a wink. But you didn't cross her. She relished her tours and quizzed her guests to see if anything stuck. The Mission Inn, if anything, is a place for memories. Jo Turner is a face of memories for me. Grand lady.

John McDonald

Jo Turner was and always will be 'Docent of a Lifetime.' She was always ready to take on 'just one more tour.' Jo could boost a person's confidence with just a few words. She loved sharing her knowledge of the Mission Inn with everyone she came into contact with. Young children as well as seniors and everyone in between were enchanted by Jo's jovial presentation. As for me, I will always remember the sparkle in her eye and her black tour jacket. I am honored to have known her and will remember her fondly.

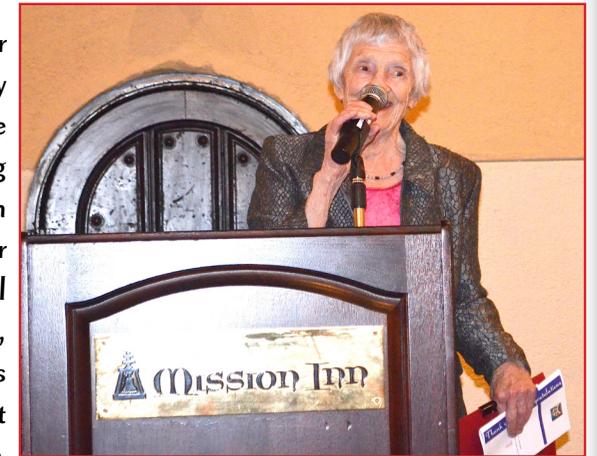
Pam Olsen

Oh my. I am stunned and saddened. Loved Jo and enjoyed her bouncy and positive attitude towards the hotel and foundation. Will really miss her.

George Pehlvanian

As a new docent over six years ago, I followed a tour with Jo. Her love of the Mission Inn and her vibrant way of sharing that love with those on the tour inspired me to try and follow in her footsteps. She was an amazing woman, who gave her heart and soul to the Mission Inn. She took on more tours than those of us half her age, and I was always amazed at her dedication. I will miss her, her beautiful smile, her shared stories, her patience and kindness to new docents. God Bless you, Jo...I'm sure you are giving tours of heaven right now!

Barbara Radle



Jo's 2015 DOTY acceptance speech

A few years ago at the docent sleepover I was with a few friends on the famous scavenger hunt. We were all in the International Rotunda looking for a item to check off our list. There on the stairs was Jo looking for the same thing. I just remember her vitality and the fun she was having and my friends got a kick out of talking to her. She also did a peer review of me and was very helpful in her suggestions. May you rest in peace Jo, and walk the floors of the Mission Inn anytime you want and like you own it.

Nina Rainbolt

I am probably one of many who can say, "I am a docent because of Jo Turner." I applied to become a docent in 2012 but decided my schedule was too packed to fulfill the training commitment. The Recruitment Committee held my application until the following year. When 2013 rolled around and I

was contacted again, I still wasn't sure if I wanted to be a docent. I eventually decided to at least use the tour voucher sent to me. When I walked in to the museum, a smiling woman greeted me with, "Can I interest you in a tour? I'm a really, really good docent." It was Jo Turner. I went on the tour and was amazed by Jo's knowledge, charm, genuine enthusiasm, and her ability to threaten her tour guests if they didn't listen to her and have them thank her for it. I decided ten minutes into Jo's tour to become a docent. She was just that good. Favorite quotes: "I love your outfit. Can I have it?" and "Have a rotten day."

Karen Raines



Docent of the Year 2015 - Jo Turner

I met Jo during docent training in 2013. Always friendly and welcoming, I enjoyed following her tours and learning the ropes from an experienced expert. The rise and fall, ebb and flow of her story throughout the tour created a connection with the guests to the history she was sharing. She had a shocking way of stating things, but laughing, could always get away with it. Seeing her at docent events lightened the mood. She was cheerful, witty, warm and generous. I looked forward to seeing her and hearing her latest tales. I truly admired her "tough old bird" spirit. Jo was not only one of a kind, but the best kind -- positive, open, and willing to share. I will miss her greatly and am so glad for the time we had together.

Liz Reid

All aboard for a tour with Jo Turner! As an assist on her tours she kept the guests engaged with her rough and tumble schoolmarm delivery. Nothing much got past her. She will be remembered by me as a truly special lady whom I am grateful to have known. Thanks for the memories Jo! I will think of you often!

Judith Runyon

Jo Turner, a lady with a twinkle in her eye and a warm smile. She was very special and fun to chat with. She loved to give tours and was quite dramatic at times -- that teacher personality would come out to the delight of her tour guests. Jo, you will be missed by all, especially me.

Dauris Slaughter

Jo was notorious for showing up at the Museum when she wasn't scheduled for a tour. Sometimes she would help out and lead a tour if there was a no-show. I knew if she hadn't shown up within 10 minutes of a scheduled tour to call her immediately and she would make it just in time. She'd always say she thought she'd written it down correctly and she was so sorry. Jo was my mentor and right off the bat I had a great connection with her. My grandmother's name was Jo and they were very similar women. Always encouraging, supportive and they both had a wonderful sense of humor. I will never forget Jo's laugh, her big beautiful smile or her encouraging words. I would never have been a docent without her guidance. I wanted to give up so many times when it came to writing the script and she wouldn't let me. I was scared to give tours and talk to people and she told me I knew more than I was giving myself credit for. I am the docent I am today because Jo believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself.

Stephanie Starbuck

When I first met Jo, I found myself wanting to be just like her. To live a life filled with family, friends and love. To live my purpose to the fullest. Jo loved being a teacher and was proud of the important milestones she had achieved as one of Riverside's most loved and successful teachers. She wanted to make sure above all else that the Millers' lives were recounted respectfully and accurately in our tours. She believed in Frank Miller's dream where all people lived together in peace. The last time I saw Jo, I was able to sit with her for awhile and she told me about her fascinating life. She loved having a large family, the League of Women voters, her long career with the Riverside School District and she missed her husband dearly. We are blessed to have people like Jo Turner in our lives only a few times, and if we are lucky enough to recognize that gift, we are most fortunate. She devoted her life to help people put their best foot forward, realize their dreams, and make the world a better place -- and that she did.

Julie Stern



Jo received 10 year service pin 2016

One day while leading a tour with Jo evaluating my follow, I turned around to find more than half my group missing along with Jo! She had decided to take the group into the small chapel and show them the signed Tiffany window! So much for her being just an anonymous "tour guest!"

Joy Valadez

Upon reading the news about Jo, my heart felt as though the bottom had dropped out. I am a newbie having recently graduated. She was a staple in our training class, was always willing to help us, loved giving tours and shared her years of wisdom unselfishly. Jo's enthusiasm and passion for the Mission Inn was exhibited during our last tour together with a group of spunky teenagers. At times, their attention would drift as they were obviously captivated by Frank Miller's "stuff." Jo was quick to refocus their attention as she narrated about the origin on the "stuff." There were several tours going on simultaneously, but Jo did not skip a beat. There were no short cuts with Jo. What was impressed on my memory were the hugs she received at the end of the tour from those kids. You could see their appreciation and sense from their smiling faces that they had journeyed around the world and back as they toured the great Mission Inn. Jo Turner was one of a kind.



Jo announced 2016 Docent-of-the-Year

Oceal Victory

Jo Turner was truly a remarkable woman. I hope that when I am 87, I will have the energy, vitality and ability to help others the way Jo did. I am a class of 2016 docent. When my mentor was in a car accident and couldn't do one of my final practice tours, Jo stepped right up and helped me to fulfill my requirements so I could graduate. She always was interesting, helpful, tactful, and she gave me important feedback in a loving and caring way. I learned so much from her and I will greatly miss her. Rest in peace, Jo!

Kathy Watson

I loved being her assist because of the way her face lit up and she became so animated when she gave her tours to museum guests. Jo also gave me my first peer review, which in itself was terrifying but she was patient and calmed my nerves before we began. During the tour she furiously took notes but at the end of the tour she asked some questions about new material I presented. She was very complementary of my tour, which of course made my day because as we all know she does not pull any punches. Once she wrote up my review, she insisted on driving to my house through a rain storm to go over it with me, so that her task was complete and I had my copy to review. Jo took her job seriously but also maintained her passion as a docent for the Mission Inn. I will truly miss her, she was a Great Docent and someone I was proud to work with, God Bless Jo Turner and hopefully she is having a lovely conversation with Frank Miller.

Linda Whaley

I think we will all miss Jo. She was a person who loved being a docent. She was so thrilled when she became Docent of the year in 2015. I always felt her as my friend. She was the person who did my first Docent Performance Review. I was a little bit nervous but she put me right at ease. I enjoyed being the assist on her tours. She always told fun stories that kept her tour guests filled with lots of historical information in a way they enjoyed. She did a lot of school tours and made them fun for the kids. She was always there with a little joke to keep people enjoying her tours. I will very much miss her.

Dorothy White



Jo with recent 2016 graduate Judy Lewis

I always knew Jo was young at heart, what with her ready smile and great sense of humor. What I didn't know about her until she was 85 years old was that she was a teenager at heart when it came to driving. My foot was in a cast so I couldn't drive and since Jo lived nearby, I asked her to give me a ride to the Mission Inn for Docent class. She readily agreed and picked me up at the scheduled time. When she headed for the freeway, I asked why she was going that way since it was farther than surface streets. She replied that it was way too slow to go by city streets. When she started to rapidly accelerate on the on-ramp I began to have misgivings. Hey, Jo was 85 and I expected her to drive like an old lady, not a teenager. We zipped past all the other cars on the freeway, changed lanes frequently to avoid slower cars, and made it to the Mission Inn in record time. When we finally arrived, I think she noticed my white knuckles and terrified face. She calmly asked if she was driving too fast and would I like her to go slower on the way back. I readily agreed, but I'll never forget that crazy ride with my dear friend, Jo Turner.

Robyne Williams



From the League of Women Voters Riverside

Our hearts are saddened by this news. Our lives are richer because Jo Turner was a vital part of our community. We'll keep Jo's family in our thoughts and prayers.

Jennifer Blakely
Chair of The Group and LWVR Board



Jo's contributions to League and other local organizations cannot be overestimated. She was the rare dependable colleague who always offered good advice and was always willing to help - not just reliably, but with great humor, wisely and well. Jo will be missed not just by League, but by everyone in Riverside who values our community.

Joan Donahue, President,
League of Women Voters Riverside



A very sad time for LWVR. She was affable, she was very intuitive, she was consistent and she had a heart of gold. This will be the Jo Turner we remember. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the League members, her family and the many who came within her sphere of influence. May she rest in perfect peace. She will be missed.

Woodie Rucker-Hughes

