

The Avalon Bay News

Serving Catalina Island from Avalon to Two Harbors

Ongoing Restoration of the Catalina Chimes Tower Reaches Major Milestone

A new door and hand forged ironwork add visual appeal to the tower's exterior

By Kristin Metcalfe



New wrought-iron fencing at the Chimes Tower. Photo by Gerry Bravo

The Catalina Chimes Tower Foundation's restoration of the chimes and surrounding structure has reached another important milestone with the installation of hand forged iron work, which provides increased visibility of the historic Deagan Chimes.

The new arched grills, handrails and front door, designed by architect Marc Appleton and fabricated in wrought iron by Ironcad Ltd., follow Boulder Construction's earlier concrete work on the entry and steps leading to the mechanical room. Dave Thompson, project manager on the restoration, was also able to reinforce the Tower's buttresses. Altogether, this recent work has transformed the look and feel of Avalon's beloved

landmark.

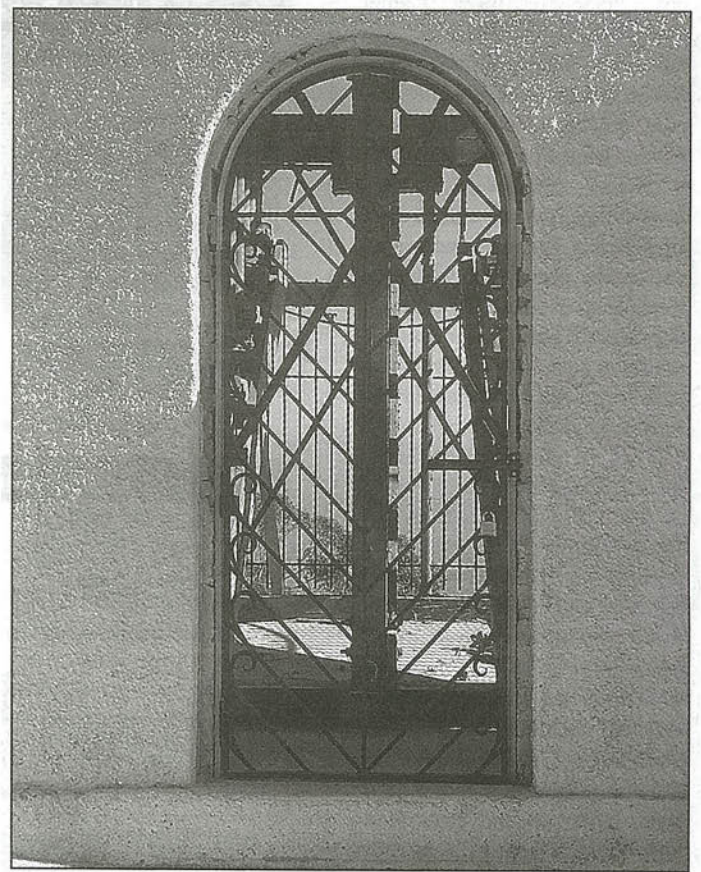
"We are excited about what we have been able to accomplish this year," said Geoff Rusack, Chair of the Chimes Tower Board's facilities committee. "Thanks to hard work on the part of a great team, we have made amazing progress on this restoration."

Added Charlie Canby, also a Facilities Committee member and one of those responsible for moving things forward, "The ironwork is fantastic, and the view of the chimes and harbor through the door is spectacular."

With a fundraising goal of \$1 million, the Chimes Tower Foundation plans to continue repairs on the existing structure; restore the chimes and related mechanisms;

preserve and re-use existing Catalina tile; install new tower lighting; and add landscaping featuring native and other plants in keeping with those installed when the structure was built in 1925.

The Catalina Chimes Tower Foundation appreciates the continued support of local residents, business owners and visitors, who have given generously toward its goal. Anyone looking for a unique and meaningful way to support the community this holiday season can make a tax-deductible contribution to the Catalina Chimes Tower Foundation at PO Box 677, Avalon, CA 90704. Donations can also be made online at CatalinaChimes.org.



Restoration of the Chimes Tower has reached another important milestone with the installation of the new arched grills, handrails and front door. Completed earlier was the concrete work on the entry and steps leading to the mechanical room. Photo by Gerry Bravo