



The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2016

President's Message

"We would hop on the electric car and head for downtown Los Angeles to shop, or to Monrovia to go to the plunge." These memories were repeated many times to me as I conducted oral histories on local "oldtimers." Their trips were aboard a mode of transportation deemed outdated and eventually trashed. Right-of-ways were built over, depots torn down, tracks pulled up. Not that many years later, there was an epiphany: "Opps," turns out it was a good idea after all. Smog, traffic and crumbling infrastructure gave way to a realization: "Electric trains are the way to go!" On March 5 we celebrated the "historic" grand opening of the new Duarte Gold Line Extension City of Hope Depot.

Can't wait to have lunch at Cliftons or Olvera Street or just spend an evening in Old Town Pasadena without looking for a parking spot. Our Depot opening was an historic affair and a tribute to our City and those who worked so hard to be sure our town was not overlooked.

-Claudia Heller



POTLUCK AND PROGRAM CELEBRATE LOCAL MEXICAN HERITAGE



Armando



Recuerdos de Monrovia: History of Mexican Americans was enjoyed by all at the Duarte Museum recently. Kicking off with a Mexican food potluck, museum supporters set out their favorite latin dishes which were topped off by ceviche compliments of Morralito Mexican Grill, formerly The Ranchero.

Susie Ling's presentation was based on her booklet and the dozens of oral histories she has collected from local Mexican families who have shaped Duarte and Monrovia over the years. Ling is an Associate Professor at PCC.

DONATIONS

Thanks to Monrovia Jim Constantian for his donation of two Route 66 33 rpm records, one by Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters and one by the King Cole Trio.

Thanks to those on the "Next Door" phone app and members of the LDS church who volunteered to join in the scanning project.

AN INTIMATE AFTERNOON AT THE DUARTE MUSEUM



A little out of their comfort zones, a few residents took a chance and recited their poetry for others to enjoy. In the end, the small group was better for it. This entertaining and heart-felt experiment proved successful.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE MUSEUM BY PAYING YOUR 2016 DUES.

**Student/teacher: \$10; Individual: \$15;
Family: \$25; Life Time Supporter: \$500**
(reserved for individuals and families);

**Business/Org. (see
www.RanchoDeDuarte.org).**

Secure PayPal Payment Process

THANK YOU

BIRD WALK SET FOR MAY 1

Join ornithologist Kimball Garrett, Collections Manager at the L.A. County Museum of Natural History, for a nature walk and bird watch around Encanto Park and adjacent river bed areas. Coffee will be served at the Museum at 7 a.m. and the walk will commence at 7:30 a.m. Binoculars are helpful. For more information call (626) 358-0329.



VOLUNTEERS STEP UP FOR NEWSPAPER SCAN PROJECT



(L-R) Ted Taylor, Cindy Helprey, Celia Reed, Tiffany Kofford, Alicia Patino, Dilip Tiwari and Kayko Jorgenson.

For the sake of history, above volunteers, plus a group from the LDS Church and others, have been trained on how to scan the hundreds of newspapers which have been stored at the Museum for twenty years. When the project is completed, the public can input a subject, such as "Mickey Thompson" and access the newspaper articles published over the years since the murder. Thanks to a bequeath from the children of deceased curator Irwin Margiloff and a donation from former Duarte Librarian Peter Rosenwald, a scanner was purchased. Assistant Curator Dilip Tiwari together with Kayko Jorgenson has trained the helpers who are now on the job. After scanning, the papers will be available to the public.

DOCENTS NEEDED

It's fun and educational! Docents need only serve about once every other month on a Saturday or Wednesday. For more information Call Sheri Uhlig at (262) 523-6622

FAREWELL TO TWO DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS



Dedicated Museum docent **Gini Bickner** passed away in January. She was born in Pasadena in 1924. Gini was a long time member of the Duarte Woman's Club and for years wrote a social column for the Duarte Dispatch. She lived in Duarte much of her life.



Pat DeRose, a long time supporter of the Museum died January 18. A Duarte resident since the 1980s, Pat was a driving force for the Friends of the Library and worked tirelessly on the Annual Authors Festival. She served as treasurer for DCTV and was on the Board of the Ed Foundation. Her humble attitude and friendly smile are missed

DO YOU WANT THIS NEWSLETTER?

Beginning with the July issue, the Branding Iron will only be mailed to dues-paying members. You can, however, access it on the Museum website at www.RanchoDeDuarte.org.

FAMILY WILDERNESS DAY FISH CANYON FALLS HIKE

The Museum will hold Open House on April 2, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. while Encanto Park will be the gathering spot for Family Wilderness Day featuring hikes to Fish Canyon Falls and lunch in the park. Hiking and lunch reservations must be made at City Hall.

NATIONAL MONUMENT TALK RESET FOR APRIL 15, 7 P.M.

Will President Obama's designation of a San Gabriel Mountains National Monument protect our local trails, falls, and historic sites? What changes will be made and how close to Duarte? These and other questions will be answered by Joseph Llewellyn of the Forest Service, at the Museum. The Monument was designated on October 20, 2014 by President Barak Obama and covers 346,177 acres of the Angeles National Forest and 4,002 acres of the San Bernardino National Forest.

Previously scheduled for March 5, the talk was postponed so as to not conflict with the grand opening of the Gold Line Extension in Duarte. Admission is free. The monument serves as the backyard to the nation's second-largest urban center.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.RanchoDeDuarte.org

Contact Us

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

March 5, 10-4: The historic grand opening of the Duarte Metro Station.

April 2: Family Wilderness Day, hike to Fish Canyon Falls. Call 357-7931.

April 15, 7 p.m.: Everything you want to know about the new San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

April 16, 1 p.m.: Curiosities of the California Desert at Duarte Library

April 17: Docent Appreciation Lunch (by invitation).

April 20, 4 p.m.: DHS&M Executive Board Meeting at the Museum.

April 23, 1 p.m.: Poetry reading at the Duarte Library

May 1, 7:30 a.m. Bird Walk with Kimball Garrett.

May 12, 9 a.m. Royal Oaks Student tour.

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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Open: Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays: 1-3 p.m.

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Vice President: Sheri Uhlig

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Asst. Curator: Dilip Tiwari

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Dilip Tiwari and Kayko Jorgenson

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