



# The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

OCT.-DEC. 2016

## President's Message

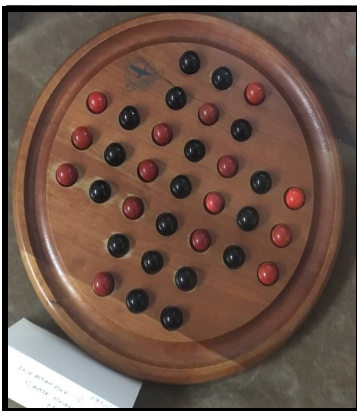


Our most recent revolving exhibit is evidence of how history can manifest itself in common items. The marble collec-

tion of Duartean Nick Montalvo and his son Michael, 8, on display through November is a great example.

Marbles have been found in Egyptian tombs, in Native Indian sites, in Druid burial grounds. Before the 1840s, marbles were hand made and each was distinct and unique. When machine made marbles appeared, they were a big hit, but Nick and Michael are passionate about the vintage ones. After WWII, excess machinery yielded ball bearings which were used as marbles. Marble bags are also collectibles.

This is a unique and fun exhibit and we hope children and adults alike will visit and learn about the history of marbles. **Visit the museum October 15 at 11 a.m. for a marble competition.**



## WINTER SOLSTICE CRAFT FAIR & FLEA MARKET SET

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10**  
**HOURS: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**FEATURING LOCAL CRAFTERS,  
AUTHORS, VENDORS & FOOD BOOTHS**  
**JOIN US FOR A GREAT DAY**  
**Sign up to sell: 626 358-0329**

## ST. FRANCIS DAM DISASTER AND GENERAL MEETING DECEMBER 2, 6:00 P.M.



**JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT ON MARCH 12, 1928**, the St. Francis Dam, constructed as part of the Los Angeles Aqueduct, collapsed sending 12 billion gallons of water on a destructive rampage through the canyons and valleys of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties all the way to the ocean. More than 450 people died. What caused this disaster? Author Rippens will talk about the construction of the ill-fated dam, why it collapsed and the aftermath. Join us at our general meeting, and enjoy this riveting program. Free.

## WILD LIFE PRESENTATION BRINGS ADULTS AND CHILDREN TO MUSEUM



A gopher snake named Striker and a red-tail hawk named Naomi were two of the animals presented during a wild life program at the Museum. A barn owl and a great horned owl made their debut. Photos by Pat DeVorss.

**Up close and personal** meeting snakes and petting skunk fur, adults and children were mesmerized during a two hour wild life presentation by Whittier Narrows Regional Park Superintendent Colleen MacKay and Naturalist Jessica Tresieras, at the Museum on August 7. What local snakes are friendly? What does possum fur feel like? Do birds have a sense of smell? What local animal is a true carnivore? (Bob cat). The highlight of the talk featured three live birds which seemed as enamored with the audience as it was with them. Wide eyed, the two owls stretched their enormous wings and winked at the crowd. The red tail hawk, Naomi, blind in one eye, prompted questions about falconry wowing the group with her red skirt and curious looks. These are rescued animals deemed unable to survive in the wild and therefore serve as ambassadors of their world. **Whittier Narrows Nature Center** is open all year. For more information call (626) 575-5523.



The Finlay siblings (L-R) Ethan, Brielle and Preston share pelts with the audience.



Ranger MacKay introduces a rescued barn owl which seemed as enamored with the audience as it was with him.

## BOB & JAN WIGHT'S PASSINGS LEAVE A VOID



*Jan & Bob Wight*

Long time museum supporters, Bob and Jan Wight worked diligently for many years to make Duarte a better place. Jan died on May 2. Bob passed away on August 11.

## STEREOSCOPE ATTRACTS STUDENT VISITORS



In this digital age, young visitors seem to be drawn to the Museum's stereoscope.

Ted Taylor, a museum volunteer, has donated dozens of images for the stereoscope from a collection that belonged to his brother. It is among his "Taylor Treasures." The earliest stereoscope was invented by Sir Charles Wheatstone in 1838. The first practical photo processing was not yet invented so drawings were used. Taylor has lived in Bradbury since 1962.

### DO YOU WANT THIS NEWSLETTER?

The Branding Iron is available on the Museum website at [www.RanchoDeDuarte.org](http://www.RanchoDeDuarte.org). A hard copy is mailed only to dues-paying members.

## MUSEUM JOINS CITY IN CELEBRATING NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!



*Nashita Abbas, 10,  
on hostess duty*



*Jim Constantian and his  
vintage music machines*

Celebrating National Night Out on August 2 in Encanto Park, the Museum held an open house and welcomed many first time visitors. Glenn Miller music and the like streamed from the vintage music machines of Jim Constantian, and docents led tours throughout the evening.

## GUIDE TO HISTORICAL MUSEUMS OF THE SGV

A guide was compiled several years ago by Curator Irwin Margiloff, now deceased, listing the historical museums in the SG Valley. This brochure has been updated and is available free at the museum. It sets forth locations contact information and operating hours.

### 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 (626) 523-6622.**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT**  
**www.RanchoDeDuarte.org**

Contact Us

Phone: (626) 357-9419  
 Email: info@RanchoDeDuarte.org  
 Twitter: @RanchoDeDuarte  
 Instagram: @RanchoDeDuarte

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Oct. 15, 11:00 a.m.:** Marble competition- Museum.

**Oct. 19, 4:30 p.m.:** Board meeting at Museum.

**Dec. 2, 6:00 p.m. :** The St. Francis Dam Disaster and General Meeting at Museum

**Dec. 10, 8-3 p.m.:** Winter Solstice Craft Fair & Flea Market, Encanto Park. To sell call (626) 358-0329.

**REMINDER:**  
**2017 DUES ARE DUE BY 1/1**

**DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM**

P.O. Box 263, Duarte, CA 91009-0263  
 777 Encanto Parkway, Duarte  
 (626) 357-9419

www.RanchoDeDuarte.org

Twitter & Instagram@RanchoDeDuarte

Open: Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays: 1-3 p.m.

President: Claudia Heller

Vice President: Sheri Uhlig

Treasurer: Steve Baker

Secretary: Zoe Osburn

Asst. Curator: Dilip Tiwari

Director: Boyd Leeson

Board Member: Jack Ochoa

Docent Coordinator: Sheri Uhlig

Photographer: Alan Heller

Exhibit Coordinators: Pauline Montgomery,  
 Mark Montgomery

Branding Iron: Claudia Heller, Jim Kirchner

Webmaster: Jack Ochoa, Jim Kirchner

Newspaper scanning project:

Dilip Tiwari and Kayko Jorgenson

Duarte Historical Society & Museum  
 c/o Claudia N. Heller  
 277 Opal Canyon Road  
 Duarte, CA 91010

