



The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

APRIL MAY JUNE 2019

OUR BITTER SWEET BLACK HISTORY

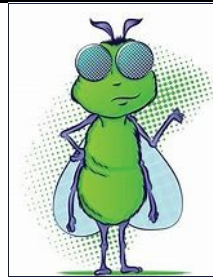


It was the grand opening of the Museum's Black History exhibit and as I studied the full house audience listening intently to the speakers I noted what a mixed group of people it represented: Blacks, Asians, Hispanics, Caucasian, and a host of mixtures. They were all intent on the program, and there was a warm and loving feeling throughout.

The honorees of the day stood before the crowd and reminisced about their journey. Most suffered the indignities of the 50s and 60s, but with courage and determination they emerged educated and successful. There was no regret in their voices, no hostility, and for the most part an air of humility.

Paula Watson Gardner talked of her mother's legacy, a protector of her family and the enforcer of high standards. Her mother Bernice Watson is the author of *On the Duarte*. Paula's father, Don, was the first Black mayor of Duarte and the first Black mayor in the San Gabriel Valley. He surpassed the indignities of being discouraged to buy a home in Duarte on Royal Oaks and went on to be one of our town's most beloved and productive mayors.

See page 3 (Black History)



LIONS ARE BIG BUT MOSQUITOS ARE MUCH MORE DANGEROUS

APRIL 27, 2:30 p.m. Free

Meet our local mosquitoes and find out how to be safe, how to help eradicate the buggers, and learn facts about them that never occurred to you. Levy of The SGV Vector Control will give a talk at the Museum and a program you've been itching to see. What you learn may save your life. An informative show for all ages. **An exhibit on the subject is now featured in the Museum and will remain through April. Please join us at the Duarte Museum!**

JOIN US ON MAY 24, 6:30 P.M. AT THE MUSEUM

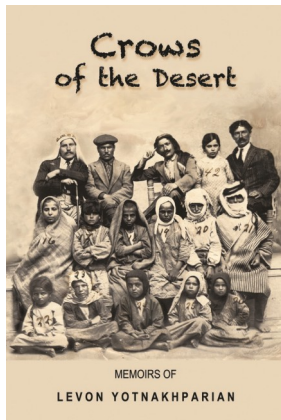
Gabrieleño Kizh Nation Presents

"Right Before Your Eyes"

Learn how the indigenous tribe of the Los Angeles basin has been able to survive for hundreds of years as told through a series of rare photos by tribal member, Tim Poyorena-Miguel.



Free admission



ARMENIAN GENOCIDE FILM HAS LOCAL LINK

CROWS OF THE DESERT: A Hero's Journey through the Armenian Genocide will play on **April 4, 7:00 p.m. at the Duarte PAC Center.** The documentary is based on the Memoirs of Levon Yotnakhparian,

grandfather of a Duarte resident by the same name known affectionately as Mr. Y, ROP instructor at DHS and manager of DCTV. Admission is free. Mr. Y's grandfather is credited with saving many lives during this tragedy. Mr. Y lived with his grandfather as a child living in Gaza.

KIM ANDERSON DOCENT OF THE YEAR



Born and raised in Monrovia, Kim Anderson, 82, is a walking history book. He has vivid memories of Duarte and Monrovia in the days of eateries, businesses and buildings that are long gone and forgotten. He is a long time docent at the Duarte museum.

In the Museum main room is an extensive photo exhibit of the San Gabriel River during the flood of 1938, and it shockingly documents the partial collapse of the Puente Largo Bridge. Those photos were taken by Kim's grandfather.

Kim graduated from Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte High School. He was drafted into the Army and became a radar operator for the Nike Hercules Missile Site. He then worked as a driver for a concrete company and is now retired.

When Kim turned 66 years of age, he drove the Mother Road by himself. He often travels to train yards, ghost towns and museums near and far. The Museum is fortunate to have him as a volunteer.

JOIN THE 2019 ROUTE 66 PARADE COMMITTEE



A few years ago, parade day came and there was no parade. Without volunteers on the Parade Committee there will be no festivities. The Committee will be meeting monthly. If you wish to help,

call Lois Gaston at 626 827-6732

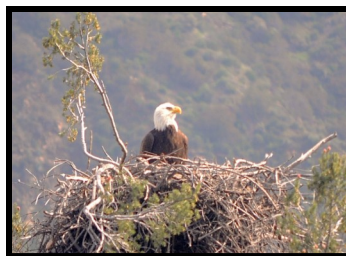
HISTORICAL TOUR OF WESTMINSTER GARDENS JUNE 20, 2 P.M.

In 1888 Dr. Wayland Morrison's father bought the twenty-seven acre site where Westminster Gardens stands today. It has been an important part of Duarte's history since then. Join us on a trip into Duarte's past as we tour the ranch and uncover its secrets. Easy walking. Sign up with Claudia at (626) 358-0329 or famheller@msn.com, or check the website for details: www.RanchoDeDuarte.org.

MONROVIA OLD HOME TOUR SET FOR MAY 4

This year's theme is "First Houses" featuring homes built before the end of 1887. Go to www.mohpg.org for details and ticket purchase. Two of the homes on the tour are Idlewild and the Monroe House.

THEY'RE BACK!



A nesting pair of bald eagles is raising two chicks near San Gabriel Dam off Highway 39 in Azusa Canyon. Local birdwatchers and pho-

tographers are delighted. The balds appeared several years ago but a tragedy occurred last year when the nest partially collapsed killing at least one eaglet. They built a new nest and seem to be thriving. They are federally protected and their safety is monitored by rangers in the area.

(Black History continued from page 1)

Ron Husband, the first Black animator at Walt Disney Studios, spoke softly and humbly, but his success spoke for itself and his present day aid to the youth is a boon to Duarte and Monrovia.

Ken Bell spoke of his early days relocating to a home in Duarte and the result of that decision on his life. His work on the L.A. County Sheriff's gang detail and his present days on the Duarte School Board kept the audience in awe, interrupted only by laughter as Ken so aptly provokes.

Everett Adams recalled his football days. He was born in Duarte and lived on a citrus ranch where his father was supervisor. His memories of those days read like a like a history novel, and his descriptions of early life in Duarte were well received.

Larry Walls' story is set forth in his book: *Hurdles: Struggles of a Black Man in the Land of Milk and Honey*. From his violence filled life in Duarte's Rock Town to becoming an attorney and now a mentor for young people who struggle to get ahead, he is well respected in Duarte and an advocate for scholar athletes.

And of course, Lois Gaston, who proceeded to name about everyone in attendance and thank them for working with her on myriad projects in town. She also remembered the struggle for her family to purchase a home in Duarte above Royal Oaks.

Mayor Tzeitel Paras Caracci and Councilmember John Fasana awarded certificates to the honorees with the help of Karen Herrera, assistant city manager. Honorees not in attendance were Loyd Gibbons, Demetrius May, Darius Reese, Hardiman Cureton, Nate Jacquet and Dr. Sylvia Whitlock.

By: Claudia Heller



IN MEMORY OF SHERI UHLIG

A lovely Allepo Pine tree has been planted behind the museum and a stone for her plaque installed. The plaque is on order and when it arrives a dedication will be held. If you wish to donate to the plaque

fund, see our website for details. For years Sheri served as vice president of the Museum and organized the docent schedule. She died suddenly on June 21.

The Horseless Carriage Club once again visited the Museum, put their lovely antique cars on display and served a pancake breakfast. Thanks to the Club and Rick Barakat, Bradbury Councilman. They promised to return again this year so watch for the date. We thank them for their generous donation.



THANK YOU to Yolanda Bowers for creating new matching badges for our new and old docents.

THANK YOU to Luz Porlier for replacing the tattered signs on the citrus label display.

THANK YOU to the scanners who spend countless hours scanning local newspapers dating back to the 1940s.

THANK YOU to Gerard Bautista, Field Services Manager for planting a tree honoring Sheri Uhlig.

ARE MY DUES DUE?

If you are not a life member, the answer is YES. Dues are due annually in January. Our members are generous knowing that the dues are what sustain the Society, pay for this newsletter and allow us to stay afloat, buy equipment when needed, and keep our exhibits and library in good order. Our staff is all-volunteer. So, please mail your check to P.O. Box 263, 91009, or through PayPal on our Website at www.RanchoDeDuarte.org.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.RanchoDeDuarte.org

Phone: (626) 357-9419

Email: info@RanchoDeDuarte.org

Instagram: @RanchoDeDuarte

Twitter: @RanchoDeDuarte

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

April 4, 7:00 p.m.: Crows in the Desert, PAC Center. Free.

April 24, 4:30 p.m.: Board Meeting at Museum.

April 27, 2:00 p.m.: Mosquito Show! Free.

May 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.: Historic Home Tour in Monrovia. See: www.MOHPG.org.

May 8, 5-8 p.m.: Taste of Duarte at Westminster Gardens, call Duarte Chamber (626) 357-3333.

May 24, 6:30 p.m.: *Right Before your Eyes*, the story of the Gabrielino Kizh by Tim Miguel. Free.

June 20, 2 p.m.: Westminster Gardens tour. Free.

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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www.RanchoDeDuarte.org

Twitter & Instagram@RanchoDeDuarte

Open: Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

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

President: Claudia Heller

Vice President: Sharman Warner

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Asst. Curator: Dilip Tiwari

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Board Member: Liz Reilly

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Exhibit coordinator: Mark Montgomery

Photographer: Alan Heller

Student Tour Coordinator: Zoe Osburn

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Webmaster: Jim Kirchner

Newspaper scanning project:

Dilip Tiwari and Kayko Jorgenson

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