



The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

OCT., NOV., DEC. 2021



LIZ REILLY TAKES OVER AS DHS PRESIDENT

President's Message

I am humbled and thrilled to have been elected President of the Duarte Historical Society and Museum. I am ready, willing, and able to take the Duarte Museum to the next level. I am excited about the possibilities.

My family and I have lived in Duarte since 1987. My oldest daughter, Beth, was about to begin Kindergarten and my younger daughter, Kate, was just 5 months old. Having grown up in Utica, New York, my husband and I wanted to raise our daughters in a small town atmosphere, learning the values that made America great.

When my daughters entered school, I began my volunteer work with the PTA at Valley View. As my girls moved to Northview Intermediate and Duarte High, so did I. There was no better way to make sure they had the best public education possible then as a PTA president. Volunteering was something my parents instilled in me. Public service is the price we pay for being part of a community. You pay it forward, expecting nothing in return.

I want to thank the Museum Board of Directors for enthusiastically welcoming me. I, especially, want to thank Claudia Heller for her support and encouragement. This will certainly be a new and unique venture for me. I'm grateful that Claudia will remain on the Board to help with a smooth period of transition. She has done an admirable job leading the Duarte Historical Society & Museum as President for the past 25 years. Her leadership has been stellar and much appreciated.

I have some ambitious plans to elevate and expand our Duarte Historical Museum. Initially, the Board and I have begun visiting area museums (the Gilb Museum in Arcadia was our first visit) to see how they are set up and to glean information from their directors. I want to thank Sharman Warner, first vice president, and Dilip Tiwari, curator, for their support and assistance in this effort. I believe that the Duarte Museum is a beautiful gem in the rough. It will be a showcase for the history of Duarte and its families. However, I cannot do it by myself. Many hands make light the work. Whatever your skill set or abilities, whether you can volunteer for a few hours or many, if you are willing to volunteer, there are plenty of ways that you can help. WE NEED YOU. We cannot do it alone.

Got any suggestions about what you would like to see at the Museum? I'd love to hear from you. Call or text me at 626 253-6600; email me at 4lizreilly@gmail.com. Hoping to hear from you soon. Liz

The Duarte Historical Society & Museum
officers for 2021-2023 are:

President Liz Reilly.
Curator: Dilip Tiwari
Vice President: Sharman Warner.
Secretary: Evette Arcaro.
Treasurer: Steve Baker.
Board Member: JudyAnn Blake.
Board Member: Claudia Heller.

PAULINE MONTGOMERY
9/27/37—9/19/21

**Our condolences to Mark and family
for the loss of his mother, Pauline.
RIP**



A LOVING TRIBUTE TO VICTORIA DUARTE CORDOVA

As long as I can remember, our Aunt Vicky was the matriarch of our family as well as the "keeper" of our families history.

Her sister Beatrice Duarte Cuellar (my grandmother) passed away when I was very young but I do remember Vicky was always very close to her and all of her nieces and nephews. I grew up living next-door to aunt Vicky in Arcadia before she moved back to Duarte. Every Sunday I'd go with aunt Vicky and (her mother, my Great Grandmother) Albertina Rosenda Serradell who we called "Grandma George" to the church service at San Gabriel mission. My earliest memories were of sitting through the long church service not only in English but Latin as well!

The highlight of the Sundays was afterwards when everyone would gather to talk and catch up with each other there was always punch and cookies!

Vicky always spent part of the day telling me and which ever other cousin came along, stories about our family and how we were connected to the San Gabriel mission.

She was so passionate about her genealogy studies and discoveries and wouldn't hesitate to take the time to share the information with anybody (family) willing to listen.

I would go next door sometimes to visit her and she would spend hours telling me about our family's history. But being so young, I'd pretty quickly lose track of what she was saying -she was trying to share so much information, at that time it was just way too much for my nine year old brain to take in!

VICTORIA DUARTE CORDOVA (continued)

I remember when she gave me my very own copy of our family tree, It went back nine generations from my grandmother! I remember her going over each entry and telling me about each person. At that time she was especially fascinated with Eulalia Perez who worked for San Gabriel mission as "keeper of the keys".

The summer I turned 11 we moved to Oregon although our family all stayed very close, my time with Aunt Vicky was now letters and a yearly visit.

Unfortunately as it often happens I think we were all a bit lazy assuming Aunt Vicky would be around forever to carry this wealth of information she had.

I know that it was a great wish of hers that someone in the family would continue the genealogy work that she did for so much of her life. It's very sad that none of us did but we are very very fortunate that with Vicky's involvement in the Duarte Historical Society our family history is safe for future generations.

I can't begin to express my appreciation to all of you who put so much time and effort into preserving the history of Duarte for all of the generations to come.

REBECCA CUELLAR HAN

RANCHO DUARTE?

In 1977 Duarte city council members and many residents were bent on upgrading the City's reputation by renaming the town "Rancho Duarte." The idea was passed about but eventually dropped.

Former council member Robert Harbicht later revitalized the idea. He felt the name change would recognize the civic improvements and added it would reflect the City's history. The idea grew to rename the city "Rancho Duarte," a change to add a touch of class. Reaching out to Duarte residents, the idea was widely discussed by residents and the city council, but in the end the name change was rejected and today we remain simply "Duarte."

GIFT OF A PIANO

The Samuel Maxwell family came to Duarte in the early 1880s, buying the home ranch (44 acres) from Nehemiah Beardslee and improving the beautiful adobe home. The three girls, Rose, Marguerite and Marie, grew up in Duarte enjoying the ranch and the life of the growing community. The beautiful piano is a gift from them.



MEET BLAINE HEBERT

This charming man spent more than an hour getting acquainted with the inner workings of the Museum's 1890 piano. He removed and studied the dust covered pieces and when finished, his diagnosis was not surprising. The piano is the last of the square grand pianos and although he said he could get it working, it would not be worth it. The felt has been eaten by a culprit called a carpet beetle



Local artist Pete Morris holds his painting of the Shamrock gas station in Monrovia. The Museum will feature his art work in a show to be scheduled when Covid protocols allow.



Great great granddaughters of Andres Duarte: Connie Ganales and Lisa Weeks

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY TO STEVE BAKER



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

Phone: (626) 357-9419

Email: info@RanchoDeDuarte.org

Instagram: @RanchoDeDuarte

Twitter: @RanchoDeDuarte

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE PAID THEIR 2021 DUES. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT: Jennie Avila, Kim Anderson, Steve Baker, BJ Casarez, Grace Clark, Jim Constantian, Candy Daugherty, Harry and Connie Heflin, Alan & Claudia Heller, Larry Walls. Ruby Shiroma, Lois Gaston, Ken Bell, Shirley Halburian Ann Valleroy, Yolanda Bowers, Warner family; Nancy Soluri, Rich Whalen, Liz Reilly,

2022 DUES DUE JANUARY 1, 2022.
See RanchoDeDuarte.org for details

**DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY &
MUSEUM**

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(626) 357-9419

www.RanchoDeDuarte.org

Twitter & Instagram@RanchoDeDuarte

Open: Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

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

Closed holidays

President: Liz Reilly

Vice President: Sharman Warner

Treasurer: Steve Baker

Secretary: Evette Arcaro

Curator: Dilip Tiwari

Board Member: Judy Blake

Board Member: Claudia Heller

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