



The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JAN-MAR 2023

Happy New Year 2023



This beautiful photo of a Joshua Tree with Christmas lights was captured by one of our docents, Tokuo Nakamoto some 45 years ago. The serenity and peacefulness of the image brought joy to my heart.

We are in the season of giving. This is a time of reflection about why we are grateful.

I am grateful for our docents and volunteers. The many who have kept this museum going, staffed, and welcoming to visitors. I am grateful for the sorting and organizing tasks you have completed. Thank you for sharing your time and talent with The Duarte Historical Museum.

I am grateful to Rose Gant, Dennis Rocklein, and Yusuf Mansuri for your help in clearing out the large storeroom in preparation for the new flooring. I look forward to converting that room into a Route 66 Room and consolidating the Museum's Route 66 memorabilia into one area.

I am grateful to Dilip Tiwari for his assistance in planning and updating the Citrus Room, designing new information signs, and taking care of the Newspaper Scanning Project.

I am grateful to Janice Buck, Penny Jung, and Kayko Jorgenson for their precise and detailed work on the Newspaper Scanning Project.

I am grateful to the Duarte Museum Board of Directors - Sharman Warner, Evette Arcaro, Connie Ream, Judy Ann Blake, Dilip Tiwari, Jim Kirchner (webmaster), and Mark Montgomery (Exhibits).

Your support and engagement makes the Duarte Museum possible.

2022 has been a remarkable year.

- *All the plumbing was replaced in the bathrooms and the kitchen.

- *Jerry Delker built shelves in the small storeroom for a more efficient use of the "shower" area.

- *The Citrus Room was updated to better showcase our displays.

- *The city built shelving in the back bathroom closet.

- * Our Speaker Series returned.

2023 promises to bring more changes.

- *The Duarte Museum will be having new flooring installed throughout.

- *The large storeroom will be converted into the new Route 66 Room.

- *The main exhibit room will have a different configuration.

- *Volunteer Appreciation dinner at The Old Spaghetti Factory, January 15, 2 pm.

My wishes for you in the New Year are many!

May the New Year bring you health, blessings,
and gladness in your heart.

May your home be filled with laughter,
happiness, and joy.

May your pockets be heavy and
your heart be light.

May your days be filled with fond memories.
May the saddest day of your future be no worse
than the happiest day of your past.

May your right hand always be stretched out in
friendship and never in need.





President's Message

For our Speaker Series, Tokuo Nakamoto spoke about our solar system; while on September 25, Tim Thompson discussed the many significant strides in astronomy that occurred at the Mt Wilson Observatory.

Unfortunately, there was some vandalism done to a window in the Citrus Room - a hole the size of a baseball and the screen had been ripped open. The result was that the Citrus Room now has a brand new window.

The Duarte Museum participated in both the Emergency Prep Fair at Encanto Park and in the city picnic on September 24 at Royal Oaks Park. We sold Route 66 t-shirts, Route 66 buttons, and books by our own Claudia and Alan Heller.



Claudia Heller, Judy Ann Blake, Alan Heller,
Liz Reilly, Mark Montgomery

PLEASE SUPPORT THE DUARTE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND
MUSEUM
BY PAYING YOUR 2023 DUES.
THANK YOU

**MONROVIA DUARTE
BLACK ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**

presents:
**MONROVIA
CHANGEMAKERS**

**Sunday, February 5, 2023
2 PM - 4 PM**

Duarte Historical Museum
777 Encanto Pkwy., Duarte, Ca 91010

**Monrovia Changemakers will be sharing
back stories to the making of the
Monrovia's Changemakers book.**

Once again, this year, the Monrovia-Duarte Black Alumni Association will display a Black History exhibit at the Duarte Historical Museum in January and February. This year's Black History Month theme is "What is Your Life's Blueprint"? Guest speaker Dr. Lanita Barnes will present a program on January 15 at 2 pm.

Then on February 5, 2023 at 2:30, MDBAA will present "Monrovia Changemakers", a panel sharing their stories. Former Duarte Mayor Lois Gaston will serve as moderator.

Please join us for what will be a very inspiring event.



Visitor and granddaughter look through binder showing how the Duarte Museum was moved to Encanto Park.

Smudge Pots



Smudge pots at work in an orange grove.

To prevent chilly weather from injuring their crop, growers would light these very inefficient burners at closely-spaced points within their groves.

The smudge pot put out enough heat, and the oily smoke created enough of an inversion layer close to the ground, to keep the fruit from freezing, which would spoil it.

This could save a crop even though the temperature might be several degrees below freezing.

Of course, a deeper freeze could not be fought with this equipment.

The smaller torch would be used to light the stationary smudge pots as the operator walked around the grove.

Smudge pots are still in use today, though not locally, to protect citrus and sugar crops in Florida from slightly sub-freezing overnight weather.

The smudge pot would not be acceptable today in California because it creates a blanket of smoke (air pollution) to work.



Torch being used to light smudge pots in citrus grove during cold temperatures, creating a blanket of smoke.



Steve Baker, Docent Extraordinaire

Steve Baker wore many hats for the Duarte Historical Society

and Museum. He was our Treasurer from 1980 to 2022. He was the docent who knew all the details about the artifacts in the Duarte Museum. He could spend endless hours giving you the who, what, where, and how about the early families of Duarte.

Steve loved giving tours around Live Oak Cemetery, showing this grave or that headstone, and explaining how they were related to each other and to our history. He was patient, kind, generous, and thoughtful. He is missed.

Steve Baker also served as the official town historian of Monrovia from 1991 until his unexpected death in April of 2022. His knowledge and instant recall of all things in Monrovia's past and present earned him the well deserved admiration of all those wishing to learn more about the town's past.

Created and designed by Brad Haugaard, a member of the Monrovia Historical Museum, the web app, <http://stevebakersmonrovia.com>, allows users to locate specific locations in Monrovia, to learn about the buildings that existed over 100 years ago, which homes and buildings are still standing today, and learn about the events that shaped Monrovia's history.

There is also a link to Steve Baker's Monrovia on the Duarte Historical Museum website at www.RanchoDeDuarte.org. This app is fascinating viewing for anyone interested in local history.



Steve celebrating his 80th birthday at the Duarte Museum.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE MUSEUM BY
PAYING YOUR 2023 DUES.**

Individual: \$20 Student/Senior/Docent \$15

Family: \$30

Business/Organization: \$100

www.RanchoDeDuarte.org

For Secure PayPal Payment Process

THANK YOU

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Duarte Historical Society & Museum

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www.RanchoDeDuarte.org

Open: Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

Wednesdays: 1-3 p.m.

President: Liz Reilly

Vice President: Sharman Warner

Treasurer: Evette Arcaro

Secretary: Connie Ream

Hospitality: Judy Ann Blake

Curator: Dilip Tiwari

Docent Coordinator: Sharman Warner

Exhibit Coordinator: Mark Montgomery

President Emeritus: Claudia Heller

Photographer: Alan Heller

Branding Iron: Liz Reilly

Duarte Historical Society & Museum

c/o Liz Reilly

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Duarte, CA 91010

RanchoDeDuarte.org

