



The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCT.-DEC. 2014

President's Message

Claudia Heller

Welcome to the new and improved Duarte Historical Society. Since moving the Museum to Encanto Park, we have focused on keeping the museum open and staffed, as well as providing programs, nature walks and cultural events for the public to enjoy. Each month people from all over call with history-related questions which need to be researched and answered.

However, as we have executed these goals, we realize that we have allowed some of our more mundane responsibilities to lapse. We are now going to remedy that problem. We are re-writing our by-laws and constitution. We have hired a consultant to aid in applying for a 501C which will open the door for better fundraising.

We are purchasing a new alarm system to replace the ancient and troublesome alarm we have used for years and a more efficient fire alarm system. We are bent on scheduling regular general meetings, holding elections, and updating our incorporation papers. If you would like to assist on the Board, please call me to discuss (626) 358-0329.

BIRD WALK: There will be no Fall Bird Walk. Watch for the date of our Spring Walk in the next newsletter.

WE BID FAREWELL TO OUR ESTEEMED CURATOR IRWIN MARGILOFF



**IRWIN BODEE MARGILOFF
1931-2014**

Photo by Dilip Tiwari

How is it that an engineer who held fourteen patents and lived in New York most of his life became an expert in Duarte history? When Irwin Margiloff and his wife Dorine moved to Duarte in 1991, they soon visited the Duarte Historical Museum and became immersed in our local history. True, he was always interested in history wherever he was, but his passion for Duarte history beckoned him on quests that few had attempted before. On October 11, 1994 he officially became the Museum Curator.

In his own words: "One of the pleasures of serving as Curator is that I have the opportunity to interact with not

(Continued on page 3)

ZOE OSBURN APPOINTED DHS SECRETARY



Vermiculturalist Zoe Osburn has been appointed as the Historical Society Secretary. The Board has functioned with no secretary for two years so this appointment is a great relief. A woman of many talents, Zoe has worked in a variety of capacities including managing a bed and breakfast, and owner of a café, and of a commercial printing business. She currently lives on the Duarte Mesa where she raises worms and is an organic gardener.

SEPTEMBER MIXER BRINGS CHAMBER TO THE MUSEUM



(L-R) City Manager Darrell George, Sheryl Lefmann, and Mayor Pro Tem Tzeitel Paras

The September Duarte Chamber Mixer brought a business friendly crowd to the Duarte Museum to enjoy a warm evening of socializing. Slaw Dogs, Sushi Fire and Cabrera's served food while the Lemonade Brigade mixed up mint lemonade.

ANNUAL ROUTE 66 PARADE AND CITY PICNIC



Another successful Route 66 Parade, our 19th Annual. The DHS Booth featured a book sale, postcards, Rt. 66 mugs and collectible parade pins.

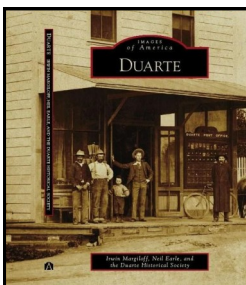


Sheri Uhlig works the Museum booth.

(Margiloff, from page 1)

only the public but also with people who have made Duarte the town it is today.” He had intense conversations with members of the Duarte family and became a close friend of Vicki Duarte Cordova, the great-great granddaughter of Andres Duarte. He was also in contact with members of the Beardslee, Fowler and Morrison families, all integral players in Duarte history.

Vicki shared many stories with Irwin, and as an active member of the “Duarte in Bronze Committee” his aim was to assure that the final statue plans were approved by the Duarte family. He worked with Vicki, Edgar Perez and Phyllis Ramos, all members of the extended Duarte family,



Because of his knowledge of local history, Arcadia Publishing asked Irwin to author a book for its *Images of America* series. Together with Neil Earle, Irwin spent countless hours researching and scouring the archives.

Irwin died on July 25, a great loss to us all. The museum, and by extension, the community, has been enriched by his tireless volunteer work. Many museum exhibits and archived records are the result of his tenacity. Irwin enjoyed serving as a docent, leading tours for the public, working on the book and promoting it. A plaque in his name will be unveiled on November 15 at 2 pm. at the Museum.

AUTHOR-PUBLISHER POMEROY TO SPEAK AT MUSEUM NOV. 23 AT 2 P.M.



The Duarte Historical Society general meeting will feature publisher Elizabeth Pomeroy on the newest book from her Many Moons Press: *The Southern Sierras of California* by Charles Francis Saunders. This is a new edition of the 1923 classic on our San Gabriel, San Bernardino and Santa Monica Mountains. In his writings Saunders tells of his encounters in the 1910s and 20s with Southern California mountain folk, homesteaders, wanderers, beekeepers and miners.

Pomeroy will also discuss the plants of the Southern Sierras as set forth in the book *Theodore Payne in His Own Words, A Voice for California Plants*.

Payne (1872-1963) was a life long-horticulturist who pioneered the preservation of California native plants.

A short business meeting will follow the program in which the membership will vote on Executive Board officers. Current members are urged to attend the business meeting as a quorum is required.

**IRWIN BODEE MARGILOFF
DEDICATION OF CITRUS ROOM
AND PLAQUE
FEATURING THE REVEREND
NEIL EARLE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15
AT 2 P.M.
PLEASE JOIN US**

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE MUSEUM BY
PAYING YOUR 2015 DUES. Student/teacher:
\$10; Individual: \$15; Family: \$25; Business/
Organization: \$100; Lifetime: \$500. Dues help
pay for this newsletter and our monthly
operating costs. THANK YOU**

✓ MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TOMBSTONES: A virtual walk among the tombstones at Live Oak Cemetery dating back to 1887. Historian Steve Baker will present this history show at the Duarte Library on Saturday, **October 18, 1 p.m.** Free.

IRWIN MARGILOFF PLAQUE DEDICATION: Saturday, **November 15, 2 p.m.** at the Museum.

GENERAL MEETING and TALK BY ELIZABETH POMEROY: Sunday, **November 23 at 2 p.m.** at the Museum.

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



Duarte Historical Society & Museum

P.O. Box 263, Duarte, CA 91009-0263

777 Encanto Parkway, Duarte

(626) 357-9419

Open: Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

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

Web page: www.duartehistory.org

President: Claudia Heller

Vice President: Sheri Uhlig

Treasurer: Steve Baker

Secretary: Zoe Osburn

Asst. Curator: Dilip Tiwari

Director: Boyd Leeson

Docent Coordinators: Sheri Uhlig

Video Library: Mr. Y,

Photographer: Alan Heller

Exhibit Coordinators: Pauline Montgomery,

Mark Montgomery

Branding Iron: Claudia Heller, Jim Kirchner

Web master: HELP WE NEED YOU