



The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

JAN., FEB., MARCH 2022



The President's message...

There are lots of exciting things happening at the Duarte Museum.

In January and February 2022, the Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association will be providing its first historical exhibit at the Duarte Museum. And as part of our Museum Speakers Series, a speaker in February will talk about local history.

Our curator, Dilip Tiwari, and I have been working on a large banner to hang on the museum portico that will show the days and times the museum is open and that admission is FREE. I am hoping that the visibility of the banner will encourage more people to visit.

New docent name tags are coming. We want to make sure we spell your name correctly on the badges. Coordinator Sharman Warner has emailed docents a survey asking for updated email addresses, street addresses, and cell/home phone numbers.

At the last Board meeting we discussed the possibility of expanding the museum days and hours of operation. The survey asks docents which day works best for them to volunteer at the Duarte Museum.

Wednesdays from 1 pm. to 4 pm

Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm

Saturdays from 1pm to 4 pm

We had a wonderful tribute dinner for Claudia and Alan Heller in October. Many friends from far and near honored them for more than thirty years of

Presidents message continued

service to the community and to the Duarte Historical Society & Museum. Thank you for ALL you do.

The donation container at the merchandise counter needs updating. Any suggestions as to what we can use in its place that looks better?

Do you have any ideas or suggestions for changes you would like to see at the Duarte Museum? I'd love to hear about them. Contact me at 626.253-6600. -Liz Reilly

HELLERS HONORED AT THE AZTEC



Joan Clayton Schmidt makes a presentation to the Hellers

It was a gala event the Aztec Patio filled with friends of the Museum when they gathered to honor Alan and Claudia Heller as the couple retired after 30 years on the museum Board as Claudia stepped down as president, handing over the gavel to Liz Reilly.

The evening was organized by the Hellers' daughter Holiday who is a docent and museum helper. Esteemed guests presented gifts and talks, and bigfoot (yes, bigfoot) was on hand throughout.

HOW WE GET AROUND

They say that history repeats itself and that's certainly true of the transportation evolution which unfolded in the San Gabriel Valley, with the nearly one billion dollar Gold Line Foothill Extension from Pasadena to Azusa.

Many consider electric rail the future of transportation, but the region actually had it more than a century ago. From the early to mid-1900s, SoCal was abuzz with electric rail service.

Before the car culture of Los Angeles consumed the landscape, the area was blanketed by a webwork of rails stretching from the mountains to the sea. It was the Pacific Electric Railway. From 1901 to 1961, the Pacific Electric, otherwise known as the Red Car, provided an inexpensive and classy way for residents, shoppers and businessmen to get around.

MUSEUM RECEIVES CALAM SMALL BUSINESS COVID 19 RELIEF GRANT

I am pleased to announce that the Duarte Museum has received wonderful news.

The Duarte Historical Society & Museum was selected to receive the California Small Business Covid-19 Relief Grant of \$5000. I applied for this grant and sent in the required documents in September and was very heartened to be selected to provide additional documentation in October.

To be eligible, a small business or small nonprofit must satisfy several criteria—has a physical address, and has operated in California since at least June 1, 2019, is in good standing as a registered 501©(3), has been impacted by COVID-19 health and safety restrictions.

What a great gift at Christmas time.

Liz

BIRD WALK IN ENCANTO PARK YIELDS 18 SPECIES



Sharman, Ron, Liz

Ron Cyger of L.A. Birders led a museum group of birders on the bioswale trail in Encanto Park and across to the Puente Largo bridge. Eighteen species were spotted, and it seems the favorite was Robins.

Encanto Park, Los Angeles, California,

Nov 20, 2021 8:10 AM - 9:55 AM

0.71 mile(s)

Checklist Comments: Trip for Duarte Historical Society.

18 species

Mourning Dove 8

Anna's Hummingbird 8

Allen's Hummingbird 4

Turkey Vulture 3

Red-tailed Hawk 1 Perched north of bridge crossing the SGR.

Acorn Woodpecker 1 On telephone pole north of park.

Red-crowned Parrot 2 Fly over.

Black Phoebe 3

American Crow 7

European Starling 1

Northern Mockingbird 2

American Robin 2

House Finch 20

Lesser Goldfinch 151

Lark Sparrow 2 Both difficult to see, perched in tree against grey sky

White-crowned Sparrow 24

California Towhee 3

Yellow-rumped Warbler 20

DUARTE HAS LOST A LEGEND:



Frances "Nita" Carey was an integral part of Duarte for most of her life. She was born in San Marino on September 2, 1925 and died on December 1 this year. She was 16 years old when she married Ed Carey in 1941 and they raised three children: Larry, Steve, and Sharon. Ed passed away in 2004.

"Both of my parents were always dedicated to the betterment of Duarte," says her daughter Sharon Fehring. "You know how some teenagers would be embarrassed to have their parents around? Well, that wasn't me. I always was proud to be in their presence."

Having moved to Duarte in 1949, Nita joined the Duarte Woman's Club in 1958 and was active on the Board for most of those years. She served as president in 1960 and again in 2009. She always fondly remembered riding in the Duarte Route 66 Parade with Margaret Kerry, better known as "Tinker Bell."

Nita's daughter Sharon says of her mother's hard work: "Mom deserves a great deal of praise for the multitude of hours she devoted to civic affairs. She was presented with so many awards that I ran out of wall space to hang them. But Mom was never about the acknowledgments; she devoted her time to volunteering because she enjoyed helping people."

Her son, Larry recalled "Back in the 50s and 60s my mom would sit on the front porch where she could watch my brother, Steve, and I hike the path to the top of the foothills before there were any houses there. As we would leave the house to hike the hill, Mom would always say 'Watch out for rattlesnakes!' That area is now the community of Bradbury."

Nita's many years of volunteering in Duarte put her in the forefront of numerous organizations. She fully supported Duarte Schools through the PTA, she lent a hand to the Duarte Chamber of Commerce when needed, and she supported DYAC, a sports organization which her family helped organize. Nita was a team mom and actively supported the Club and its young athletes for many years.

Some of the years she remembered so fondly were her poll worker days. When a friend called and asked if she would like to work at the local polling place in Duarte, Nita thought it might be fun, so she agreed to help. On November 4, 2008, she received recognition from the County Board of Supervisors for being the longest serving poll worker in Los Angeles County. That year she served for the 80th time. It was in 1952 when Eisenhower was on the ballot, that Nita first performed her civic duty. In the following years, she served numerous hours as a poll worker for national, city, primary, and school board elections in addition to a small water board election held in what was then called "Rock Town." Along the way she began working as an "inspector." and recalled that in the "old days I knew everyone who came in to vote, because we were a smaller town back then."

"Nita Carey was a true pillar in our community," says Mayor Pro Tem Margaret Finlay. "She left a mark of excellence and distinction upon a community that needed direction, to grow into the city that we have become. We will all remember her for her kindness to others and her always present smile and good works. The City of Duarte is a better place because Nita Carey worked hard to have it become such. She will be missed by many." Nita leaves behind, one brother, Jim, 3 children, 9 grandchildren and more than 15 great-grandchildren

JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 20
2:30—3:30

CHRIS LOOS will be hosting a conversation with
Barbara Gholar and Brian Richie.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.RanchoDeDuarte.org

Phone: (626) 357-9419

Email: info@RanchoDeDuarte.org

Instagram: @RanchoDeDuarte

Twitter: @RanchoDeDuarte

If you would like to volunteer to serve as a docent once every few months, please call Sharman Warner at (626) 358-2001. It is fun and educational.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE PAID THE 2022 DUES. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

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DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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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 Members: Judy Blake

Claudia Heller

Exhibit coordinator: Mark Montgomery

Photographer: Alan Heller

Student Tour Coordinator: Liz Reilly

Branding Iron: Claudia Heller, Jim Kirchner

Webmaster: Jim Kirchner

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