

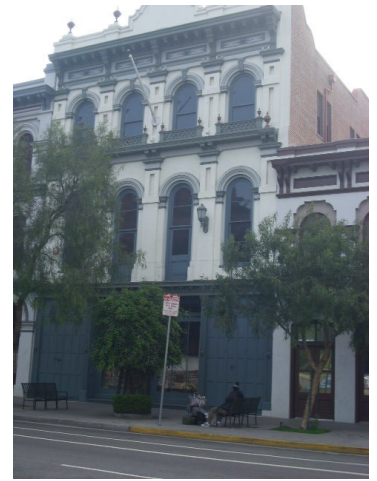


Las Angelitas del Pueblo Newsletter— Spring 2013

El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument
www.lasangelitas.org

IN THIS ISSUE

El Pueblo News	1
Events	2
Chinatown Tour	3
Angel News & Notes Recent Stats	4



NEWS AT EL PUEBLO

Suellen Cheng announced that the **Sepulveda House** has re-opened. Entry is from Olvera Street next to the Tropical America exhibit. Docents may want to mention all the museums available at El Pueblo: Avila House, Chinese-American Museum, Historic Firehouse, Historic Placita Church, Siqueiros Interpretive Center and La Plaza de Cultura y Artes.

The **Italian Hall** is finally being refurbished and brought up to code standards as the result of a \$1,000,000 grant. Work will include a new roof, new floors and other work to be finished on the interior of the building. It will be open to the public some time in 2014.

The most exciting news concerns the **Merced Theatre**. Los Angeles public access TV station, L.A. City View Channel 35, will establish its headquarters in the building with a central studio and office space. Improvements will include: First Floor Studio, Second Floor Theatre, Third Floor office space. Funding for the project comes from Public Education & Governmental Access fund.

All litigation concerning the use of **Pico House** has been cleared up. El Pueblo would like to lease out office space on the second and third floors when the restrooms are repaired. First floor will remain available for art shows, meetings and party gatherings.

Bike Nation is establishing a kiosk on Alameda Street where bicyclists can rent, ride and return bikes for a fee. There will be 15 bicycle docks around the downtown area which will include a solar powered kiosk and a map panel. These reliable rental bikes have airless tires and a chainless drive train.

Grapevine is a small newsletter published monthly by El Pueblo Administration. To see or print a copy you can go to El Pueblo's website — www.ci.la.us/elp The website also contains a lot of interesting information about our favorite historical site.



Origins: The Birth and Rise of Chinese American Communities in Los Angeles

This new permanent exhibit is the latest addition to the Chinese American museum. It took 10 years to develop and install and it opened in December. The exhibit details the development of three different Los Angeles Chinese communities.

Historic Chinatown was developed in the 1870s. Chinese farmers in Los Angeles were the main source of fresh produce for the growing population. They sold their produce at the City Market and from peddler carts that traveled through the city.

New Chinatown, on North Broadway, is the only 'Chinatown' developed by the Chinese community. It was built when old Chinatown was razed to build Union Station. California Governor Frank Merriam dedicated the West Gate of Chinatown's Central Plaza on June 25, 1938.

Monterey Park is the first Chinese-American suburb in the U.S. In the 1970's the city's residential properties were promoted by Frederic Hsieh of Mandarin Realty Co. who advertised in Taiwan. He was a member in the local Chamber of Commerce.

Las Angelitas should explore these details of our local Chinese communities.

LOS ANGELES HERITAGE DAY

**Sunday, April 14, 2013
11:00 am — 4:00 pm
FREE**

**70 Heritage Organizations
of Los Angeles County
Showcase Their History
inside the Pico House at
El Pueblo
Historical Monument**

**Displays, Activities,
& Tours**

ELMO, OUR GOOD FRIEND

Elmo Gambarana, the Fire House docent for many years, passed away quietly on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at the age of 86 years. He could always be counted upon to be upbeat and helpful to Angelitas docents and donated publications to our library before his death.

A memorial event to celebrate Elmo's life will be held on his birthday, Tuesday, April 9, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pico House. It would be an opportunity for you and his friends and colleagues to get together and share fond memories of Elmo. It will be a pot-luck event. Hope you are able to join us.

Elmo Gambarana was employed by McGraw-Hill for many years and upon retirement, remained very active as a member and volunteer with many local organizations. He received numerous commendations for his volunteer work.

Mr. Gambarana is survived by his sister, Elga King of New Jersey, nieces Diane King of Virginia and Valerie Dunn of New York, and grandnieces and grandnephews, who join with his many friends in celebrating his full and generous life. Mr. Gambarana will be interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Hollywood Hills, CA where donations in lieu of flowers may be sent to be given to his charitable choices.

CHINATOWN TOUR by Eileen Mendoza



In February my son called and suggested we go to Chinatown for dinner during the Chinese New Year celebration. To research events I went on the internet and found a great website www.chinatownla.com. The website contained several pages of history, events, shopping and dining information. There was also an invitation to join a 2.5 hour tour of Chinatown sponsored by the Chinese Business Improvement District (CBID). (Cost was \$20 per person.)



Shop with traditional ornaments, incense, etc.

One of the many Tong houses in the area. (family associations)



Lion Dog outside of one of the business associations. Area also contains many Asian banks.

This shop owned by the same family for approx. 100 years.



Statue of Dr. Sun Yat Sen in the Central Plaza

Taoist Temple on Yale St. Temple is fascinating study of Chinese customs.



ANGEL NEWS & NOTES



Las Angelitas new website is in place. If you do a search for Las Angelitas it will be the first item to pop up. It does need some extra work. More pictures and coming events will be added as development progresses. There will also be a link to the website Volunteer Spot where our docents can sign up for their tour dates.

Carmela Funicello and Katy Phillips are now Co-Directors of Meetings & Events replacing Michael Fujita. If you can recommend ideas for outings or speakers for future general meetings contact either Katy (626-833-3517) or Carmela (310-547-5807).

Lester and Kate Probst will staff our table at the Las Angelitas booth on Los Angeles Heritage Day, Sunday, April 14. If anyone wants to volunteer to give short tours that day please contact Frank Osmon. It should be a fun and informative day for everyone.

Our Annual Meeting on April 22 will include Board of Director's Reports. The guest speaker will be Andrew Salas who will tell us about the heritage of the Kizh Gabrielino Native Americans. Lunch will be provided for a donation of \$3.00 to \$5.00.

Plans are being made for the Holiday Party on December 14, 2013. The suggested site is El Paseo on Olvera St. This central location should be convenient for everyone.

COMING EVENTS

Please note on your 2013 calendars to save these important dates.

Mar. 18	2013 Docent Training Class Began
Apr. 1	Board Election Ballots Mailed
Apr. 14	L.A. Heritage Day At El Pueblo
Apr. 22	Annual Meeting - Board Director Reports
May	Dues Notices Mailed
June 17	El Pueblo Luncheon

RECENT TOUR STATS Total Touring Stats

	2012	2011
December		
Docent Hours	114	168
Persons Toured	454	443
	2013	2012
January		
Docent Hours	150	183
Persons Toured	336	708
February		
Docent Hours	144	177
Persons Toured	763	621

Editor: Eileen Mendoza
Ideas for the Newsletter? Contact me with history tidbits, news or notes, and interesting articles written by you!
cawhale19@aol.com 323-256-0645