



# Las Angelitas del Pueblo Newsletter— Fall 2014

El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument  
[www.lasangelitas.org](http://www.lasangelitas.org)

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## EL PUEBLO NEWS

At a recent board meeting Lisa Sarno outlined a full agenda of future developments at El Pueblo de Los Angeles.

- ♦ **Avila House'** Patio is closed at present while the tree is being removed and patio tiles are replaced. Restroom plumbing is being updated. New history panels are being installed by the back door.
- ♦ California State Parks will develop the **Hellman-Quon** building into a 'Discovery Center' which will include a bookstore.
- ♦ **Italian Hall** is being readied for a grand opening in Spring of 2015.
- ♦ County of Los Angeles will develop the land west of **La Plaza de Cultura y Artes** by building mixed use structures that will include condominiums and storefronts.
- ♦ Restoration of the **Merced Theatre** by the public access Los Angeles TV station will take place between 2015 thru 2017.
- ♦ **Pico House** will be dark during January and February 2015 while the floors are being replaced.
- ♦ **Western National Park Association** is our new neighbor in the office next door. They are only open on a part time basis at present.

The Park's administration along with the EPPA board have extended invitations to different communities (Black/African-American & Native American/Tongva) to become more active at El Pueblo. Administration is also trying to integrate more historical presentations at the different events at the park. The immediate future events include: *Sacred Memories* (Dias de los Muertos) exhibits in October; *Lighting of the Holiday Tree* in late November.

## Graduates of Las Angelitas' 2014 Summer Docent Training Class

Las Angelitas now have an additional dozen new provisional docents. The first Saturday training class in five years held its graduation on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. "We have an intelligent and enthusiastic group of new recruits," said Josie Garza, the docent trainer in charge of the Summer Class of 2014.

Among the graduates were Marina Busatto, Juanita Clark, Nancy Delgado, Tony (Matias) Franco, Giedre Petraitis, Anthony Ramirez, Eric Roberts, Theo (Theodore) Robinson, Chris Roten, Christiana Saldana, Victoria Sigler, and Brian White.

After various class activities, Elizabeth Fenner, vice president of Las Angelitas, and Josie Garza presided over the graduation ceremony which included the presentation of the solid colored lanyards and engraved name tags. Each graduate was also presented with a copy of our very own DVD on El Pueblo. Michael Fujita was the official photographer of the ceremony. He has made a point to photograph each new Angelita so he/she may be included in the Angelitas' directory.

Five years ago, Josie was trained in the last Saturday docent training class. That class was taught by Kate Probst. "We started with two students and then immediately it went down to just me. I really appreciate the fact that Kate did not cancel that class. I was so lucky to have that one-on-one instruction. Can you imagine?" said Josie. It was Josie's idea to have this Saturday class. "After hearing that we were losing Angelitas through attrition, I pitched the idea for another Saturday class. I'm glad it was approved by leadership," she said.

Assisting Josie with the class at different times during its six Saturday duration were Kate Probst, Don Sloper, Elizabeth Fenner, and Michael Fujita (who photographed various class activities). Featured guest speakers or special tour guides were Chris Espinosa, El Pueblo General Manager, Lisa Sarno, Assistant General Manager of El Pueblo, Suellen Cheng, retired curator of El Pueblo, Bruce Phillips, President of Las Angelitas, and Richard Flores, this year's weekday docent of the year.

After the graduation ceremony, the majority of new Angelitas went to eat lunch together with Josie Garza and Michael Fujita at La Luz del Dia on Olvera Street. Although she couldn't stay for lunch, Elizabeth Fenner brought a chocolate cake for dessert. "Welcome new Angelitas!" was written on the cake.





## September's Walking Tour of Downtown Los Angeles

On September 29th Las Angelitas' members took a walking tour of Downtown Los Angeles. We met our guide, Damien (operator of **FreeLATour**), at the corner of 4th and Hill St. Damien is an enthusiastic history student from Great Britain who has studied our local history. First building we visited was the old Subway Terminal that was built in the early 20th century when auto traffic began to compete with the trolley system compelling establishment of a new subway system in the downtown area. We walked a short distance to the Grand Central Market, originally built in 1901 (renovated in recent years). We entered the Hill St. side of the market directly across from Angels Flight. We walked directly through the market to Broadway.



**Yummy, but no time to stop & shop.**

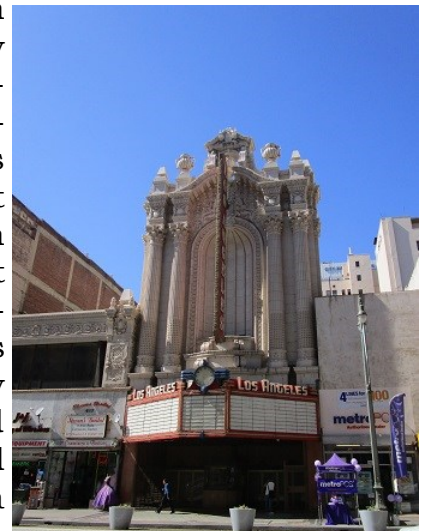


We walked down Broadway to 5th then over to Spring. Here was the Alexandria Hotel (built in 1906). Damien told us much of the history of the Alexandria and its beautiful Palm Court restaurant and dance hall. When Rudolf Valentino came to Los Angeles he was employed here as a dance instructor. Walking south on Spring we were informed that this was Los Angeles original Financial District. Damien pointed out some of these buildings. We stopped at the Arcade Building and walked through the renovated arcade (with many empty shop spaces) back to Broadway.



**Alexandria Hotel from the north on Fifth. Entrance faces east on Spring St.**

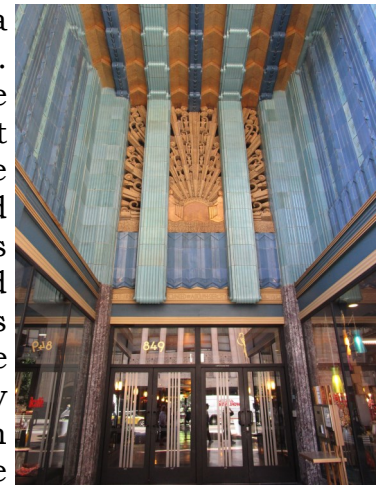
Walking south Damien talked about the Broadway Theatre District. The Los Angeles Theatre (my personal favorite) at 615 S. Broadway was completed in 1931. Architect was S. Charles Lee, designed in Renaissance Revival style. It opened with the Charlie Chaplin movie *City Lights*. Façade is five stories high. A majestically detailed lobby has a grand staircase leading to a crystal fountain. Theatre also had a glamorous ladies lounge.



## September's Walking Tour of Downtown Los Angeles (continued)



Next came the Eastern Columbia building with a classic art deco design. Located at 849 S. Broadway, the architect was Claude Beelman. It opened Sept. 12, 1930 with furniture and clothing stores at street level and offices above. The building is 13 stories tall, constructed of steel re-enforced concrete. The stunning exterior is glossy turquoise terra-cotta with blue and gold terra-cotta trim. A four story clock tower tops the edifice. The main entrance opens to a two story vestibule which led to pedestrian retail arcade. In 2006 a \$30 million conversion established 140 luxury condominiums.



We walked thru the *Jewelry District* and Damien spoke about its yearly multi-million dollar international trade, the highest in the world today.

At 617 S. Olive St. we came to the Oviatt Bldg., completed in 1928 by architects Walker & Eisen. The building contained the expensive haberdasheries of Alexander & Oviatt, offices, and ten room penthouse for Oviatt. (He passed away there in 1974.) The sheltered lobby contained 30 tons of Lalique glass.



**Damien of  
FreeLATour.com**

The building now contains the club Cicada and luxury condominiums. Interior retains many art deco fixtures and some of the original glass work.

Damien concluded our tour outside Los Angeles Central Library.

*NOTE: As I followed the tour, taking pictures and making some notes, I did not hear all of Damien's talking points. As additional historical resource I used Los Angeles Conservancy website, accessing their walking tours and clicking on building descriptions.*

### NEW DOCENT TRAINING CLASS

**Begins February 9, 2015**

**Mondays for a 6 week Training Class**

**Please contact Kate Probst for more information**

**818-761-6480 or [katemprobst@aol.com](mailto:katemprobst@aol.com)**





## ANGEL NEWS & NOTES

**GENERAL MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 20th, 10:00 am**  
**AT THE ITALIAN HALL**

**Guest Speaker: Marianna Gatto**  
**Sneak Preview of Italian American**  
**Museum of Los Angeles**  
**Light Refreshments—\$2 donation**

RSVP Katy Phillips before 10/16  
626-833-3517 / katy@bnkphillips.net

**Los Angeles Union Station**  
**75th Anniversary**  
**Las Angelitas del Pueblo**  
**Are invited to a special tour**  
**Of Union Station**  
**November 3, 2014**

**11:00 am**

**Meet at Information Booth.**

RSVP Terrence Butcher  
626-639-9507 / warakurna67@aol.com

### **RECENT TOUR STATS** **Total Touring Stats**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>July</b>		
Docent Hours	156	138
Persons Toured	1185	660
<b>August</b>		
Docent Hours	183	138
Persons Toured	557	393
<b>September</b>		
Docent Hours	147	660
Persons Toured	338	385

Las Angelitas' Board nominated and approved two new board members:

Mark Trevor—Director of Tour Data

Terence Butcher—Director of Events

Colleen Paeff will stay on the Board as Director of Publicity.

**\*\* \*\* \***

Terence has several exciting events in the works. Please save these dates and wait for future announcements:

Tuesday, 12/9 at Autry Museum

Tour of Route 66 Exhibit

Monday, 1/5/2015

Gen. Meeting & Tour of Chinatown

**\*\* \*\* \***

### **Dias de los Muertos**

10/19—Display of Day of the Dead Altars

10/25—26 Fiestas Muertos

10/25—11/2 7:00 pm Nightly Novenario Procession

10/30—11/24 Pico House Sacred Memories Art Exhibit

**\*\* \*\* \***

Our annual Holiday Party is on Saturday, December 13. Look for future emails with the details of the event. Hope to see everyone at this popular Happy Holiday party.

**\*\* \*\* \***

Please help publicize the next Docent Training Class among your friends and relatives. Our last two classes this year yielded a record amount of new members joining our wonderful historical organization. The next class starts on February 9, 2015.

**Editor: Eileen Mendoza**

**Ideas for the Newsletter? Contact me**  
**with history tidbits, news or notes, and**  
**interesting articles written by you!**  
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