



Las Angelitas del Pueblo Newsletter— Spring 2014

El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument

www.lasangelitas.org

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Rosy the Riveter

Kim Plater & Alice Slaughter

The March 24th General Meeting gave attendees a wonderful presentation by Kim Plater and Alice Slaughter about California women who worked in the defense industry during World War II.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, FDR asked the US Congress to declare war on Japan. As men joined the armed forces, women were asked to work in the defense industry to supply the US troops with the tools for war. They signed up for these jobs through their school districts and received some basic training in factory industries that needed employees. Women were motivated to earn money and to show their patriotism. There was initial resistance and resentment from men who thought women should remain in their homes.

Ultimately 12 million women worked in the wartime industries. They were subject to unequal pay rates and racial discrimination. Black and Latina women were often limited to the 'dirty jobs' of maintenance and women ordnance workers (WOW). There was also discrimination in housing near the factories. At one point picketers demonstrated against this discrimination, resulting in FDR passing an anti-discrimination law in the workplace.

Locally, Long Beach Airport became the Douglas Aircraft Plant and employed women as 40% of their workforce. Burbank also had an active aircraft industry. Famous women who worked in these factories include Elizabeth Short (Black Dahlia) who worked at Camp Cook in Lompoc and Norma Jean Baker-Dougherty (Marilyn Monroe) who worked at Radio Plane Co. in Burbank.

After WW II was over women were immediately laid off so their jobs were available for men returning home. There is a Rosie the Riveter Memorial at the WW II Home Front National Historic Park in Richmond, CA. Rosy is also commemorated at Douglas Park in Long Beach.



**LOS ANGELES
HERITAGE DAY**

Sunday, April 27, 2014

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,
& Short Tours**

**Las Angelitas del Pueblo
Docent Training
2014 Summer Classes**

**Please invite your friends to
join our wonderful group.**

**Six Classes will be held
Starting June 7
Saturdays at 10:00 AM
\$25 for Training Materials**

**Contact Kate Probst
katemprobst@aol.com
818-761-6480**



**In Memory Of
Alicia Brown**

Las Angelitas has received word of Alicia Brown's recent death. Alicia was an active participant and board member (Historian) of Las Angelitas from 2002 to 2010. Picture at left is from an event in 2006.

Alicia resided just north of Chinatown in Solano Canyon for most of her life. El Pueblo de Los Angeles and its history were close to her heart. She was a grammar school teacher, worked in the library at one time, and was a wife and mother.

She was active in the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council which encompasses Solano Canyon, Chinatown, El Pueblo, Little Tokyo, and the Arts District. She devoted time to Solano Canyon Community Garden and Los Angeles State Park (Cornfields) north of El Pueblo.

Marilyn Lee (past president) writes— "Alicia worked with Anne Ingram, Bob Aguirre, and I to contact local LAUSD schools to book more tours the year Bill Estrada loaned us El Pueblo's two Getty...college interns. We worked in the area that is now the DVD viewing room in the Avila Adobe. Alicia was a great community activist ... and just wonderful person."

Visitor Attendance at El Pueblo

Las Angelitas reports our monthly statistics to El Pueblo who pass along this information to L.A. city offices. Our visitor statistical totals are increasing. Highest increases are in March, April, May and June. Averages from 1990—2013 for these months show an increase of 50%. Please volunteer for extra tour duty during these high attendance months.

Becoming Los Angeles

**Los Angeles Natural History Museum; Presented by
Dr. William Estrada, Curator & Head of the History Department**

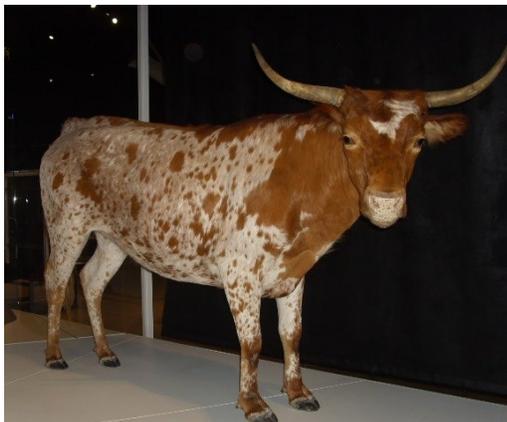


Jane Pisano, personal friend of Marilyn Lee, extended an invitation to Las Angelitas to come visit this special exhibit at the Los Angeles Natural History Museum in Exposition Park. She introduced our members to Dr. William Estrada. Dr. Estrada is a former Curator at El Pueblo. He is also the author of *The Los Angeles Plaza: Sacred and Contested Space*. This is an excellent history of our historic park at El Pueblo. Dr. Estrada first met with us in a large conference room and talked about the installation of the exhibit. Then gave us a very personal tour through the individual displays of *Becoming Los Angeles*.

Dr. Estrada walked with us around the extensive exhibit of the history of Los Angeles. He spoke to us about the history of the artifacts on display. He also told about the various people who came to settle in early Los Angeles and the personalities that shaped the early development of the city. His topics included the founding of El Pueblo in 1781 by the 44 Pobladores, through the Mexican Revolution and establishment of independent Mexico in 1821, and the eventual takeover by American forces in 1846.



Exhibits showcase the American development of our city from a Spanish-speaking rural town, through the establishment of railroad connections and resulting real estate booms. Displays depict development of local industries: Rapid growth of agriculture and the citrus industry; Oil discovered in 1892 by Edward Doheny; Birth and development of the motion picture industry; Early aircraft and local airports grow into booming industry during WW II. This detailed history of our city will invite all visitors to study and appreciate our heritage.



Corriente cattle were the most common breed on the ranchos of Mexican California.



Above is the table from Campo de Cahuenga where the Capitulation of Cahuenga was signed by General Fremont and Andres Pico.

ANGEL NEWS & NOTES



“All Hands on Deck” is shouted when everyone’s help is needed and that applies to Las Angelitas. We do roughly 50% of our tours March through June. (In contrast we do 3% of the year’s tours in August, our slowest month.) So please sign-up for at least two tours a month – and more if you can – during this busy period. Let’s help Elizabeth Fenner ensure there are enough docents to lead our tours.

New Provisionals have graduated from our latest class, just in time to help for our busy season. Please meet and greet Mark Trever, Miguel Muñoz, Andrew Guillen, and Catherin Malcolm.

Angelitas WEB site (<http://lasangelitas.org/>) has been strengthened and we have launched social media sites, including a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/lasangelitasdelpueblo>) and a blog. We’re also on Yelp (<http://www.yelp.com/biz/las-angelitas-del-pueblo-los-angeles>). Check them out as our 48 year old organization catches up with the 21st century – and please “like” us on Facebook and encourage tour goers to give us “five stars” on Yelp.

Heritage Day, a monumental gathering of historic organizations from throughout Los Angeles, is on Sunday April 27 from 11 am to 4 pm **at our very own plaza**. We’ll offer brief informational tours from our office, so please sign-up on Volunteer-Spot to help for a few hours. While we need you in the office to offer mini-tours and greet fellow history buffs, we hope for enough docents that you also have time to wander the exhibits, sample food, and see other activities. In addition Lester and Kate Probst will have a Las Angelitas table in the Pico House.

L. A. Heat: Taste Changing Condiments exhibit is at the Chinese American Museum through July 12. The opening day included the first ever personal meeting between the chief executives of two well-known local hot sauce companies: David Tran of *Huy Fong Sriracha* and Jose-Luis Saavedra of *Tapatio*.

Deep Roots: Artistic Expression of Earth Month is at the Pico House, April 11 to April 27. Exhibit is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Election Results have been counted with unanimous results: President—Bruce Phillips, Vice President—Elizabeth Fenner, Secretary—Christine Cano, Treasurer—Les Hanson.

Hope to see you at our next general meeting, May 12, and the luncheon June 16.

Thanks to Don Sloper for contributing these News items.

RECENT TOUR STATS

Total Touring Stats

	2014	2013
January		
Docent Hours	156	150
Persons Toured	754	336
February		
Docent Hours	141	144
Persons Toured	856	763
March		
Docent Hours	?	168
Persons Toured	?	1044

Attention all Active Docents

New Security Telephone Number

310-990-4987

Effective this Month.

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