



Las Angelitas del Pueblo Newsletter— Spring 2017

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Angelitas visit Lummis House	1
Important Notices	2
News from our President	3
News & Notes	4



Visit to Charles Lummis' House in Highland Park

Members of Las Angelitas joined Terrence Butcher on Sunday, March 19th, for a tour of the Lummis House in Highland Park. Lummis House was built in the very early 1900s by Charles Lummis next to the Arroyo Seco a sometimes dry wash that runs from the San Gabriel Mountains to the L.A. River. It is a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Charles Fletcher Lummis (1859-1928) was born in Massachusetts. In 1884 he was offered a job at the L.A. Times and decided to walk across the country to L.A. The trip took 143 days and he sent weekly reports to the newspaper chronically the trip. His book *A Tramp Across the Continent* was written in 1892. During the long trip he developed his life long interest in the South West and its Native American Cultures. Upon reaching L.A. he was given the job of City Editor at the L.A. Times. After a mild stroke left him partially paralyzed he quit the newspaper, moved to New Mexico and became a freelance writer. Living with native people in the area he became an activist for their human rights. Years later (when his health improved) he and a friend spent 10 months in Peru. After returning to the U.S. he and his second wife moved back to L.A. where he eventually found employment as editor of the magazine which was renamed *Out West* in 1901. He was editor for 11 years and published articles by many famous authors (John Muir, Jack London) while contributing over 500 articles himself. He founded and became president of Landmarks Club of Southern California which was dedicated to the purpose of fighting for restoration of the historic California Missions. In 1907 he founded the Southwest Museum of Los Angeles (first museum in Los Angeles) and led the fundraising campaign to build it. It was completed in 1914.

The house was named *El Alisal* by Lummis because of the grove of alder and sycamore trees in the area. The house was built with 'river rock' found in the arroyo. The home took 13 years to build and has 40,000 square feet. In 1965 the building became the home of Southern California Historical Society and was open to the public on a limited basis. In 2015 the City of Los Angeles Recreation & Parks Dept. took over the operation of the building and is open to the public for tours. The gardens surrounding the building consist of native plants and trees including California Sycamore trees.

Tidbit of History

1784 The beginning of the Ranchero System under Spanish Rule resulted in four ranchos (ranches) in the Los Angeles area. Three soldiers: *Juan José Domínguez*, *Jose María Verdugo*, and *Don Manuel Nieto*, petitioned (the governor?) to place horses and cattle around the lands outside the pueblo of Los Angeles. The authorities granted permission so long as they did not infringe on the lands of the San Gabriel Mission or the pueblo of Los Angeles. *Domínguez* settled near San Pedro Bay, and his property became Rancho San Pedro (75,000 acres). *Verdugo* settled in Glendale and Burbank, and his property became Rancho San Rafael (36,000 acres); while *Nieto* settled in Whittier and Long Beach, and his property became Rancho Gertrudes, Rancho Los Coyotes, Rancho Los Alamitos, and Rancho Las Bolsas (167,000 acres). *José Vicente Feliz*, the soldier assigned to protect Los Angeles, was awarded a ranch in 1796 northwest of the pueblo near Griffith Park. Spain gave out approximately twenty ranchos in California, essentially grazing permits, mostly given out as rewards for military service. Most local ranchos were created under the Mexican government after 1821.

New Parking Validation Procedures By Myrna Richardson

By now, if you drive to El Pueblo, you have noticed that the City of Los Angeles has implemented new procedures for parking validation. The new procedures allow the City to audit all groups who receive free (validated) parking and requires that very careful, detailed logs be kept by both Las Angelitas and the City.

It's been a steep learning curve for Los Angelitas because the procedure is so different from the previous system, where all we had to do was stamp our parking ticket, hand it to the attendant and exit the lot.

To make the system work now, and to ensure that Las Angelitas does not lose its free parking privileges, please be sure that when you take a ticket from the envelope, you only take ONE ticket. The tickets are small and printed on very lightweight paper, and it's easy to pull more than one from the envelope. Please carefully look at the number written on the top right hand side of the ticket and make sure that you sign your name on the line that contains that number. There are times when the tickets we get from the City will not be in sequential numbers, so it's very important that we sign on the correct line with the number of the ticket we have taken from the envelope.

Winter 2017 Docent Class By Myrna Richardson, Secretary

The Winter 2017 Docent Training Class was presented by Associate Docent and full time student at Cal Poly (history major) **Amanda Martinez**. There were five exceptional students in the class. **Lindsay McMenamin**, wife of Docent Dave McMenamin, has a long history of volunteering. She currently volunteers every Wednesday at the Information Booth at Union Station. **Ken Wong** is an engineer who discovered Las Angelitas through Volunteer Match. **Cynthia Sarosy** does improv and is very interested in local history. **Heather Turner** is a direct descendent of Pobladore Luis Quintero. **Mario Hernandez** currently works at LA Pueblo Cultura y Artes and also volunteers at the Vincent Price Art Museum in Monterey Park. Amanda restructured the class to focus primarily on student presentations. At every class session, everyone gave one or two practice presentations of tour features. Along with their practice tours, they did a tour of the Monument every week with an experienced Docent. **Richard Flores**, **Fred Robles**, **Dave McMenamin**, **Carol Mitchell**, **Marilyn Lee** and El Pueblo General Manager **Chris Espinosa** gave tours to showcase their individual styles of touring. Because of the thoughtful guidance by Amanda, this group will hit the ground running. With great pleasure, Las Angelitas del Pueblo welcomes the Winter 2017 Provisional Docents.



President Elizabeth Fenner's Message to Angelitas

Hello Angelitas,

Happy spring season in Los Angeles! The rains brought flowers and a relief from the drought. But happily the heaviest storms seem to have passed and we can resume regularly scheduled tours and meetings. Around the Plaza spring blooms are noticeable at Campo Santo as well as Plaza Dolores and the trees around El Pueblo are leafing out nicely.

Many things are happening here in Las Angelitas del Pueblo. **Amanda Martinez** led our most recent docent training class, assisted by **Dave McMenamin** and **Myrna Richardson** and with great help from veteran docents. These new trainees have already begun shadowing and giving tours, and we are so happy to have them! They as well as the previous docent class will be recognized at the April General Meeting. We hope many can come meet the new docents then or at the **June 12 Annual Awards Luncheon**.

Recently **Terrence Butcher** led a group of Angelitas to the Lummis house for a great tour. If you use Facebook you should like and follow the **Las Angelitas del Pueblo Facebook page**. Terrence created and manages our Facebook page. It offers a wealth of fascinating facts, compelling events and great links.

Make a point to visit our neighbor the Western Parks Association shop, **Gateway to Nature**. It is open and they have a broad and interesting selection of gifts and decorative items. The quality and originality of these items are terrific. You can also tell visitors that if they are interested in the area's earliest history of the flora, fauna and rich indigenous culture, they will find valuable information there. Don't forget the huge area map in the back of the store.

One last item: **Christiana Saldana**, the Angelitas' super Tour Scheduler, will be in Boston this month, where she will be presenting her master thesis: "Loftification, The Refurbished Gentrification Dynamic" at the American Association of Geographers 2017 Annual Meeting. It is so impressive! Christiana writes:

I am looking at the effects of converting historical buildings, pre-1945, into upscale mixed-use lofts. Basically...they are being marketed and sold for equal or higher amounts than new projects--creating housing stock that really does not address our issues of homelessness, urban sprawl, etc. There are positives to this preservation and rebirth of these buildings, but whether or not it is actually a overall positive impact is the question.

So often these days with the Angelitas I feel surrounded by thoughtfulness, excellence and initiative. I am proud to know all of you, and appreciate all of your efforts supporting our area's rich history and Las Angelitas del Pueblo. Thank you for all you do, and I hope we'll see you many times in 2017.

Elizabeth Fenner
President



ANGEL NEWS & NOTES

GENERAL MEETING MONDAY, APRIL 10, 10:00 am

At La Plaza de Cultura y Artes
4th Floor

2016 Summer Class
Awarded their Striped Lanyards

Introduction of
2017 Winter Class Provisionals

Dave McMenamin will show off the new 'Picture Book' docents can use when giving tours and ask for any additional ideas before making more copies.

Open Floor Discussions on our Docent led tours of El Pueblo.

Light Lunch will be served.

RECENT TOUR STATS

Total Touring Stats

	2016	2015
December		
Docent Hours	120	159
Persons Toured	453	696
	2017	2016
January		
Docent Hours	126	105
Persons Toured	309	693
February		
Docent Hours	120	123
Persons Toured	718	671
March		
Docent Hours	135	126
Persons Toured	504	690

Las Angelitas Welcomes New Board Members

Vice President—Carl McCreven
Secretary—Myrna Richardson

Please save these dates

June 12, 2017—Awards Luncheon
July 15—General Meeting
October 9—General Meeting

IAMLA named one of Downtown Los Angeles' Best Projects of 2016 at their Distinction Awards Ceremony. Event sponsored by the LA Downtown News. Italian American Museum website for news & events www.italianhall.org

Our own Angelita, **Marlene Pfeifer**, was honored at the Jewish Federation's 2017 Annual Women's Forum on March 27th. Marlene was recognized for her service in the San Marino ORT charitable organization that supports occupational education.

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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