

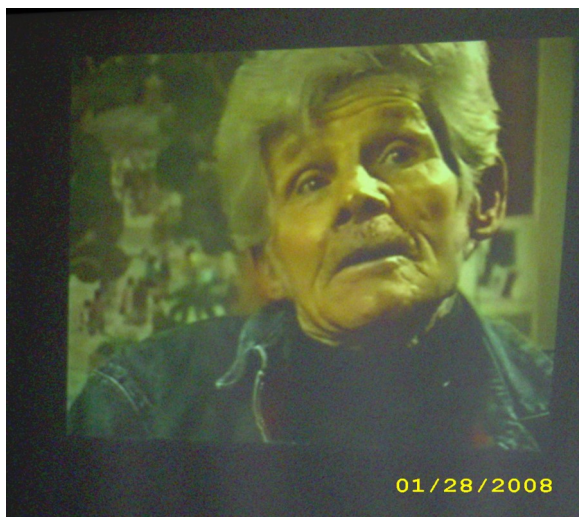


Las Angelitas del Pueblo Newsletter— Fall 2017

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

IN THIS ISSUE

July General Meeting	1
2017 Summer Docent Class	2
Honors for Carmela; August Excursion; President Elizabeth Writes	3
News & Notes Memoriam	4



July General Meeting by Myrna Richardson

On July 17, 2017, at the Summer General Meeting, we were treated to a delightful presentation by Ann Stalcup. Ann is the author of *Leo Politi: Artist of the Angels* and 18 other published books. Ann started out as a school teacher in downtown Los Angeles and heard about Politi from a librarian, who was a dear friend.

When Ann started to work on the Politi book, she met and became friends with him. She said that Politi was a shy man. Ann spoke about Politi's childhood. He was born in Fresno, where he formed his lifelong bond with dogs. His family also kept ponies. When he was six, his family moved to Italy, where he went to school wearing his Indian suit, including the feather headdress, daily. When he returned to America after service in the Italian army, he settled in Los Angeles, where he wrote and illustrated over 20 children's books.

The book "Little Leo," while a children's book, is autobiographical. Ann said that Politi lived in downtown Los Angeles and visited Olvera Street every day starting in the 1940's. He made portraits or drawings of the tourists outside of the café where he sat, selling them for pennies. Politi did not care for money, but loved people, gardens, parks, and the joy of life.

All in all, Ann's stories and knowledge of Politi made for a riveting hour, filled with great stories which brought Politi to life. Our library now has a copy of *Leo Politi: Artist of the Angels* with a dedication from Ann to Las Angelitas. At the close of her talk, Ann sold post card sized copies of Politi's work, which were eagerly purchased by excited Docents.



2017 Summer Docent Class

by Dave McMenamin

We now have four new provisional docents, who completed docent training on August 29: Al Bautista, Cynthia Leyva, Marina Perez and Meg Sullivan. The class was also attended by Victoria Jacques as a refresher to her 2015 training before she resumed leading tours after a one-year hiatus. Special thanks go to Fred Robles, Richard Flores and Carol Mitchell, who each gave a tour that showcased different styles of giving tours. Thanks also go to Chris Espinosa who led the group on his always fascinating behind-the-scenes tour of the Pueblo.

The class was structured around a new *Docent Training Manual*, a 50+ page document that contains key points for each possible tour stop and topic, together with information on each of the historic buildings in the Pueblo. It also includes a section on Tour Guidelines, including preparing for tours, tips for giving a good tour, special considerations for school groups and the basic mechanics of being a docent. I am currently revising this document based on questions that came up in the class. Once completed, I will leave a copy in the Tour Office, and would be glad to send a PDF version of it to anyone who requests it. In addition, if anyone would like to review this and make comments or corrections, let me know at:

davemcmenamin@earthlink.net

Also new to the Summer 2017 training was a map of all points of interest in the Pueblo, including over 20 that are not shown on the map brochure available in the Tour Office. In one class session, we walked around the entire Pueblo area noting these points of interest so that the students were familiar with them. We also visited several of the Pueblo museums. As part of the follow-up to the training, I am working with each of the new provisional docents in practicing and refining their tours.

The next docent training class will be in late January and February next year. If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a Las Angelitas docent, please let me or Kate Probst know



Carmela Funicello Honored

Carmela Funicello, Los Angelitas' Librarian, is also Vice President and California Representative for the Association of Campani Nel Mondo, which supports and promotes Italian culture. Carmela, as a volunteer, also teaches Italian to grammar school students in San Pedro. She will travel to New York and on October 8, 2017 be honored with the Cristoforo Columbo award for her dedication and activism. She will also be in the New York City Parade honoring Christopher Columbus on October 9. Congratulations to Carmela!



On Monday, August 28, some of our docents visited the **Point Vincente Interpretive Center** for a self guided tour.



Dear Angelitas Docents, Associates, and Friends,

Today I write with a sense of sorrow, but also gratitude and optimism. It was with the greatest sadness that I learned this week Sheila Anthony passed away, after a battle with cancer that I thought she would win. Sheila inspired me and represented everything I admire. She is someone I will always miss and remember fondly. Sheila's memorial service is October 1st at Forest Lawn. Our docents were notified via Volunteer Spot, and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Sheila's instructions included asking friends and family to consider donating to Las Angelitas. Her thoughtfulness and love in that gesture is wonderful. Those of you who knew her, know exactly how I feel. Those Angelitas who didn't have a chance to know Sheila can imagine someone kind, friendly, adventurous and funny. (Actually there are quite a few Angelitas like this--it must be contagious.)

This quarter, the Angelitas are doing what we always do: give tours Tuesday through Saturday 10, 11, and 12. We haven't missed a beat lately--and warm thanks go to **Myrna Richardson** for letting all docents know when we are in a bind. The board meets every month, discussing and problem solving to keep the ship on course. El Pueblo staff keeps busy, handling a constant stream of events and activities here at El Pueblo. They also painted our office! (Thanks **Chris Espinosa**, **Walter Schreck**, and painter **Dario**). Several members helped with deconstruction and re-construction of the office, but it was **Chris Roten** with the vision and constant presence that makes it all come together.

Our Holiday Party is coming up Saturday, December 2nd at 6:00 pm in the Pico House. We are including in our invitation Museum Guides and El Pueblo staff as well as staff and volunteers from neighboring museums and groups, so please be sure to come join the fun. In the future El Pueblo Plaza will have some interesting, positive developments. One item is a partial closure of Los Angeles Street and new pedestrian-friendly pathway to Union Station.

Thanks for all you do, Queridas Angelitas--

Elizabeth Fenner, President



ANGEL NEWS & NOTES

MEMORIAM FOR SHEILA ANTHONY

Las Angelitas lost a dear friend, **Sheila Anthony**, on September 23, 1917. Sheila was fighting a personal battle with cancer, but passed away from a pneumonia infection because of her weakened condition.

Services were held Sunday, October 1st at Mount Sinai Memorial Park Cemetery on Forest Lawn Drive. Sheila asked that in lieu of flowers at her service, please consider a donation to Friends of the Echo Park Branch Library or Las Angelitas del Pueblo.

Sheila joined Las Angelitas in 1996. She was a very active docent, giving two tours weekly for almost 20 years then moved to associate membership. She took on the duties of sales of LAdP T-shirts and other items at our general meetings. In 2006 she spoke at a general meeting about her trip to Mexico that taught Immersive Spanish & Mexican Cooking classes.

Sheila's friend, Marlene Pfeifer, remembers: "I met lively, smiley, friendly, energetic Sheila Anthony through Las Angelitas del Pueblo at El Pueblo State Historic Park many years ago. The great bio description I read in her L.A. Times Obituary today describes my delightful friend Sheila perfectly. I will miss her big smile and interesting conversations...especially on travel...more than words can say. I arranged for a tour of the wildflowers in the Antelope Valley during an unpredicted windstorm...and how she went hiking into the flower fields anyway. I am so sad that she has left our world... but, I somehow think her spirit will continue to shine on us like a bright star...from heaven above."



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Monday, October 9, 2017 at 10:00 am
at the Museum of Social Justice
(basement of the Methodist Church)

Joining us will be Dr. Jeremiah B.C. Axelrod, an Assistant Professor of History, Cultural Studies, and American Studies at Occidental College. **Dr. Axelrod will speak about the historic explosive auto culture in Los Angeles which started in the 1920s. Copies of the book will be available for purchase with a personalized dedication from Dr. Axelrod.**

Christmas Party
Save the Date

Let's start the Holiday Season early this year. Please join us on **Saturday, December 2, 2017** for our annual Holiday Party, at the Pico House from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. We'll have food and drink, including wine, entertainment, lots of door prizes, all in a festive atmosphere. It's a don't miss evening to get together with fellow Docents and others. Details and requests for reservations will be coming soon. Please note that if you have not paid annual dues yet, you can pay when you make your reservation for the Party.

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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