



Las Angelitas del Pueblo Newsletter — Winter 2018

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

October General Meeting	2
Tour Statistics	2
2018 Winter Docent Class and Docent Training Manual	3
Nominations	3
Holiday Party	3
Presidents Message	4
January Field Trip	4



WINTER GENERAL MEETING

Monday, January 15, 2018 10 am
LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes
(501 North Main Street, across the street
from the plaza)

Joining us will be cameraman Luis Fuerte, who was the editor, lighting director, sound engineer, on air operations person and cameraman for Huell Howser, host of KCET's California Gold.

We're excited to hear about his travels and times with the ever-curious, effervescent and spontaneous Huell Howser. Join us for a very interesting meeting!

Light refreshments will be served and parking will be validated for Las Angelitas members.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2018

Winter Docent Training Class:
Tuesday February 6, 13, 20, 27
and March 6 and 16

Deadline for Submitting Nominations:
Saturday, March 31 (see page 3)

Spring General Meeting:
Monday, April 9

Awards Luncheon:
June Date TBD

Thank You Eileen by Myrna Richardson

Eileen Mendoza has been an incredible asset to Las Angelitas over the years. She was Secretary of Las Angelitas for years becoming Newsletter Editor, also for a number of years. Working without help on the Newsletter, she always produced a great product. She was instrumental in setting up the Library. She kept the Las Angelitas email distribution list and sent emails to members with notices about upcoming events.

Kate Probst remembers that Eileen always volunteered to help out when the employees had their Christmas parties and that Eileen helped years ago with a major clean up in the Tour Office, discarding lots of items. Eileen participated in finding appropriate restaurants for us to have our Christmas parties and she researched speakers who would come to lecture at our meetings. Eileen recently retired as Newsletter Editor to take a job at the Brand Library in Glendale, but will continue to be an active Associate Member of Las Angelitas, including working with Carmela Funciello to maintain the Library. Many thanks to Eileen for her years of dedicated service.

Introducing the New Newsletter Editor by Lindsay McMenamin

I would like to introduce myself as the new Newsletter Editor, starting with this issue. I graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Journalism. I then had a varied career including editor of real estate reports for a major consulting company located in Chicago, editing and preparing newsletters for the Los Angeles Chapter of a national appraisal organization, writing reports as an appraiser with a major lender and, finally, writing briefs and other documents as an attorney before retiring in 2015. I welcome the challenge of working on this quarterly newsletter.



October General Meeting by Myrna Richardson

A small but enthusiastic group of 18 gathered in the Museum of Social Justice for the Fall General Meeting on Monday, October 9, 2017. President Elizabeth Fenner opened the meeting and introduced our host, the Rev. Jennifer Gutierrez, who spoke about the Hugo Crosthwaite murals, the current exhibit in the Museum.

There was a moment of silence to commemorate the passing of Sheila Anthony, who lost her year long battle with lung cancer. Sheila was a long time Docent and Board Member, whose enthusiasm, knowledge of California history and generosity added greatly to Las Angelitas. Before her death, Sheila had donated her extensive collection of books dealing with California history to Las Angelitas.

Painting of the Tour Office was recently completed and we are still in the process of reorganizing the furnishings and putting things away.

Eileen Mendoza, long time Newsletter Editor, has stepped down to accept part-time employment at the Glendale Public Library. Many thanks to Eileen for her over 10 years of service to Las Angelitas. Lindsay McMenamin will take over as Newsletter Editor. Rozanne Gallegos is now Website director and has assumed responsibilities for keeping the website current.

Dave McMenamin told us about changes in the materials and class for Docent Training. He introduced Meg Sullivan, who recently completed the Summer class, and told us about the other class members, including Al Bautista, Cynthia Levya and Marina Perez. Two-year Docent Victoria Jacques audited the class and has returned to touring. The Winter 2018 class will start the first Tuesday in February. All Las Angelitas members were asked to solicit potential Docents for the class because more Docents are needed!

Dr. Jeremiah B.C. Axelrod, Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Program of Cultural Studies at Occidental College, and author of *Inventing Autopia: Dreams and Visions of the Modern Metropolis in Jazz Age Los Angeles*, gave a very interesting presentation about how the automobile replaced the very widespread public transportation system in Los Angeles in the 1920's. Among other things, he spoke about how City Planners in the late 1920's started to favor the decentralization of downtown Los Angeles and about how Union Station was built as a central terminal for the three railroads servicing Los Angeles in the 1930's. We obtained a signed copy of his book to add to the Las Angelitas library.

The next General Meeting is on Monday, January 15, 2018 at LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes.

Tour Statistics

Persons Toured: 2017: 8,102 2016: 9,236
December: Persons Toured: 542
Number of Tours: 58

A sidewalk café was recently constructed in front of the Tour Office (photo on first page) for a Verizon commercial. Several visitors came into the office to ask when the café would open. This commercial is currently showing.

New Docent Training Class and *Docent Training Manual* by Dave McMenamain

There will be a new Docent Training class on the following dates in February and March:

Dates: Tuesday, February 6, 13, 20, 27 and
March 6, 13

Time: 10 am – 12:30 pm

Location: Tour Office

Please have anyone you know who would be interested contact Kate Probst to register:

Email: KateMProbst@aol.com

Phone: 818-761-6480

The Docent Training Class is structured around the new *Docent Training Manual*, a 58-page document that includes the following:

- Key points for each possible tour stop and topic
- Information on each of the historic buildings in the Pueblo.
- Tour Guidelines, including preparing for tours, tips for giving a good tour, special considerations for school groups, etc.
- Instructions for using SignUp.com on a computer and on a smart phone

Let me know if you would like a copy of this, either a printed copy (which I can leave in the Tour Office or bring to the General Meeting on January 15), or a PDF file (almost 6 MB, which I can email to you). davemcmenamain@earthlink.net

Nominations

by Bruce Phillips, Immediate Past-president

We will soon be opening nominations for Angelitas officers who will be installed at the June Luncheon. Nominations will be accepted for the office of President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you wish to run for any of these offices you may nominate yourself. If you wish to nominate someone else, you must have that person's permission.

We will send out an email in early March announcing the opening of nominations along with a nomination form. Nominations will close at the end of March, and the nominees will be introduced at the April 9th General meeting. Details on the actual voting process will be given at that time.

Las Angelitas Holiday Party by Myrna Richardson

On Saturday, December 2, 2017, about 30 people, along with 4 musicians, gathered at the Pico House to celebrate the holiday season for the annual Las Angelitas Holiday Party. The room was decked out with festive decorations created by Chris Roten. We enjoyed a wine and eggnog bar and an Armenian feast with a Greek salad, grilled vegetables, rice pilaf, rolls, cookies, and we finished off with the world's best flan made by Victoria Sigler.

Bruce Phillips acted as master of ceremonies and kept things moving along, including welcoming remarks, a tribute to retiring Board Members Eileen Mendoza (after 10 years as Newsletter Editor) and Christiana Saldana (after 3 years as Tour Scheduler). Dave McMenamain introduced two docents moving from provisional to active status, Ken Wong (from the Winter 2017 class) and Meg Sullivan (from the Summer 2017 class). There were lots of musical interludes, and many lucky winners of door prizes. It was a great way to start the holiday season!



President's Message

I had the pleasure this past Saturday, along with Terrence Butcher, Andrea Griego, and Michael Fujita, of attending a field trip to the Sanchez Adobe in Montebello. Many costumed docents shared information, handouts and good fellowship (among them Al Bautista, one of the Angelitas' newest trainees!) including a reenactment of the last battle for California, a skirmish which directly preceded the signing of the Treaty of Cahuenga (whose own celebration and reenactment will occur next weekend--check our Facebook page for more information).

The lovely event reminded me how many people are committed to celebrating and sharing the history of this region, and how valuable such people are, for all kinds of reasons. I'm thinking of you, now, Las Angelitas....

My time as president is winding up, and soon we will have a new president. After June, I will attend board meetings as "past president," and fulfill monthly docent assignments. At its simplest, Las Angelitas has about four wheels to keep attached and in working order to keep moving forward. They shouldn't be done by one person, because it's too much. For that reason, I ask for your help. The basic responsibilities are to accomplish the following:

- Keep the office open and staffed. Make sure docents fulfill their tour duties, striving for two docents per shift, with multiple docents in the case of large groups,
- Check tours scheduled through the City, helping make sure visitors are able to successfully schedule their visits, that those tours are listed correctly. Check in with large tours to confirm they are still happening.

- Keep the training classes filled with new docents by publicizing the training classes, making sure the trainer is supported.
- Docent support: Snacks and drinks delivered to the docent office as needed (a bit less than monthly).

Regrets, I've had a few. But there are so many things I am proud of and happy about regarding my time with the Angelitas, and I will hold those memories closely forever. First and foremost is the friendships I have formed with the people I've met here. This is true wealth. Another accomplishment I would like to mention is the large tour the Angelitas gave this past summer to the group of Lutheran youth leaders. I pushed for that event despite some misgivings and skepticism, and we came together to host about 600 teenagers in one day. A great time was had by all, and then we received a \$3,000 donation from that group--perhaps the single largest donation from a tour that Las Angelitas has ever received. Our relationships with other nonprofits and community service groups ensure our relevance, motivation and even continued existence.

It has been my pleasure to serve Las Angelitas; thank you for your support, understanding and friendship all these years. Las Angelitas does not run itself--it is pushed, pulled, and carried by all its volunteers. Thank you again for all you do, and know that if you are reading this, we still need you. (And pass it along--we need more docents!) Whatever small or large thing you can do for Las Angelitas del Pueblo, you make a difference and are much appreciated. Best to you now and in the future, Elizabeth Fenner

It's a Small World

Both of our immediate past-presidents, Don Sloper and Bruce Phillips, married Valley Girls – Imperial Valley Girls that is. Don's wife Mary grew up on a ranch near Heber, and Bruce's wife Katy on a ranch near Holtville. They were both born at the same hospital in El Centro and delivered by the same doctor about a year apart. Which of the two is older is a carefully-guarded secret.

Editor: Lindsay McMEnamin

Contact me with history tidbits, news or notes, and interesting articles written by you:

lasangelitas1781@gmail.com

Deadline for next newsletter: **March 25, 2018**

January Field Trip



The January field trip was to the Juan Matias Sanchez Adobe, constructed in 1845 in the center of Rancho La Merced and approximately one mile from the original site of Mission San Gabriel. This visit included a reenactment of "The Battle of Rio San Gabriel," one of the key battles in the Mexican-American War.