



Juan Matias Sanchez

THE ADOBE DUST

Montebello Historical Society

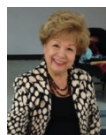
SANCHEZ ADOBE HISTORIC SITE & MUSEUM

www.montebellohistoricalsociety.org

April

NEWSLETTER

2015



Message from the President

As we welcome Spring, there are many things to look forward to.

On April 10, we will welcome children from the Mesrobian School in Pico Rivera to the Adobe and the following day, along with the Montebello Rotary Club and other community volunteers, we will hold a clean-up day, getting the Adobe all spruced up for Spring.

We will also turn our attention to increasing membership and fundraising. We encourage and welcome input from our members on fun and innovative ways to raise funds.

Mark your calendars! This month's board meeting is Wednesday, April 1, 7 pm, at the Adobe. Our general meeting is Thursday, April 9, 7 pm, downstairs at the Senior Citizen Center. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm. Please bring a gift we can use in our fundraising efforts. I encourage everyone to become a member of the Montebello Historical Society and join in keeping Montebello's history alive. For additional information, call (323) 887-4540.

I want to close by wishing our members born in April a wonderful birthday and congratulations to all those that will celebrate other milestones this month. A blessed Easter to all! See you at the April meeting!

All the best,

Rosie Vasquez, President

Mike Crosby Guest Speaker at April Meeting

The Montebello Historical Society is pleased to welcome back author Mike Crosby. Crosby will speak at the April general meeting on "The Real Life of Father Juan Crespi."

Father Juan Crespi, a Franciscan missionary, accompanied Father Junipero Serra to Las Californias in 1769. As he was the only Franciscan to make the entire land journey, he became the first official diarist of the California missions. However, is it the REAL diary? Find out as Crosby presents a power point presentation on the diary and the El Camino Real.

The meeting is April 9, at 7 pm, downstairs at the Senior Center, 115 S. Taylor Avenue. Refreshments at 6:30 pm.

Lobo Dress Now on Display



All are encouraged to visit the Adobe museum to see the new Dona Maria Soto de Villalobo, aka Dona Lobo, mannequin dressed in 19th century-era clothing.

As a photo of Dona Lobo was not available, Second Vice President Kathleen Rabago made the dress after studying photos of Dona Rafaela Cota, the wife of Juan Temple of the Los Cerritos Adobe. Both women were of the same social class and both adobes were built in 1844. The details of the beautiful dress include black taffeta, white lace trim, a cameo, keys and watch, ribbon fan holder, mantilla and comb, and represent high fashion of the day.

Docent Training to be Held at Sanchez Adobe

Do you like to tell stories? Do you enjoy sharing the history of Montebello and the surrounding cities with others? If so, the Montebello Historical Society is offering docent (museum tour guides) training for the Juan Matias Sanchez Adobe Historic Site & Museum, 946 N. Adobe Avenue, Montebello, on Saturday April 11 from 10 am to 3 pm. The Sanchez Adobe, first built by Dona Maria Lobo in 1844 and representing one of the first Mexican land grants given to a woman, is Montebello's oldest standing structure. The museum features a timeline of local history, Sanchez family photos, and an upcoming 20th century room to tell the stories of Simon's Brick Yard #3, Vail Field and Lt. Grant Rea.

Please contact Kathleen Rabago at rabagokathleen@hotmail.com or call (323) 721-3479 for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Fourth Graders to Visit Adobe in April

On April 10, 17 fourth grade students from Mesrobian School in Pico Rivera will take a field trip to the Adobe and experience a few hours of "life at the rancho."



According to Second Vice President Kathleen Rabago, the morning's activities will include a history of the Adobe, making a cattle brand, viewing the family wedding dresses, adobe brick making, Victorian games on the north lawn, butter making, corn husk doll making, various crafts and even laundry. The children will also enjoy a conversation with Maria Luisa Archuleta, the first wife of Juan Matias Sanchez, as portrayed by Rabago.

The children's teacher, Christine Rublacava from Ireland, will be making her first visit to the Adobe as well.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the program which runs from 8 am until noon. Contact Kathleen at (323) 721-3479 for additional information.

A Piece of Montebello History Taylor Ranch

by Anne Donofrio-Holter

At the corner of Montebello Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue stands the last remnant of Taylor Ranch - a barn, circa 1900.

Built in 1885 by Al and Mable Taylor, the original ranch house had one bedroom. In 1909, the family leased the land to an oil company and makeshift additions were attached to the original dwelling. The building was maintained by various caretakers until 1950 when it was given to local journalist Evelyn White for her art group.

"I had one desire - to establish a cultural center for the area, and to provide

some worthwhile opportunities for our high school youngsters," said White that day. "My dream became reality."

In addition to a setting for local artists and painters to work at their craft, over the years the site hosted wedding receptions, family reunions, local service club meetings and other organizations, including the Montebello Historical Society.

The City purchased the property in 1972, and in December, 2008, the building was demolished to make way for a new Taylor Ranch Cultural Arts Center that has yet to be completed on the site.

"There are so many wonderful memories over the years associated with Taylor Ranch," said Montebello Historical Society President Rosie Vasquez. "We must never forget its place in Montebello history."



Photo by Anne Donofrio-Holter



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 04/01/15** Board Meeting/7 pm/Adobe Museum
946 Adobe Ave, Montebello
- 04/09/15** General Meeting/7 pm/Senior Center
Downstairs/ Refreshments 6:30 pm
115 S Taylor Ave, Montebello
- 04/10/15** Mesrobian School Visit/8 am
- 04/11/15** Adobe Cleanup/Time TBD
- 04/11/15** Docent Training/10 am to 3 pm

Newsletter Editor - Anne Donofrio-Holter

