



Juan Matias Sanchez

THE ADOBE DUST

Montebello Historical Society

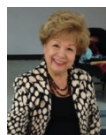
SANCHEZ ADOBE HISTORIC SITE & MUSEUM

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May

NEWSLETTER

2015



Message from the President

We had a very successful History Day last month attended by fourth graders from Armenian Mesrobian School. The program, spearheaded by Kathleen Rabago and Jon Reed, was enjoyed by all, and gave the students a taste of what life was like on the rancho. A big thank you to everyone who volunteered their time for this wonderful event.

I also want to thank the Montebello Rotary Club for sponsoring a clean-up day at the Adobe last month. The Montebello Historical Society appreciates the Club's ongoing commitment to the preservation of the Adobe.

We continue to work hard on the 20th century exhibit room. We are looking for pictures of Crawford's Grocery Store, old photos of city hall, the Taylor Ranch House and any photos of buildings that existed in Montebello in the early 1900's. Email photos to the editor at OldMontebelloPhotos@charter.net

Mark your calendars! This month's board meeting will be Wednesday, May 6, 7 pm at the Adobe. Our general meeting is Thursday, May 14, 7 pm, downstairs at the Senior Citizen Center. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm. We will continue to discuss fundraising ideas and plan our next fundraiser. Please bring a door prize and cookies, if possible.

We will hold general meetings during the summer months at the Adobe beginning June 11. We are asking everyone to bring a side dish, with the club providing the main dish, as we enjoy our summer meetings in a beautiful setting. Come see the great changes taking place at the Adobe museum. Everyone is welcome to join us.

I encourage everyone to become a member of the Montebello Historical Society and join in keeping Montebello's history alive. For additional information, call Rosie Vasquez at (323) 490-9962 or Arlene Sandoval at (626) 731-0430.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a beautiful Mother's Day. See you at the May meeting!

All the best,
Rosie Vasquez, President



Mesrobian School Children Experience "Life at the Rancho"

by Anne Donofrio-Holter

Fourth graders from Armenian Mesrobian School got a taste of "life at the Rancho" when they visited Montebello's Sanchez Adobe April 10, along with teacher Christine Rublacava. The day's activities, spearheaded by Montebello Historical Society Second Vice President Kathleen Rabago, began with a history of the Adobe by curator Jon Reed, including the families that have lived there over the years, as well as the inner workings and economy of the rancho.



The 17 children enjoyed a conversation in the sala with Maria Luisa Archuleta, the first wife of Juan Matias Sanchez, as portrayed by Rabago. They were told the story of Fermin Archuleta, who came to the rancho in 1862 at the age of 14 to work as a vaquero.

"The children were amazed to learn that their school was right at the crossing point for the Camino Real where the Spanish crossed the river in 1769," said Rublacava.



The children were then introduced "hands on" to the daily routine of the residents as they learned to make a cattle brand in the shape of their initials, made bricks out of mud

and straw, did laundry as it was done back in the day, and even churned their own butter.



Touring the museum, and visiting the different rooms of the Adobe, the children viewed family pictures and wedding dresses.

"They learned how to play Victorian games such as 'Graces' and last but not least, make dolls out of corn husk," added Rublacava. "It was a great day for all."

"We enjoyed having the children and Ms. Rublacava visit with us today," said Rabago.

Rabago would like to thank and acknowledge the following volunteers, especially those who did the "grunt" work: Philip Rodriguez, Ed Vasquez, Jon Reed, Lisa Garcia, Arlene Sandoval, Victorie and Terry Milkoff, Vivian, and Rosie Vasquez.

Anyone interested in volunteering for the next History Day, please let Rabago know. You do not have to give a lecture! Volunteers are needed for set up, obtaining supplies and helping with the children. Have fun. Volunteer! For additional information, call Rosie Vasquez at (323) 490-9962.

Article and Additional Photos Courtesy Montebello Reporter

In Memoriam



Educator and re-enactor Lou Lopez, passed away last June. The Rosemead resident was a vital part of the Montebello Historical Society's History Days and Fourth Grade History Day programs at the Adobe.

"One of our board members invited him to come to our adobe where he portrayed Juan Matias Sanchez with love and humor," said Second Vice President Kathleen Rabago. "He was a true educator." According to Rabago, Lopez first played Governor Alvarado at the Historical Society's family fiesta in 2008.

"We will always cherish our memories of him and how he shared the history of the ranchos and the Sanchez family with the children of the community," said Rabago. "He also advised our high school docents about job skills and the importance of always having a resume with you."

"He was a great asset to our History Day programs," added President Rosie Vasquez. "He will be greatly missed by all."

Montebello Rotarians Celebrate Worldwide Work Day

by Anne Donofrio-Holter



Montebello Rotarians Bryan Stanek, Gabe Garza and Anne Donofrio-Holter pose with Dona Lobo and Historical Society Curator Jon Reed (center) at Sanchez Adobe April 18, 2015 in celebration of Worldwide Rotarians at Work Day. Beginning in 2006, each year during the month of April, thousands of Rotarians worldwide, on the same day, have participated in a hands-on project in their community.

In celebration of 100 years of Rotary International, Montebello Rotarians adopted the Adobe in 2005 as their centennial project. The club's goal is to continue to enhance Montebello's oldest standing structure by improving the grounds, courtyard and interior of the historical landmark which was built in 1845.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 05/06/15** Board Meeting/7 pm/Adobe Museum
946 Adobe Ave, Montebello
- 05/14/15** General Meeting/7 pm/Senior Center
Downstairs/ Refreshments 6:30 pm
115 S Taylor Ave, Montebello
- 06/11/15** General Meeting/7 pm/Adobe Museum
Refreshments 6:30 pm



Newsletter Editor - Anne Donofrio-Holter