



Juan Matias Sanchez



### Message from the President

We had a well attended June general potluck meeting. Many thanks to our members for supplying the food and drinks. Kudos to our chef for a job well done. We sure had a fun time.

We will hold our July **board meeting** on July 1 at the Adobe. Our **general meeting** will be July 9 at the Adobe. We will have a traditional meal for this meeting as we celebrate the Fourth of July. Please come and join the camaraderie and tour the museum. Social hour begins at 5:30 pm. Meeting will start at 6 pm. Join us and bring your friends and family.

We attended the Montebello Unified School District's Pathways Senior Exhibition on June 6. It was a fabulous event and was inspiring to see so many students participate. I hope next year more of our members will participate.

We are hosting a Wine and Cheese fundraiser July 18 from 6-9 pm at the Adobe. Donation is \$20 per person. It is important that all members support this event as all proceeds go towards the Adobe museum revitalization program. We are also looking for vendors to participate.

Our Halloween Costume Dinner Party fundraiser will take place upstairs at the Montebello Senior Citizen Center on October 29 at 6 pm. We will have lots of prizes, food, costume contests, including a Zorro lookalike contest, and much more! Tickets are \$25 per person. More details to follow. For ticket information, call Mary Jordan at 323-721-2799 or Rosie Vasquez at 323-490-9962.

We are preparing for the grand opening this December of our 20th Century History Collection. We need to protect and preserve Montebello's rich history from the 1900's.

As we celebrate the 239th birthday of this great nation, I wish everyone a happy Fourth of July holiday.

All the best,

Rosie Vasquez, President



### Special Notice

#### Summer General Meetings to be Held at Adobe

The July 1 **board meeting** will be held at 7 pm at the Adobe. The July **general meeting**, celebrating Fourth of July, will be held July 9 at 6 pm at the Adobe gazebo. A traditional menu will be served. Bring your family and friends and enjoy the camaraderie and the museum. Social beginning at 5:30 pm.

### Support Our Wine & Cheese Fundraiser July 18



The Montebello Historical Society is hosting a Wine and Cheese fundraiser July 18 from 6-9 pm at the Adobe, 946 Adobe Ave, Montebello. Donation is \$20 per person. We are looking for vendors to participate. **It is important for all members to support this event and help us sell tickets.** All proceeds to go towards the Adobe museum revitalization program. For additional details or ticket information, call Esabel Reed at 562-505-1139.

### Members Participate in MUSD Pathways Exhibition

by Anne Donofrio-Holter

Montebello Historical Society President Rosie Vasquez, along with members Ed Vasquez, Natalie Galvan and Chris Vargas, volunteered at the June 6 Montebello Unified School District's Pathways Senior Exhibition event held at the Quiet Cannon.

"We were there to support and encourage the students to succeed in their future careers," said Vasquez.

The event showcased a variety of projects by District students. Distinguished Projects "were awarded to students who, through their project, demonstrate mastery of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, or creativity."

"It was a fabulous event and was inspiring to see so many students participate," added Vasquez. I had the privilege of meeting some great teachers, staff and volunteers. I hope next year more of our members will participate."



(L-R) Carlos Uribe, Applied Technology Center (ATC) CHOP Co-Pathway Lead, ATC students Deysi Moreno and Christopher Guerrero.



(L-R) Edward Vasquez, Jose Cruz, Paulina Hurtado, Kimberly Moran and Rosie Vasquez.



## A Marine Lieutenant Visits Dona Lobo



Submitted by Jon Reed

Daylight, after the Battle of Rio San Gabriel on January 9, 1847, US Marine Lieutenant Jacob Zeilin, and 30 Marines, marched to a ranch house 3/4 of a mile from the American camp on the battlefield. The only ranch house nearby was Rancho La Merced owned by Dona Casilda Soto de Lobo. Commodore Robert Stockton thought there might be some Californios at the ranch house because the American pickets had exchanged fire with some of Captain Jose Maria Flores' men around midnight. At the ranch house, the Marines found nothing of concern and returned to camp.

Later that day, the American troops went on to defeat the Californios at the Battle of La Mesa. By noon on January 10, after the Californios offered to surrender the town, the little army with its band playing, marched into Los Angeles.

Jacob Zeilin was brevetted (promoted) major for gallantry in the action at crossing Rio San Gabriel.



After the war, Zeilin went with Commodore Matthew C. Perry to Japan. He was the second person to set foot on shore at the formal landing of the naval forces at Yokohama, on July 14, 1853.

He later served during the Civil War and on June 10, 1864 became the Commandant of the Marine Corps. He was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on March 2, 1867. Upon his promotion, he became the Marine Corps' first general officer.

In 1868, Zeilin approved the design of the "Eagle, Globe and Anchor" as the Marine Corps' emblem.

Born July 16, 1806 in Philadelphia, he died on November 18, 1880 in Washington D.C. at the age of 74.

## 20th century Montebello History Collection Grand Opening Set for December

by Anne Donofrio-Holter

The Montebello Historical Society is making great progress in its plans to establish a 20th century Montebello history collection to showcase even more of Montebello's memories from the 1900's with a grand opening set for this December. Under the leadership of President Rosie Vasquez, along with board support, the new 20th century collection will include highlights of Montebello's early beginnings, when it was known as the City of Flowers, and will highlight individual contributions as well as the City's oil-rich history through pictures and artifacts.

The collection will be housed at the museum located in the Juan Matias Sanchez Adobe, which currently showcases architecture of the mid-1800's with furnished rooms from the time period, Sanchez family artifacts, along with historical photos of the City. The Adobe, located just north of the intersection of La Merced and Lincoln Avenue in the heart of the old Rancho La Merced, is the City's oldest standing structure, dating back to 1845.

Vasquez feels much of Montebello's history has been overlooked and perhaps, even neglected.

"We should be proud of our contributions, achievements and progress," she said. "Our history needs to be recorded and preserved for future generations."

Vasquez encourages everyone, along with their family, to visit the Adobe.

"We have a priceless gem in our city and yet many people do not know it exists," she said. "Everyone needs to experience the oldest existing house in Montebello."

Museum hours are Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. with docent tours available.

## Adobe Slated for Fresh Coat of Paint

by Anne Donofrio-Holter

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of the Montebello Rotary Club, Montebello, Schurr and Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Mary High School Interact students and Montebello Historical Society member Ed Vasquez, all the steel hand rails and wood decks of the Adobe have been painted and approximately 20% of the of the existing white posts and beams have been sanded and primed.

Last month, Montebello Historical Society President Rosie Vasquez, member Jon Reed, Montebello Director of Public Works Danilo Batson and Montebello Rotarian Bryan Stanek met to discuss proposed paint colors for the exterior of the Adobe.

"We all agreed on changing the pinkish stucco to a pleasant off-white that looks more like a whitewash that might have been originally applied to cover the brown adobe bricks. It was also agreed to paint the posts and beams a contrasting lighter off-white," said Stanek. "All agreed the changes will freshen up the overall look and appeal of the structure."

However, according to Stanek, there is structural work yet to be done by a contractor before the painting can be completed.

"This includes replacement of seven of the posts which have deteriorated with dry rot, and one beam that is cracked and needs replacement," he said.

The Montebello Historical Society, along with the Montebello Rotary Club, are currently working on funding sources for replacement of the posts and beam, and for the purchase of painting supplies.

"The Rotary Club has committed over \$2,000 to the project during its upcoming 2015-16 fiscal year," said Stanek.

As the project relies heavily on the assistance of student volunteers, the next two scheduled Rotary Adobe work days will take place once school is back in session. According to Stanek, these will take place on Saturday, October 3 and Saturday, November 21, with additional dates to be added in 2016.

*Happy Birthday*  
**AMERICA**

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- 07/01/15** Board Meeting/7 pm/Adobe Museum  
946 Adobe Ave, Montebello
- 07/09/15** General Meeting/6 pm/Adobe Museum  
Social 5:30 pm
- 07/18/15** Wine & Cheese Fundraiser  
6-9 pm/Adobe Museum

## Our New Website is Up and Running!

Visit us at [www.montebellohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montebellohistoricalsociety.org)

Newsletter Editor - Anne Donofrio-Holter