

# Model Colony News



4th Quarter 2014



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

## Heritage Events

Heritage Events	1
Contact Information	1
Heritage Corner	2
Volunteer Information	2
Board Members	2
Membership Form	3

Ontario Heritage  
P.O. Box 1  
Ontario, CA 91762  
Phone: 909-984-6558

Website:  
[www.ontarioheritage.org](http://www.ontarioheritage.org)

Email:  
[info@ontarioheritage.org](mailto:info@ontarioheritage.org)

Like us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/  
ontario.heritage](http://www.facebook.com/ontario.heritage)

### 2014 End of Year Events:

**December 3**-Monthly Board meeting.

**December 5**-We will be enjoying the City's 1st Annual Christmas Tree Lighting in the new Town Square Park. Festivities begin at 6:00 pm in front of the clock tower. According to the Ontario Convention Center & Visitor's Bureau website:

[www.christmasoneuclid.com](http://www.christmasoneuclid.com) there will be carolers and some hot chocolate, hot apple cider, cookies and a lot of holiday spirit. Bring a chair and a blanket and feel free to sing along with the holiday music.

**December 6**-Ontario Heritage will have a display booth at the annual "Christmas on Euclid Experience" event which runs from 9am to 3 pm. There will be classic cars, food, entertainment, vendors of all kinds, police and fire department displays, etc. Stop by our booth and say "hi".

**December 14**-Join the fun! We will have a display table on the front lawn of Graber Olives from 11am to 3 pm. Learn more about Ontario Heritage and how you

can support historic preservation in Ontario. \$5 off an annual membership this date only. Give as a gift or for yourself!

**December 25**-Christmas Day

**December 31**-New Year's Eve

### Mark Your Calendars for 2015 Events 1st Quarter:

**January 7**-Monthly Board meeting.

**January 25**-Ontario Heritage will have its annual Board of Directors election at its 1st Quarter meeting/potluck to be held in Walt & Wendy Hafner's beautiful historic home in Ontario. Event starts at 4:00 pm. There will be a guest speaker. Bring a potluck dish and your favorite bottle of wine.

**February 4**-Monthly Board meeting.

**March 4**-Monthly Board Meeting.

**March 21**-Annual Historic Walking Tour in the College Park Historic District. Tour is from 10 am to 12 noon.

## HERITAGE CORNER

With Christmas right around the corner, we would like to take you “behind the scenes” and share with you what has been happening this year in regards to the restoration of the 12 Euclid Avenue Nativity Scenes that are not only beautiful art, but an important part of Ontario’s history dating back to 1959.

On Thursday, November 13, 2014 Ontario Heritage had the pleasure of meeting with Kim Pretti who is the Art Director for the restoration of the Scenes which include over 50 statues.

Here is what Kim shared with us: In April 2014 Michael Krouse, President & CEO of the Ontario Convention Center & Visitors Bureau, asked Mary Winter of Winter Advertising Agency to find an artist who would be willing to restore the Nativity Scenes to how they originally looked. That’s when commercial artist Kim Pretti of Sherman Oaks was contacted. Kim enthusiastically said “yes” and became the Art Director for this project. She was given pictures of how the scenes first looked which were included in a 3-ring binder full of information about the scenes and the original artist, Rudolph Vargas. He was born in Mexico, began carving at the

*Continued on Page 4* age of

## 2014 Ontario Heritage Membership

We are an all volunteer local non-profit organization and we need you! Is the ongoing process of preserving our historic downtown important to you? Or learning about the rich history of the Model Colony? Our Mission Statement is “Preserving, Protecting and Promoting Our Model Colony” not only for us but for our future generations. Having historic home tours, annual historic cemetery tours, being present at local events

are all part of pursuing our mission and making the public more aware of our purpose. It’s an important goal but who says we can’t have fun pursuing it! If you are already a member of Ontario Heritage, we sincerely thank you! If you’re not yet a member, please consider joining us on this journey. Not only will you become more aware and knowledgeable of Ontario’s past history, you will be inspired to walk with us as we go forward in

“Preserving, Protecting and Promoting Our Model Colony.

Benefits of Membership:

1. Participation in Ontario Heritage events such as Home Tours, Annual Historic Cemetery Tours, potlucks, local community events, historic and educational programs.
2. Discounts to events
3. E-mail Newsletters
4. Advocacy for preservation of our historical environment and cultural heritage.
5. Access to information concerning restoration and renovation.
6. The knowledge that you are part of the effort to protect, preserve and promote the Model Colony.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

If you would like to volunteer your time at our events, please contact us at:  
909.984.6558 or [volunteers@ontarioheritage.org](mailto:volunteers@ontarioheritage.org)



President—Petrina Delman  
Vice President—Richard Delman  
Treasurer—Randi Campbell  
Secretary—Louise Melton  
Associate Board Member—Wendi Hafner  
Associate Board Member—Randy Del Turco  
Associate Board Member—Rita Nelsen  
Associate Board Member—Barbara Hertz Chamberlain

Ex Officio—Diane Ayala  
City Council Liaison—Debra Porada

Webmaster—Paulette Melton

# Model Colony News

**SAVE THIS DATE!!  
GET INVOLVED IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY!  
December 20, 2014**

**4th Annual Carol Sing-a-Long**

Time: 6:00pm-9:00pm

Meet at the Jack Mercer Band Stand at Euclid Ave. & "C" Street in Ontario.

View the restored historic Nativity Scenes, listen to or sing along to music at the Band Stand and enjoy free coffee & hot chocolate. Bring your own chairs.



## Ontario Heritage Membership Form (June 30, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

\*Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Required Information

### Membership Categories (For the 2013 Calendar Year)

- Individual \$25.00
- Senior (62 years) \$15.00
- Family \$40.00
- Family-Senior \$30.00
- Corporate \$250.00

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### I am interested in:

- E-mail Alert Network
- Volunteering at Events
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with Your Check Payable To: **Ontario Heritage**  
Or sign up at : **P.O. Box 1**  
[www.ontarioheritage.org](http://www.ontarioheritage.org) **Ontario, CA 91762**

In an effort to keep dues low, most communication will be via email, so providing us your email address is vital.

## Heritage Corner (Continued from Page 2)

9 and eventually moved to Southern California.

Kim came to Ontario to look at the statues and assess them. She put a team together which included master sculptor, Walt Wilkey of Pacoima, California and fine artist and main painter Ms. Andy Doherty of Los Angeles.

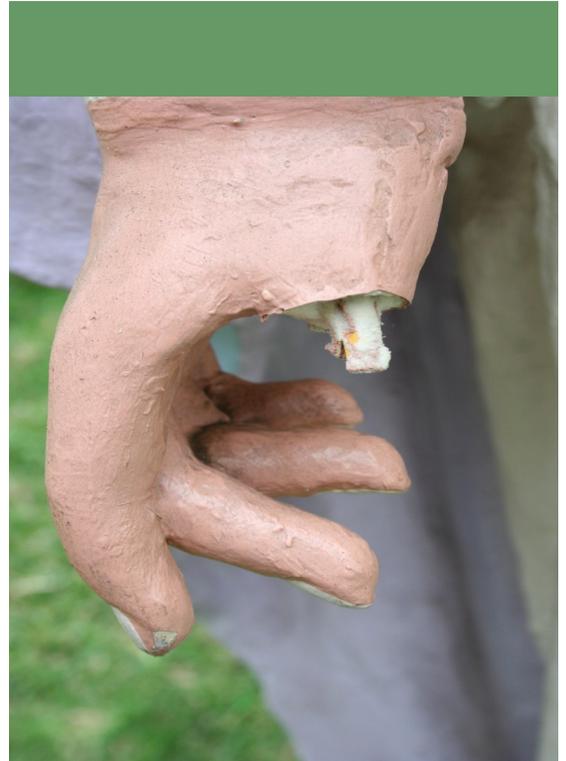
In June 2014 the actual work began on the statues. They are not made of paper mache as some people might think. Rather, they are carved from wood, resin and plaster molds of woodcarving. Also, different weights of muslin were used. Only one statue was originally a mannequin. Two of the lost statues were replaced with mannequins, but they have been redone and the original mannequin has been restored to be as much like a Vargas as possible. The team discovered that very fine to heavy grade muslin was glued or resined on and then painted because the primers back then were not as good a quality as they are now.

Although some of the statues were in good enough condition that they didn't need to be stripped, the majority had to have several coats of paint and old repairs stripped off. Some had been previously repaired with plaster but due to poor conditions they also had to be stripped. Stripping was done with either sand paper, grinding, or peeling off.

Underneath some of the statues the main structure had to be completely redone. Walt cleaned those out and put in fiberglass and steel reinforcements underneath to restore them while keeping the original artwork intact. Some of the statue bases were made of wood, which had rotted so they replaced that wood. An angel, a few shepherds, and a Jesus statue had wood rot which was replaced.

Over the years the statues suffered various damages. Some statues had broken necks, fingers, arms, and toes. A boy statue with a broken neck had previously been repaired by being given a turtle neck. As the repaired neck was not and did not look original, Kim had repairs done to bring it back to its original appearance. Angels with a cracked arm and a broken finger were repaired.

Several silicon molds were made of both male and female hands and feet. A sitting Mary statue was given a new left hand made from a silicon mold which was then attached to the statue. They made some extra molds of hands and feet to have available for future repairs.



Continued on Page 5

## Heritage Corner (Continued from Page 4)

Kim and her team took the Jesus statue in Scene 12 (“Light of the World”) and cast a new head, made a mold, and fixed Jesus’ hair to go down. They put that new head on a brand new sculpted body and that is now in Scene 11 (“Come Unto Me”).

The Joseph statues were extra hard to repair as they were in such poor condition. One had a 6” plaster type band aid on its face that had to be carefully scraped off and the face repaired.

To make the Rabbi statue they took a head of one of the bigger shepherds, cast it and Walt gave it more hair and a bigger beard. It took a lot of work but was well worth the effort.

The baby Jesus statue from “Flight to Egypt” was very challenging but Walt got it done. They recently completed baby Jesus in the manger by casting from the original baby Jesus in “Flight to Egypt”. In addition, a silicon mold was made of an existing child statue and a new child statue was molded with a raised arm, then finished and primer applied. Grapes were created to place in that child statue’s right hand.

Regarding the lamb statues, there were only two left. Originally there were three standing lambs and three lambs lying down. Walt made silicon molds of an existing lamb. He made one standing lamb and custom posed the legs to lie down just like an original lamb had been. He also made two lambs lying down from the combination of the first mold and the leg

molds.

After Kim did much research she decided to use the highest quality grade of exterior house paint for the final coat on the statues to protect them from the weather.

Except for a few touchups Kim and her team are done with this major project. They had been working long hours day and night to get all of the statues completely restored before they were put up on the Euclid Avenue median November 22.

Now to the Crèches: Photographer John Edwards shot the backgrounds for the crèches and digitally manipulated them to look like the original backgrounds. As two of the original 12 backgrounds were missing, local painter and Ontario resident, Rick Caughman was hired by Kim Pretti to paint them.

They are 4’ x 8’ and Rick completed them on November 14. John has photographed them and they have been reproduced to the original size. Then those two scenes that Rick painted will be coated, framed and housed at the Museum of History and Art in Ontario.

Progressive photography has been taken of all the statues and the 12 backgrounds and all the work is being documented. Since all of the statues are restored to original pristine condition, plans are being made to house them in individual protective containers.

When asked if she had any personal favorites out of all the statues, Kim said the Wise Men as “they just look really good!” Kim has been very passionate about this restoration project. It has been an intensive labor of love and she has felt very lucky to be a part of it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ontario Heritage is working together with the Nativity on Euclid Landmark committee (NOEL). You too can become involved. Tax deductible donations are being accepted by :

Ontario Chamber of Commerce  
RE: Nativity Restoration  
520 N. Euclid Ave., Ontario, CA 91762  
Their Phone: 909/984-2458



Kim Pretti at work