



## Not-for-Profit Organization of the Year

### Every Picture Tells a Story: We are Rolling!!!



On Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, the 1938 International made its first “running” debut in front of Inman Conety’s house on Bonita Avenue. Driven to the event by Project Director Erik Chaputa, the truck basked in admiration from home tour attendees and Erik answered any questions about its restoration. If you were a visitor, perhaps you saw how the front windshield opens out via a crank mechanism inside the cab. There is also a vent to bring in fresh outside air. Quite a progressive touch for 1938! After the home tour, Robert Carder brought the truck home to its current resting place at Sherry and John Best’s house, where it is cozily tucked under a tarp against the rain.

## Legacy Links

PRESERVING OLD LA VERNE’S  
ENVIRONMENT: MAKING  
HISTORY FOR THE FUTURE

LA VERNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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The next steps in restoration involve little “tweaks” or mechanicals, getting the rear and side windows installed, getting the side mirrors installed, and a few other items. Then comes the next big push to get a bed and stake sides on the chassis, so the International can roll through La Verne’s streets with passengers.

We are so proud of our restoration process and how it brought together many community members. The ITA (International Truck Angels) deserve so much credit for donating their time and expertise to make this dream come true. Erik Chaputa, Robert Carder, Mark Bianco, and Kevin Meade all brought skills to the table and worked tirelessly on this project. Thank you.

Thanks also go to the donors who gave generously to underwrite the cost of mechanicals. Your gifts, small and large, made this outcome happen.

Bonita High School auto shop students started the restoration and should be proud of their efforts.

Finally, LVHS Board members never waived in their support of this project. It was a steep climb but we made it. We can expect to see the International rolling through La Verne’s neighborhoods, tooting its horn and posing for photographs. Perhaps Inman Conety himself might be glimpsed behind the wheel, or riding in the passenger’s seat.



Above: Mechanic Robert Carder stands by the International and explains the restoration to home tour attendees. Below: Doesn't the International look great under the hood?



## President's Message

The LVHS was successful in adding \$2200 to its bottom line at the December 16<sup>th</sup> vintage sale and home tour. The breakdown of donations went something like this:

Vintage Items:	\$465
Home Tour:	\$580
Books:	\$40
T-Shirts:	\$20
Memberships:	\$250
Jam/Jelly/Baked Goods:	\$635
Donations:	\$220

This event was the culmination of our 2023 activities, but it is just a fraction of our accomplishments. We aligned our activities with many City and Chamber of Commerce-sponsored events, including La Verne's

EggCellent Adventure, Trunk or Treat, and the Community Yard Sale. All provided great interface with the community. Sadly, we missed the Fourth of July parade and the Cruisin' La Verne car show due to truck issues (but we're up and running and we'll be back...).

The LVHS ventured into the supernatural with a showing of "Uncle Sam" at a venue in the ULV Arts and Communication building and sponsored an after dark tour of "Haunted ULV" with Professor Emeritus Al Clark. The more serious topic of "Race and Place" was explored under the guidance of Erin Duffy, who will return with Dr. Clark on February 8<sup>th</sup> for a second look at parts of La Verne's less-celebrated past. The theme of diving deep into our history will include a March 11<sup>th</sup> presentation by Professor Steve Hackel about the lives of indigenous peoples in California during the time of Spanish colonization. We will complete our 2023-2024 California history journey with a visit in May to the Mission San Gabriel Arcángel. We'll report on 2024 events in later editions of *Legacy Links*.

2023-2024 will also be a year for learning about early ULV Presidents. Following a ULV walking tour and "Get on the Bus" tour, we'll visit the final resting place of these early Presidents at the "B" Street cemetery. Check your event calendars for dates and times. Flyers will update members.

It seems like the LVHS never runs out of historical events, places, and people's lives to explore. Please send your suggestions for potential LVHS activities to Sherry Best at [sbest@lavernehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:sbest@lavernehistoricalsociety.org) or 909/596-4679. We are a more interesting and representative organization when we all contribute.

*Sherry Best,*  
LVHS President

## Cultural Festival in La Verne

On Saturday, Dec 2, the La Verne Culture And Social Inclusion (CASI) organization, along with Leadership



Students and Faculty from the University of La Verne, hosted the first Cultural Festival in La Verne. Food, speakers, poetry, and music from different cultures were available to entertain residents who attended. Information on different cultural celebrations was also presented. The event took place at the Ludwick Center on the campus of ULV. We look forward to growing the Cultural Festival and making it an annual event.



**Above: ULV students celebrate La Verne's Cultural Festival.**  
**Below: City Council member Wendy Lau (with a young friend) and Mayor Tim Hepburn take the stage**



### Non-Profits Strut their Stuff at Hillcrest

Community engagement was in evidence on November 15<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7pm, at the Meeting House at Hillcrest. Sponsored by the La Verne Chamber of Commerce, non-profit organizations came together to display materials and meet with attendees about their programs and services. Organizations included:

House of Ruth, Inland Valley Humane Society & SPCA, The La Verne/San Dimas Women's Club, The La Verne Band Boosters Association, The La Verne Historical Society, Tri-City Mental Health, Soroptimist International, Protect One Cause, Haynes Family of Programs/David & Margaret Youth and Family Services, Sowing Seeds for Life, Rotary of La Verne, and, of course, Hillcrest.



This list did not represent every organization in attendance, and rain shut out many potential attendees. Nevertheless, this event was an excellent way for groups to exchange information and possibly consider collaborative interactions. There were handouts, descriptive program literature, and some items in exchange for donations.



**A human representative from the Inland Valley Humane Society brought her 4-legged helper to the non-profit event**

As one of the two representatives from the LVHS, I would like to share some thoughts.

- Often a Chamber of Commerce is focused on profit-generating businesses. Non-profits with

fewer monetary or staff resources may be perceived as having less to offer. In reality, non-profits have a lot to offer at the level of greatest need for many community residents.

- The La Verne Chamber of Commerce has always worked to represent all community groups, including non-profits.
- Non-profits fill a niche that precisely targets persons who can thrive with their services.
- Non-profit organizations can work together to achieve shared goals when connected through their Chamber of Commerce.

I wish I had visited every table. There is an opportunity for the LVHS to work collaboratively with some of these non-profits, tell the history of others, and disseminate helpful information to residents.

### **History of the Veterans Memorial**

Attendees at the recent home tour were fortunate to hear the history of La Verne's Veterans Memorial. After the holiday vintage sale and home tour, Society President Sherry Best presented folders to members of the City Council, Mayor Tim Hepburn, and others on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Here is a written history of the Veterans Hall.

The City of La Verne has always exhibited extremely strong patriotism. One example of this patriotism is the American Legion in La Verne, formed in 1932, which built their own American Legion Hall, completed in 1934. American Legion Post 330 in La Verne, through its members, had two priorities: to support the La Verne youth and to support military service members, especially those in need. During World War II, the La Verne Lions Club erected a large 4 by 8-foot Honor Roll of 450 names of serving La Verne military members. In 1950, the names of the men who had lost their lives during that war were inscribed on a brass plaque and mounted on a large boulder that was originally located on "D" Street. The boulder was then re-located to its current location in front of the Veterans Hall.



**The memorial boulder was originally located on the west side of "D" Street, between Second and Third Streets**

In the early 2000's, the La Verne City Council, led by council member Dan Harden, was inspired to create a Veteran's Memorial to honor veterans who had served and those who had lost their lives serving. By the mid 2000's, there was increasing momentum, especially because three veterans served as La Verne city council members. The concept was approved, with the Memorial to be in front of Veterans Hall, on the southwest corner of Bonita and Magnolia Avenues.

The idea for the La Verne Veterans Memorial was to create a venue of respect, honor, and esteem for those citizens of our community who have served and will serve in our nation's armed forces. A place was envisioned where veterans could connect with one another, where their families and friends could pay tribute, and where each generation of the community could learn about the effort and sacrifices of those who came before them and those who would follow.

A committee was formed to bring the idea to reality. The committee included veterans, members of the VFW Post 12034 Band of Brothers, volunteers whose relatives served or were serving in the military, and others who believed in the Memorial. The committee members led numerous fundraising efforts and events in support of the Memorial. Dollar by dollar, this community gave and gave until every brick, every bench, every flag took its rightful place in the

Memorial. Over 85 individuals, families, businesses, and elected officials (including state and federal representatives), stepped up to make this a reality. Many gave more than \$1,000. One family gave \$10,000. Robert Rodriguez, the longest serving elected member of our city council, would not allow anything special to be done for him to honor this milestone, until a tribute dinner in his honor was suggested, with all proceeds going to the Memorial. Robert served in the US Army and was in Korea during that war. The tribute dinner raised over \$40,000. Additionally, there was income from the individual stone pavers dedicated by service members and others honoring those that served.

Eventually, ideas became sketches, sketches became plans, plans became a foundation, and the Memorial began to grow. From the dedication and support of our La Verne residents and business community. It was important to the committee that the granite for the Memorial was from the United States. The Obelisk is made of Academy Black granite quarried from Clovis, California. An unexpected benefit to the Obelisk was discovered after it was put in place – a significant, but subtle cross that can be seen on the east-facing side of the Obelisk. Part of the work was contracted out, but a lot of the work was done by the La Verne Public Works Department, including all landscaping. The pride these employees have in this Memorial is something La Verne residents can appreciate.

On Veteran's Day, November 12, 2012, the first of two dedications took place. The Memorial was under construction, but not complete. The block and stucco enclosure was completed with flagpole supports and flag poles installed. This was a dedication of those items. Bonita High School Choral leader Todd Helm led the Chamber singers in "America the Beautiful" to begin the ceremony and ended with "God Bless America". Posting and Retiring of Colors was performed by VFW Post 12034 Band of Brothers. There were two guest speakers, Shawn Harden, Navy

Lt., and Lawrence D. Gonzales, Undersecretary of Operations, California Dept. of Veteran Affairs. A poem written for the occasion was recited by La Verne's Poet Laureate, Catherine Hesley-Erickson. Each flag was raised by the donor who sponsored each flagpole. Flags included the American and California flags, Air Force, Army, Navy & Marine flags, and the POW/MIA flag. Opening and closing prayers were offered by Pastor Lincoln Dial and Pastor Roy Halberg. A special prayer for the dedication was performed by Fr. Rich Danyluk, SS.CC, Holy name of Mary Church. The dedication ceremony truly represented La Verne's community.

On Memorial Day, May 27, 2013, the second dedication took place. The special part of this ceremony was the addition of the black granite Obelisk with the names of La Verne residents who have died in military service to our country engraved in gold: 4 from WWI, 22 from WWII, 1 from Korea, 3 from Vietnam, 1 from Iraq & 1 from Afghanistan. Around the base of the Obelisk is a quote from Abraham Lincoln "...From these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion." The ceremony included opening and closing prayers, again by Pastors Lincoln Dial & Roy Halberg, and a Memorial Day poem, again by La Verne's Poet Laureate Catherine Henley-Erickson. A special dedication and blessing of the Memorial was performed by long time La Verne resident pastor John Pareda, House of Praise. The special guest speaker was 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Andrew McKindley, US Army. Andrew McKindley is employed by the La Verne Police Department as a police officer and he has previously been deployed to many foreign countries for military service. The Last Roll Call Ceremony was performed for each of the names on the Obelisk as well as several non-La Verne residents with brick pavers who have died while serving. One was a Claremont resident who was killed at the Pentagon on 9-11. This was followed by the Laying of the Wreath at the Obelisk and a 21-Gun Salute presented by the VFW



Honor Guard Rifle Team and concluded with Taps. Posting and Retiring of Colors were performed by VFW Post 12034 Band of Brothers.

There have been two additions to the Memorial since the initial two dedications. In 2018 a bronze Battle Field Cross was added and dedicated. In 2022, the new military branch flag, Space Force and Merchant Marine flag, was added.

Many singers and guest speakers have provided inspiration at both the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies over the years. From the Iraq war, a triple-amputee veteran spoke to an attentive crowd. Two marines stationed at Camp Pendleton and an Army veteran were honored at the Veteran's Day ceremony in November 2018 for saving the life of La Verne resident, Katrina Hannah, who attended an outdoor concert in Las Vegas that became the mass shooting in October of 2018. La Verne Boy Scout Troop 411 has led the Pledge of Allegiance for years. Lutheran High School ROTC has provided Honor Guards for raising the American flag. La Verne's Police and Fire Departments have provided officers to carry in the American flag to begin each ceremony.

The following are special notes about the memorial:

- For the last 30 years, the Master of Ceremony has been former La Verne city councilmember and Air Force Veteran Dan Harden.
- The bricks, purchased through the Community Services Department at La Verne City Hall, are not reserved for La Verne residents only.
- The roses selected for the Memorial landscaping are named "Veteran's Honor" and "We Salute You". Each of the benches installed around the garden is dedicated to honor the service and sacrifices of our veterans. Every detail was developed with the intention to bestow honor.
- The second dedication took place with a debt free Memorial with donations of \$265,000.

- Each Veteran's Day and Memorial Day, a ceremony is scheduled at 11:00. The only exception is when Veteran's Day falls on a Sunday, then the Monday following is the ceremony.



### Beautiful La Verne

The ginkgo trees on either side of "D" Street are at their most spectacular this time of year. Both photos were taken the day after the winter solstice, which is the shortest day of the year.



### 2023 LVHS LIFE Members

Visiting Angels Association  
Brian & Natalie Bustamante

### 2023 LVHS Members

Roger & Kim Westman

